

T Southern TIDINGS

JUNE 2018



LITERATURE EVANGELISM: TURNING CONTACTS INTO CONVERTS

MAKING PATIENTS WHOLE

WAFFLE HOUSE HERO

FLORIDA HOSPITAL
EXPANDS PROGRAM FOR
PATIENTS WITH AUTISM
AND SPECIAL NEEDS

GREENEVILLE
STUDENTS BRING
LOVE TO MOLDOVA

It's All About People



Mike Cauley, D.Min.
*Former President of the
Florida Conference*

Guest Editorial

For 2,000 years, men and women who have accepted Jesus as their Savior have been commissioned to go and preach the Gospel.

The Christian movement has struggled over the millennia, sometimes doing very well and with marvelous breakthroughs. Other times, not as well. Over the past few decades, evangelism has at times been mischaracterized as religious salesmanship, accompanied by goals and pressure to produce. But, this is an unfortunate representation. Preaching the Gospel to lost people is the consummate work of people who have accepted the Gospel summons and love Jesus. It is the most wonderful privilege given to His children — leading someone to a life-changing, transformational decision. In what way may anyone invest his or her life to find a deeper sense of meaning and privilege?

Having had the blessing to serve the Church vocationally for 40 years, I am glad that I accepted God's providential call to serve God and His Church. I don't know how many more years I will serve vocationally, but, obviously, I have fewer years ahead of me than I had in 1978, when I began as a pastor of a three-church district. But, even after formal ministry is over, I will be about evangelism, because evangelism is about loving Jesus, loving His Church (which He regards as His own body), and loving people. It's simply about people — because Jesus is crazy about people.

So the next time you hear a pastor talking about evangelism, remember that it's just about people — loving people who are far from Him. Loving people in the Church who may grow to maturity in order to share Jesus more effectively. And loving those who lead us to share the Good News — because you love Jesus and you love people. 🙏



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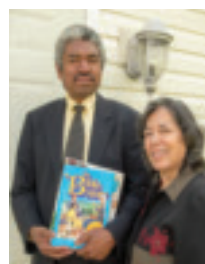
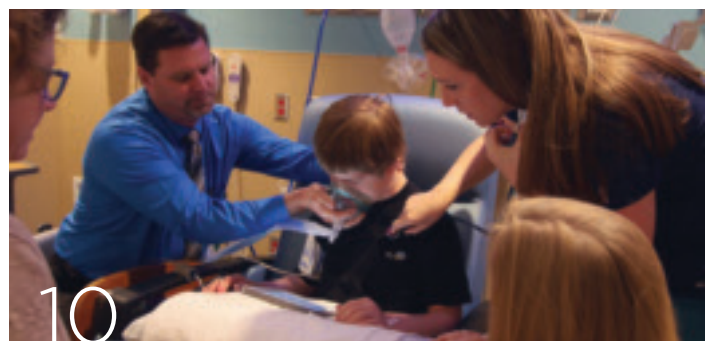
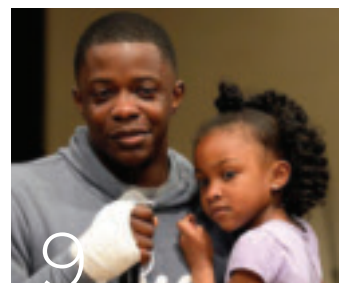
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ROBERT AND ZULAY WAGGON HAVE LED
MORE THAN 200 PERSON TO CHRIST AS A
RESULT OF KNOCKING ON DOORS IN THE
GULF STATES CONFERENCE.

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Literature Evangelism:

TURNING CONTACTS INTO CONVERTS

BY ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON

When Zulay Waggon decided to join her husband, Roberto Waggon, as a full-time literature evangelist, her former employer worried about her financial future.

But, Zulay did not falter in her desire to do canvassing work. She accepted the call to ministry, knowing that God would somehow provide.

Over the next 14 years, she would not be disappointed. During that period, the Waggon — now literature evangelists in the Gulf States Conference — led 291 people to Christ, averaging about 20 baptisms a year. They also sold enough books to make a decent living.

“When God calls you, He never calls you to failure; He calls you to success,” said Roberto, paraphrasing a well-known quote from Ellen G. White. “We only have to consecrate ourselves, put ourselves in the Lord’s hand, and the Lord will provide for our needs because He is the provider. We are just co-workers with Him,” *Colporteur Ministry*, pages 17, 18.

William Smith, publishing director

at the Southern Union Conference, says the Waggon’s story is reminiscent of the days when many more literature evangelists around the country played a key role in winning others for the Kingdom.

“Years ago, that was a pretty common thing in conferences around North America,” he said. “Literature evangelists would contact people, sign them up for Bible studies, and we would have hundreds and hundreds of baptisms on a yearly basis.”

Keith Reid, associate publishing director at the Southern Union, who has sold books for more than 35 years, believes it is easier than ever to sell Adventist books for several reasons: world conditions are causing people to search for answers as never before; literature evangelists (LEs) have more resources from attractive books, to DVDs, CDs, websites, and QR codes; GPS (Global Positioning System) technology has helped the LEs to spend less time looking for addresses, and more time in front of customers; the Home Health Education Service (HHES) has an excellent support staff, and a lead

“When God calls you, He never calls you to failure; He calls you to success.”

—Roberto Waggon



“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

card system that is second to none; and people have become more aware of the impact that lifestyle plays in their overall health. Additionally, the innovative health books are some of the best on the market. This gives the LEs an entering wedge to the homes and hearts of the people they are trying to reach.

The Waggon, and others like them, are proving that literature evangelism is still a viable option for those willing to put in the time and effort. All it takes is personal contact and a total reliance on the Holy Spirit.

“For those that work it, it really works,” said Smith. “The Word is powerful and God is already preparing hearts. We just have to go out and reap the harvest.”

Literature evangelism is a book-selling ministry that also aims to win converts. Colporteurs working in the field advertise at key locations in the communities they serve. They leave sample books at local businesses, such as dental and medical offices. People who patronize the businesses fill out lead cards and mail them to the Home Health Education Service office in Decatur, Georgia, which then mails them to the local conferences. The conferences send the lead cards to the literature evangelists who then visit the homes.

Jabe and Pattie Morris, literature evangelists in the Carolina Conference, are another couple working passionately in the field. Pattie started

canvassing in 1980 with the Mountain View Conference in West Virginia. Jabe launched his ministry seven years later in the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Pattie was a student at Southern Missionary College, and Jabe managed a hotel in California. They married in 1990 and combined their ministries in 2007. Since then, they have traveled more than 500,000 miles, and had more than 500,000 contracts processed.

The couple distributes Amazing Facts information cards to all of their contacts. When the cards are mailed in, the Morrises recruit local church members to visit the interested parties. Their efforts have yielded 24 baptisms so far in their ministry.

“We love it when we see a contact or a costumer with a spiritual interest,” Jabe said. “We connect them with Adventists, usually at our home church, who visit them. We also continue to work with the families and individuals.”

Zulay Waggon is a native of Venezuela. Roberto Waggon comes from Nicaragua.

Roberto launched his colporteur ministry in 1979, after accepting the Adventist message in Nicaragua. He relocated to Guatemala following the start of the Nicaraguan revolution. There, he worked as a literature evangelist for 10 years, leading 26 people to baptism in one year.

In 1992 Roberto accepted a call from

the Massachusetts Conference. He moved to the United States and met Zulay in Miami. The couple married in 2003 in North Carolina, where Zulay worked for a physician before joining her husband as a full-time literature evangelist. Their first year of ministry resulted in 16 baptisms.

In addition to distributing lead cards at area businesses, the Waggon said they also hand them out at Adventist churches in the area, and they reach out to visitors. Sometimes they get as many as 20 leads a week, and they go to the homes to provide information.

The Waggon said God has blessed their efforts tremendously, and they have been able to meet financial goals set by the conference. But, they are most proud of their success turning contacts into converts by addressing people’s needs, both physically and spiritually.

“I tell them, ‘I didn’t just come to sell you books,’” Roberto said. “If we find somebody sick, sometimes we ourselves go and prepare the natural remedy for them. If it’s a spiritual need, I tell the truth with boldness and not going around the bush. I tell them plain what Jesus has done for them and about their salvation. Their salvation is everything.”

When contacts request Bible study, the Waggon refer them to a local pastor, elder, or Bible worker. However, they continue to visit their homes. In Montgomery, there are currently six



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Pattie and Jabe Morris



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Jabe Morris (left), Willis Gatten, B.J. Gatten, and Pattie Morris



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Romeo Velazquez (front row, left), Oscar Salas, and Elvira Vazquez, Robert Waggon (back row, left), Evelyn Lopez, and Zulay Waggon

young people in Bible study as a result of their ministry.

Sometimes they walk into homes where people have already been exposed to the Adventist message through television evangelists. One Baptist woman said she had been watching Doug Batchelor on television. She prayed and asked the Lord to send someone who believes what she believes. Three days later, the Waggons showed up at her front door.

In another case, the Waggons were staying in a hotel where they met a man who worked there. They gave him a copy of *Steps to Christ* and other Adventist literature. When they returned one night from Prayer Meeting, the man told them he had been reading the books, and had called his pastor to ask about the Sabbath. The next Saturday, he attended an Adventist church, and now he is baptized.

Another Baptist woman the couple visited was reluctant to let them into her home, but after hearing their presentation, she offered to help them sell books. She invited them to her church

to make a presentation.

The couple also has helped bring former Adventists back into the fold. In 2015 they visited one former member in Decatur, Alabama, who had been attending a Pentecostal church. They asked the man why he had left the church, and he said because no one had visited him when he was sick.

The Waggons noticed that his car registration had expired. The man said he lost his job and could not afford to register his vehicle. So, the couple helped him resolve the situation.

"After two or three months, he got baptized over again in the church," Roberto said. "And now, not only him, the wife is baptized, the daughter is baptized, and now he's working on the rest of his family. He also has a radio program preaching the message." ①

Alva James-Johnson is a former newspaper reporter, and currently an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University.

FIVE STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL LITERATURE EVANGELISM

1. Trust in the Lord

Remember that it is God who has called you to ministry, and He will equip you for success. Dedicate yourself to His service, and He will guide your path.

2. Advertise

Distribute sample books widely in the community. In addition to local businesses, place them in church buildings and at nonprofit organizations.

3. Meet People's Needs

Focus more on people's needs than book sales. God will bless your efforts both evangelistically and financially.

4. Build Relationships

Work with local Adventist pastors and church members in ministry. Step outside of your comfort zone and mingle with others in the community.

5. Stay Organized

Follow a daily plan for advertising and making home visits. Keep track of leads and follow through with requests for additional information. Also, don't forget to make prayer and personal Bible study a part of your daily routine. Your own spiritual health will help fuel your ministry.

Interested persons should contact their local publishing directors for more information.

MAKING PATIENTS WHOLE

BY JIM DAVIDSON

The growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has truly shown the blessing and providence of God's leading. From a handful of believers in New England in the 1800s to 20 million strong in 215 countries worldwide. As the Church expanded, often the first line of work that was begun in a new area was health ministry, utilizing mission doctors, dentists, nurses and other health professionals. As clinics and hospitals were created, not only were the physical needs of patients met, but their spiritual needs were met as well. As the medical work grew, so, too, did the Church.

This divinely ordained plan continues to benefit the growth of God's work into the 21st century. In recognition of those who serve in the medical field, the Southern Union Conference has for more than 50 years provided continuing education, inspiration, and fellowship for health professionals throughout the Union. This year's convention begins on Thursday evening, September 27, 2018, and will be held at the beautiful, internationally known Stone Mountain Park and Resort in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Accredited continuing education units will be offered for physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurses, and physical therapists. In addition to the many family op-

portunities the Park offers, there will be a golf tournament on Friday afternoon.

But, perhaps the most beneficial and unique aspect of this convention, is the time spent in sharing ideas of how to make medical work an ever more effective evangelistic ministry of the Church. The theme for this year's convention is "Making Patients Whole." There will be inspiring testimonies of how God is enabling medical professionals to witness for Christ with their patients. The weekend special speaker will be Randy Roberts, D.Min., senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church. Jennifer LaMountain will bless everyone through her music.

Here is what just a few of the past attendees have said about this convention:

- "It's important to network with other Seventh-day Adventist professionals so that you can find the support in that type of community. If you have a question, or you get stuck, you can rely on the sound advice from people with similar values, principles, and backgrounds." - Melissa Kemink, D.D.S.
- "Being a Christian in the medical field is not easy in the first place — trying to reach certain patients in a spiritual way. It's nice when you have other people who are going through those same

struggles. You can talk with them, you can network, bounce ideas off each other, and see what works." - Eli Kim, M.D.

- "We enjoy meeting new friends and seeing old friends and former classmates." - Jonathan Fritz, M.D.

- "I can't tell you what you're missing because if you've never been here, you've never experienced it. But, I can tell you that once you come to this convention, you want to come back." - Danny Chacko, D.D.S.

The reason the Southern Union continues to foster the medical/dental/health professional work is because of the recognition of the vital role the many health professionals in this territory play in the furthering of the Gospel. The admonition was given by Ellen White many years ago, "When connected with other lines of gospel effort, medical missionary work is a most effective instrument by which the ground is prepared for the sowing of the seeds of truth, and the instrument also by which the harvest is reaped. Medical missionary work is the helping hand of the gospel ministry," *The Review and Herald*, September 10, 1908.

The Southern Union is thankful for the army of health professionals who are daily helping to spread the Good News of Christ's soon coming.

For more information about attending this convention, including an early bird discount, which expires August 31, 2018, please go to www.southernunion.com/medicaldentalconvention. 📍



Jim Davidson is the executive secretary at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

Adventist Education Helps Shape Character of WAFFLE HOUSE HERO

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted,"

Luke 14:11, NIV.

When James Shaw Jr. said he was not a hero after wresting an assault-style rifle from a gunman at a Waffle House and saving numerous lives, Shirley Wilson-Wiley was not surprised by his humility — one of many virtues she noticed when he was a child.

"That was James," recalled Wilson-Wiley, who at one time was Shaw's kindergarten teacher at the child development center at Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. "Even as a little boy, he was like that. He was very polite. I remember him saying, 'yes ma'am, no ma'am.' Even when a lot of the other children wouldn't, James would."

The world has come to know what Wilson-Wiley has known for nearly 25 years, following the incident on April 22, 2018. Four people were killed after the gunman stormed into the Waffle House early that morning, firing the rifle. Shaw was eating at the restaurant and charged the man, who had paused firing, and took the rifle away from him. Authorities have said there probably would have been more casualties had Shaw not intervened.

Since the incident, the 29-year-old has remained in the national spotlight, appearing on numerous talk shows, including "The Ellen Show," where he was surprised by his favorite basketball player, NBA star Dwyane Wade.

I know you don't want to be called a hero, but I look at you as an American hero," Wade told him.

Throughout all the notoriety, however, Shaw has maintained a humble attitude. He reiterated his feelings when he was honored in May in Nashville by his alma mater, Tennessee State University, which has set up a scholarship in his name. "Like I said, I was just trying to save myself. I did this with no recognition," said Shaw. "But, it seems like it inspired so many people throughout the world. For that, I am greatly, greatly appreciative."

Following the shooting, Shaw went to the hospital to visit those who had been wounded at the restaurant, and he also paid his respect to the families of those who died. Shaw has also set up a GoFundMe campaign for all the victims. His goal was \$15,000, but he's raised close to \$250,000. Shaw said he also plans to use the attention he's receiving to shine more light on issues like gun violence and mental health, especially the latter. "There are going to be a lot more things I plan to do to try to help people," he said.

Wilson-Wiley said she believes Shaw's early exposure to a Christian education helped make him the humble and caring person he is today. "Christian education is very, very important," she said. "One, we teach them about Christ, and to pray." She said praying was one thing Shaw seemed to really enjoy. "At devotion time, I'd always have one of the children to pray," she recalled. "James always wanted to pray."

Each year, Wilson-Wiley said she would take her kindergartners to the open house at the F.H. Jenkins Preparatory School, which is also run by Seventh-day Adventists, and invite their parents as well. She said many of the parents liked the prep school so much, that they ended up sending their sons and daughters there. Shaw was one of those young people. He said even though his Christian education was almost



James Shaw Jr. and his daughter attended a vigil that was held for the victims shortly after the shooting at a Waffle House in Nashville, Tennessee. A New York man started a GoFundMe to help create a college fund for Shaw's daughter. It's now close to or more than \$200,000.

PHOTO BY: MARK ZALESKI OF THE TENNESSEAN IN NASHVILLE

two decades ago, he appreciates the nurturing he received.

"It was like a family," said Shaw, who was honored in April by the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. Shaw's family has several ties to the Oakwood Church family and the community. While he is not Adventist, Shaw does attend a church in Nashville with his family, including his 4-year-old daughter.

At the Tennessee State University event that honored Shaw, it was evident that his parents, James Sr. and Karen Shaw, played a strong role in shaping the character of him and his siblings.

When it was their time to speak, both parents remembered the victims of the shooting, and thanked God for saving their son.

"This could have been a memorial service," said Karen Shaw. "I'm thankful." ●

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

Florida Hospital Expands Program for AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS

Giving blood is an uneasy experience for many people. But, for those with autism and other special needs, the simple procedure can be outright terrifying.

Sean Sikora, a 15-year-old with Down syndrome, was so distressed when he came for bloodwork as part of his treatment for kidney disease, physicians and nurses had to sedate and forcefully restrain him.

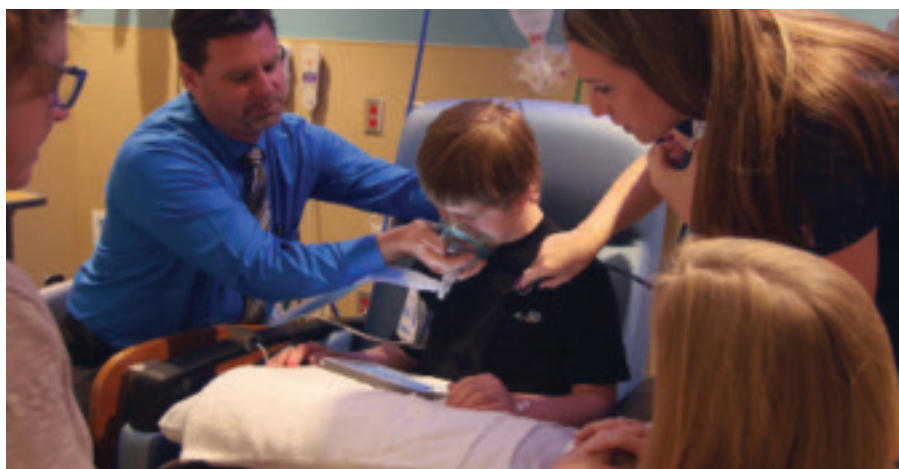
Not anymore!

Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital for Children developed a new program that provides customized treatment plans for patients with special needs, which allows caregivers to learn about the patient's triggers, how to keep them calm, and deescalate issues before they can arise.

The program — called S.T.A.R. — has been so successful with pediatric patients that Florida Hospital is now beginning to expand the initiative, and make training available for all Florida Hospital clinicians.

"Hospitals can be scary, especially for our patients who can't communicate how they feel or understand what's happening around them," said Chantelle Bennett, child life manager at Florida Hospital for Children. "We're dedicated to providing compassionate care to all of our patients, and in my heart, I know that this program has made a life-changing difference for so many of our patients and their families."

In Sikora's case, the simple act of being touched was a trigger for panic and aggressive behavior. But now, there's a for-



Sean Sikora, a child with special needs, receives personalized treatment designed to keep him calm while having his blood drawn.

mulated routine with Sikora for each of his visits — he knows he will watch Tom and Jerry, have numbing cream applied to his hand to help ease the discomfort, and child life specialists will be by his side.

Jenn Sikora, his mother, said that prior to the S.T.A.R. program, he had to be held down during procedures, a difficult situation for her to witness. "Now, he's happy to come to the hospital, and talks about the people and the procedure. He looks forward to coming in. I tell everyone I know because this has made a drastic change in our lives."

The S.T.A.R. program (named for "Sensory, Tactile, Auditory Rock stars") is built on specialized training for child life specialists, nurses, and other clinicians, and a standardized treatment form accessible by the entire care team.

The program has helped special needs



A child life specialist sits with Sikora prior to a procedure to learn his trigger points, and to work to ease any discomfort.

patients receive routine preventative care with ease, making it easier to manage chronic diseases, and receive timely diagnoses for new conditions. ❶

Greeneville Students Bring LOVE TO MOLDOVA

BY KATIE-JANE EMDE

Katie-Jane Emde shares a testimony of her mission trip experience to Moldova, Russia, this past April.

My class at Greeneville Adventist Academy in Greeneville, Tennessee, recently returned from a wonderful mission trip to Moldova. Moldova is the poorest European country, and it is nestled between Romania and the Ukraine. Although the weather was snowy and cold, the sweet people showered us with warm love.

During the day, our team of 26 students and chaperones worked in community service teams and vision clinics. For community service, we chopped wood, shoveled snow, thoroughly cleaned houses, visited shut-ins, and delivered food to the poorest of the poor as well as at the homeless shelter. During the week, the vision clinic, led by Brad Emde, D.O., provided free eye exams to almost 800 people, and gave away more than 750 pairs of glasses. In the evenings, we ran two Vacation Bible School programs and an evangelistic series led by Alejandro Sarria, pastor, with wonderful results.

Though there were countless experiences, I would like to share a story that is meaningful to me. My community service group's assignment was to help deliver food to the poorest 16 families in the city of Cahul. Among many heartbreaking situations, a particular woman stood out: her name was Maria, and this 68-year-old woman was nearly blind and immobile. Entering her dark, cold abode where she was huddled by her meager fire, we ducked in through the doorway to find an overjoyed greeting. She soon began to tell of how all but one of her children had died in a tragic car accident, and that the remaining one never came to visit. She clung to us in tears, not wanting us to leave, and begging

for just one more (and one more) hymn to be sung. She was so happy we brought Jesus back to her life, she said, because several years ago, when she could still see, her prized possession — her Bible — was thrown into the river by an angry man as she was reading it. As the tears now started to course down my own cheeks, I realized just how blessed I am, and how much I take for granted.

Another experience that really stood out to me on the trip was a day that I was working in the vision clinic. An American woman working for the Peace Corps named Malinda had come in from a village to our eye clinic with her Moldovan "house parent." He needed to get his eyes checked. She noticed that we were short a translator for the first hour or so, so she volunteered to help as long as we needed her (which ended up with her staying all day). She assisted me in the near visual acuity testing. While there, I mentioned how we hoped we wouldn't put the local eye doctor out of business. Malinda said not to worry, for he had just been shut down and jailed by the police. She went on to say how much she appreciated our group, and wished others who had the means, as we did, would share with those who didn't have access to good medical assistance. Doctors over there, she told me, typically only treat those with money. She thanked us for, as she put it, our "right spirit of giving." This really touched me, and made me step back and do some thinking about our witness to — if no one else — this nonAdventist.

While we went to serve and bless others, I feel that it was our team that was truly blessed. My classmates and I came back home with an eagerness for mission work, and for serving the Lord. ☛



PHOTO BY: ANGELA EMDE

Katie-Jane Emde helps a Moldovan with an eye exam, communicating through a translator, Malinda, an American working for the Peace Corps.



PHOTO BY: ANGELA EMDE

Greeneville Adventist Academy students visit the Moldova shut-ins as part of their community service during their mission trip.



Katie-Jane Emde
is a ninth-grade student at Greeneville Adventist Academy.

GROWING YOUNG

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Young adults from around the Conference started an extended weekend retreat to Camp Alamisco on Thursday evening, April 12, 2018. The Spring Retreat, arranged by the Young Adult Ministries Department, offered a relaxed schedule and plenty of opportunities through the weekend to take in the beauty and activities of camp, especially boating and kayaking on Lake Martin. Many enjoyed taking walks in the fresh air outdoors, and others were grateful to accept the opportunity to rest awhile.

Starting Friday night, guest presenter Justin Yang, pastor of the Atlanta Korean Church in Duluth, Georgia, began a series of presentations on “Growing Young,” and the six essential strategies to help young people discover and love their church. In addition to pastoring, Yang is also a #GrowingYoungAdventists,

or #GYA, certified speaker. Growing Young Adventists is a learning journey for local churches and leaders, helping to build faith communities that will not only survive, but also thrive in the years ahead. The issue it seeks to remedy is not difficult to understand; the median age of Christian church members is becoming older. Young adults are leaving or have already left the Church, and what once was known as the future generation of the Church is growing non-existent. This is not breaking news; for years local churches and conferences have talked about the growing disinterest of young adults, and often have stated that something should be done. That something, however, has yet to happen successfully.

#GYA builds on the work and resources of the Fuller Youth Institute, particularly the book *Growing Young* by Powell,

Mulder, and Griffin, and presents it in an Adventist context. The solution, to put it simply, is to treat others like Jesus would treat them. Yang offered this paraphrase of Matthew 25:37-40, “...inasmuch as you did it to one of the young adults, you did it to Me.” The most effective strategy in reaching young adults is offering a warm environment, not cool worship and programming. In churches where the median age is under 50, a Growing Young church, young adults state that what they like the most about their church is that they are treated like family. They are not being loved because they believe in or are following the right doctrine, but are being loved because they are there. This leads to more genuine interest in the doctrine, as it is presented in love.

Yang shared a story about a young woman who was attending a church for



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Attendees gather around the Young Adult Ministries banner and display their attendance gift, the *Growing Young* book.

some time and showed interest in becoming more involved — before disappearing for several months. After many attempts to reconnect with her, the pastor was finally able to speak with her and learned that she had become pregnant as a result of her boyfriend raping her. She was devastated and didn't know what to do; her family and friends were not able to help her. It seemed fitting to the pastor and several others to offer her a baby shower, so she could acquire all of the supplies she would need for her new baby. But, when the idea was brought to the church board, it was denied because the church did not want to condone the lifestyle that led to her pregnancy. Yang concluded the story by stating that “when people stop helping other people, they stop feeling.”

We can avoid this by living and loving as Jesus did, making a point to empathize with one another, and striving for intergenerational friendships. If people took the time to get to know their younger or older church members, their attitudes and understanding of each other would change for the better. One of the take-home challenges presented by Yang during the weekend was to empathize with a person from a different generation for six months. “If we really did this, each one of us, it would change the church climate,” stated Yang.

The idea of Growing Young is not a quick solution. Although our interactions with young adults and older generations could improve quickly, the goal is to make authentic and meaningful relationships, which will take time. Yang has been implementing these strategies in his church for three years, and is now seeing some fruit. The median age has dropped below 50, and their community impact has significantly increased.

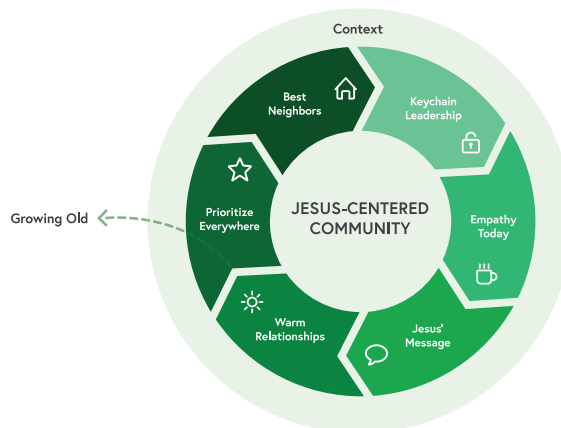
To find more information about making your church a Growing Young church, visit www.growingyoungadventists.com. ●



PHOTO BY: CHRIS FELDMANN

Justin Yang, pastor of the Atlanta Korean church, presents on making the church a warm place to be.

The 6 Core Commitments of Churches Growing Young



Unlock keychain leadership:
Instead of centralizing authority, empower others—especially young people.

Empathize with today's young people:
Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus' message seriously:
Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

Fuel a warm community:
Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships.

Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:
Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.

Be the best neighbors:
Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.

Shane Hochstetler is communication director for Gulf States Conference.

Middletown Holds VEGETARIAN TASTE FEST

BY BARBARA HAGELE

The Middletown Church in Louisville, Kentucky, held its first Vegetarian Taste Fest on Sunday, March 25, 2018. Such an event is a big undertaking for a church the size of Middletown, but more than 35 volunteers rallied to the cause. Each of the 20 cooks was asked to submit two of their best vegetarian recipes. The final selection of recipes was then based upon achieving a variety of dishes, from pasta and entrees to salads and desserts.

All guests had the opportunity to sample more than 20 vegetarian dishes, and received a small cookbook containing all of the recipes. Samples were served in two-ounce cups, labeled with the number of the recipe in the book, which made it easier for guests to mark recipes they wanted to make themselves.

The biggest challenge was getting the word out so people would want to attend. Since the budget was limited, it was necessary to find ways to promote the event that was cost-free. Eye-catching flyers were designed and distributed to libraries and local health food stores, in addition to being mailed to the church's

interest and inactive members' list. The event was approved to be posted on the official City of Louisville events website. Of course, church members were encouraged to tell their friends and family about the event, passing along flyers inserted into the bulletins for several weeks. The question was, would it be enough for the event to be a success?

During the weeks before the event, registrations on the church website slowly came in. Two sessions of 40 guests each were scheduled, and the members prayed that God would fill them. In the last few days before the event, God moved in amazing ways for the event to receive complimentary coverage on a Christian radio station in the *Louisville Weekender* in the main Louisville newspaper, and finally, a spot on live TV news the morning of the event.

Excitement was high and all was in readiness — the fellowship hall was tastefully decorated, and the food was ready. Guests entered through the church lobby where they registered, and then were seated to wait for the doors to open. When the top of the hour arrived, each

guest was given a tray to collect samples of mouth-watering vegetarian and vegan dishes — Spinach (Saag) Curry, Easy Burger Burrito Skillet, Red Beans & Rice, Pancit (Filipino Rice Noodles), Ratatouille, Corn and Black Bean Salsa, and Vegan Carrot Cake.

Guests also received a ticket for a chance to receive one of the door prizes donated by local health food stores. At the end of the hour, the first group of guests moved into the sanctuary for a health talk on the advantages of a natural, plant-based diet with tips on how to begin. Finally, the guests passed through the Sabbath School wing where they had a chance to browse through excellent vegetarian cookbooks on display for sale. Exit surveys were traded for a pamphlet on "The 8 Secrets of a Long Life."

God blessed with more than 96 attendees who could not rave enough about how good the food was, and how nice an event had been planned. It will be followed up with other health-related events such as Dinner with a Doctor, a monthly vegetarian cooking class, a natural remedies class, and CPR training. ①



Southeastern Invests ONE MILLION PLUS IN SCHOOLS

BY KEITHA HATCHER

One aspect of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) mission-focused strategy is to grow God's Kingdom by giving the best for the youth and children. In order to do so, Southeastern has renewed its commitment to provide its schools with valuable resources to make them top quality institutions.

The Southeastern administration set a goal to establish a fully funded education endowment of \$1,100,000. In less than two years, since its official establishment, the endowment is nearly fully funded with \$1,012,069 raised to date. With only \$87,930 to be raised, the administrators anticipate that the endowment will be fully funded by 2019. Nicole Brisé, retired educator, stated that, "From the first day the idea was presented by Elder Paul, then superintendent of education, my husband and I began to donate \$5 from our paychecks every month — that was over 30 years ago — until my retirement. My husband still gives \$5 from his paycheck every month. The funds were for the improvement of the schools, and I'm passionate about Adventist Christian education."

Southeastern is also "putting its money where its mouth is" by funding expanded professional development and teacher certification training. The Conference educators have participated in CRISS, ESE, and ESOL trainings, with the goal of equipping educators to teach to students' individual learning styles and needs.

Southeastern also prides itself in that the teachers continue to maintain 100 percent certification. This distinction as-



PHOTO BY: C. C. THOMPSON

Southeastern Conference education team at the recent Church School Rally Day in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: Doris Brown, newly elected associate superintendent of education; Barbara Davis, Ed.D., superintendent of education; and Karen Winston, administrative assistant.

sists in securing funding for the annual summer teacher training institute, which provides continuing education opportunities for Conference teachers. This year, Southeastern has also increased benefits for locally-funded teachers, including cost of living allowance, healthcare assistance plan, and dependent tuition subsidy.

The goal is to pour valuable resources into education. Within the past year, \$400,000 has been allocated for renovations to Miami Union Academy in Miami, Florida. Also, the Conference began purchasing smart boards for every school. Each school has also received a \$5,000 grant toward physical plant improvements. An additional special grant is also available to each school for new

outdoor signage.

Recently, a special planning committee was organized by the SEC K-12 board to plan a major reorganization of the Conference school district. Local schools, churches, and administrators are working together to strategize for the future of education in Southeastern.

The children are the future of the Church. Southeastern is making substantive investment to ensure that they are well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future. ❶

Keitha Hatcher is the administrative assistant for human resources, communication, and technology at Southeastern Conference.



TRAINING TO HANDLE A CRISIS

BY OKSANA WETMORE

When hurricanes, mass shootings, and other disasters happen, the aftermath often involves chaos and confusion. Normal routines are disrupted, and individuals may be overwhelmed or unsure how to proceed. Prior training can help, both during a crisis and in the days and weeks afterwards.

“In light of the recent mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and other current events, it seems thoughts of crisis are never far from our minds,” said Mikhaile Spence, graduate program manager in Southern Adventist University’s School of Education and Psychology. “We often feel helpless in the face of these tragedies, but there are steps we can take to better prepare ourselves and be prepared to help others in crisis situations.”

With this in mind, Southern offers several crisis training opportunities, including a new option coordinated by the School of Education and Psychology. This spring the department conducted a three-session crisis intervention training program for Southern students, faculty, and community members. Liane de Souza, Ph.D., associate professor of counseling, planned the program with the goal of teaching others how to respond to both man-made and natural disasters.

“I think anyone can be ready to respond to a crisis, but most are not prepared,” de Souza said.

Upon completing these sessions, participants received two separate certificates from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation: Group Crisis Intervention and Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support.

“I found it to be beneficial because we received training in both the role of the person in crisis and the crisis responder,” said Emmanuel Aragon, ’14, clinical mental health counseling graduate student. “The diverse group of people who attended these sessions all offered their own experience and knowledge to what we were learning. The training prepared me to feel more confident if I ever have to deal with a crisis situation.”

These sessions stemmed from a crisis counseling course that the department offers graduate students. However, this year de Souza saw it as an opportunity to not only teach her students about crisis intervention, but also to extend the invitation to a broader audience. Among the nearly 30 participants who attended the sessions were several Southern professors; a professor from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee; and the associate news director from a local TV station.

Disaster Simulations

The School of Nursing also coordinates a disaster training exercise for students. Held each semester, the Emergency Preparedness Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Simulation brings together students from the schools of Nursing, Social Work, Religion, and Journalism and Communication to role-play the aftermath of a disaster. Community volunteers act as victims, with Southern students providing medical, mental, and spiritual support, as well as documenting the event. This semester 89 students and volunteers participated.

“Southern’s mission is to provide our students with the best education possible,” said Ronda Christman, associate professor of nursing at Southern and coordinator of this event. “Offering realistic simulation experiences for our students will help equip them to think better on their feet, and have the critical thinking skills to identify, assess, respond, and provide care. Our goal is to prepare our students to help take care of God’s hurting children in a meaningful and professional manner.”

Oksana Wetmore is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Students Mentor Middle Schoolers in Computer Science

Southern Adventist University students have taken the initiative to mentor middle-school-aged girls through a program they call Hire Tech-Minded Ladies (HTML).

Headed by Eileen Flores, junior management major, and Natasya Panjaitan, sophomore management major, the program is in collaboration with Girls Who Code, a nationwide nonprofit organization that works to increase the number of women in the field of computer science.

"I just wanted to do something bigger than myself, and I think there is a lot of potential in the Chattanooga area to impact women in the technology industry," Panjaitan said. "With computer science, you can be really independent. You can start companies and have big opportunities just because of this one skillset. So we wanted to bring this opportunity to

the younger girls in our community."

Each weekly meeting consists of spending time discussing the prior week, watching videos about prominent females in the computer science field, and working on a health and wellness app that the girls are designing and coding.

The middle school girls who take part in this on-campus program said they deeply enjoy being able to spend time with new friends, learn new skills, and be mentored by the college-aged girls.

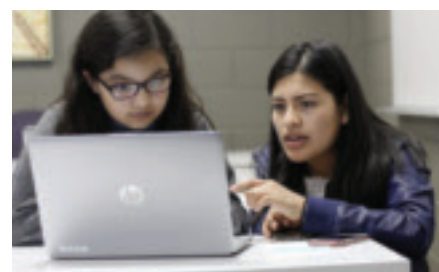
"A friend told me about the program, and we had something like this at our school, but it wasn't as interesting as HTML," said Naomi Diaz, a participant. "I also want to do something like this in the future. I like the videos and learning about different jobs in the field."

Her classmate Gaielle Price agreed.

"The leaders make it a very comfort-

able environment," Price said. "I joined because I have made friends in this group, and I feel that girls should be more active with technology because we live in a tech age, so we should strive to be more 'out there.'"

BY TIERRA HAYES



Eileen Flores (right) and her teammates encourage middle school girls to explore computer science through their program, HTML.

Southern Adventist University Professor Posthumously Honored by Scientific Journal

Ray Hefferlin, Ph.D., former Southern Adventist University professor and globally-renowned physicist, was recently honored by an international science journal. *Foundations of Chemistry* dedicated Volume 20 to Hefferlin for his work with the periodic system of molecules, which interweaves mathematics, physics, and chemistry. The journal also included an article written by Hefferlin, titled "An Allegory on Molecular Periodicity."

The publication's editor, Eric Scerri, Ph.D., professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and personal friend of Hefferlin, wrote, "I believe I speak for

all of us when I say that anyone who has ever encountered Ray came away with the impression of the kindest and most dignified person they had ever met."

Commonly referred to as "Doc" by his peers, Hefferlin began his career at Southern in 1955, spending the next 60 years teaching, researching, and inspiring students in the Physics and Engineering Department until his death in 2015. During that time, he pioneered a new field of study in the realm of physics, and his work with the periodic systems of molecules is widely used today by students and scientists alike.

Hefferlin emphasized the importance

of intellectual exploration, and pushed for an annual research day. This semester, Southern's annual Campus Research Day featured 409 presentations, with students representing nearly every academic department on campus sharing their research.

"Doc lived a full, diverse, and interesting life," said Ken Caviness, Ph.D., professor of physics and former colleague and friend of Hefferlin. "He trained generations of physicists and Christian scientists. May we all, as physicists, be able to say that."

BY OKSANA WETMORE

Memorial Hospital Grows Produce for Underserved Patients and Seniors

Ripe tomatoes, crunchy lettuce, and sweet carrots are just a few of the nutritious foods that will be growing in the central Florida city, Winter Park's, newest community garden.

Adventist Health System's Winter Park Memorial Hospital and urban agriculture program Fleet Farming are teaming up to plant a fruit and vegetable garden at the hospital to meet a significant community need: food insecurity.

Produce harvested from the garden will be donated to underserved patients who are discharged from the hospital, and shut-in seniors who live within three miles of the hospital.

"When our patients go home, it's important that they have access to foods that are healthy and nutritious to help in their healing. We can provide them excellent care within our hospital, but if they have an empty refrigerator or pantry at home, their recovery may very

well be hindered," said Justin Birmele, vice president of operations at Winter Park Memorial Hospital. "We're very excited to see this partnership flourish and help make our community healthier."

According to a recent study by Feeding America, food insecurity is a significant issue in Florida, where more than three million people have to choose between nutritious food and other basic living expenses. In central Florida, one in six people turn to local charitable food assistance programs, according to the latest figures from Second Harvest Food Bank.

Food insecurity can have a big impact on health, as certain ailments and chronic diseases can be directly linked to malnourishment.

Known for their work harvesting gardens at homes and churches throughout the Audubon Park and Parramore communities in Orlando, Fleet Farming is an innovative farm-

ing model that is changing the way communities eat by providing knowledge and education about sustainable farming by installing micro-farms in front yards.

"This garden is a billboard of health and wellness," said Lee Perry, Fleet Farming's program director. "We believe that everyone deserves the right to local food, and this initiative shows that we can grow food right here, where people are healing." 🌱

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS



Nutrition is a key component to healing, and Winter Park Memorial hospital staff is utilizing Fleet Farming to ensure that patients always have a healthy meal when they return home.



Justin Birmele, vice president of operations at Winter Park Memorial Hospital, helps plant healthy vegetables that will assist in the healing of patients.

AHS's Hospitals Participate in National Pilot to Improve Opioid Safety



The Safer Post-operative Pain Management pilot included more than 30 industry-leading hospitals.

Four Adventist Health System (AHS) hospitals joined the Safer Post-operative Pain Management pilot to test and redesign new care delivery processes to better manage pain and the potential for drug addiction. The Safer Post-operative Pain Management pilot is offered through the Premier Inc. Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN).

Florida Hospital East Orlando, Metroplex Adventist Hospital, Park Ridge Health, and Rollins Brook Community Hospital joined more than 30 industry-leading hospitals in the effort to improve post-operative pain management from September 2017 through March 2018. The American Society of Anesthesiologists was also a key performance improvement partner in the initiative.

“Adventist Health System is proud to participate in a program that is proactively addressing opioid misuse at such a critical point in time,” said Kathleen Clem, MD, executive vice president and chief clinical officer for Adventist Health System. “We look forward to working with Premier HIIN member hospitals on evidence-based initiatives to further improve pain management practices and opioid safety across the communities we serve.”

The data-driven pilot initially focused on adult patients undergoing hip and knee arthroplasty, and colectomy surgical procedures. The program sought to help participants redesign their existing care practices with safer pain management strategies. This included partnering with patients and families on pain manage-

ment expectations, as well as education on the safe use, storage, and disposal of opioids. Clinicians at each hospital also receive education on appropriate opioid risk screening, prescribing, dispensing, and administration.

The Safer Post-operative Pain Management pilot supported hospitals by providing virtual and onsite technical assistance from industry-leading experts; systematic planning for performance improvement; real-time data collection; the use of standardized process, outcome, harm, and cost avoidance measures; peer-to-peer learning; and continuous monitoring, evaluation, and refinement of implemented strategies to drive results.

Often opioid addiction can begin with a single prescription following a medical procedure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999, leading to more than 183,000 deaths.

“Opioid addiction is an increasing problem across our communities, and the epidemic has been called on by the White House as a national priority,” said Blair Childs, senior vice president of public affairs at Premier. “To find solutions, we must test and redesign care models for measurable approaches to continuous improvements that ensure professionals are trained based on what the evidence has proven to work. Premier is thrilled to be working with Adventist Health System, an outstanding leader helping to create new pain management strategies in our ongoing effort to reduce adverse drug events, dependence, and addiction.”

BY MARIO ROBERTS

Catch A Glimpse of Glory Bright on Pisgah's Lofty Height

Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) in Candler, N.C., is dedicated to providing the youth of the Carolina Conference — and beyond — excellence in education. This school, situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains, serves as a safe, friendly environment where students can develop socially, and it provides opportunities for them to nurture a healthy work ethic. “Jesus lives at MPA” is the campus theme, which demonstrates the commitment of the faculty and staff to helping young people cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their lifelong companion.

Each MPA student is extended the opportunity to participate in the compassionate mission of the Church in multiple corners of the world. Every Friday is a service day, and the different classes take turns ministering to the surrounding community. Students can also go on mission trips overseas — recent trips have been to the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Peru, Honduras, and Lesotho in Southern Africa — as well as fulfill the Gospel commission in the United States at places such as La Vida Mission in New Mexico.

Seventh-day Adventist education is a top priority in the Carolina Conference.

Recently, a strategic planning committee was formed to prioritize capital needs on the MPA campus, such as added security and safety measures, and maintenance and improvement of the campus’ aesthetic beauty. In addition, the Conference has partnered with the Philanthropic Services Institute to add a full-time business development director to the MPA staff. This individual facilitates the application for educational grants, promotes Touch a Life at MPA as the signature student financial assistance initiative, and assists the strategic planning committee with major campaign enterprises. Just a few weeks ago, MPA was the recipient of a Versacare grant for \$10,000, and two other donors have pledged \$5,000 each. Also, Adventist Health Systems, Inc. (AHS) will add MPA to its list of qualifying academies this year, which enables MPA to apply for AHS’s major Adventist academy grant program initiative.

MPA is poised to experience some significant changes in the future. Change is sometimes viewed in a negative context, although change can create the climate for something new, fresh, and revitalizing. The Conference personnel committee, the MPA Board, and the K-12

Board of Education are fully engaged in reviewing and finalizing some recommendations for new leadership and staffing to provide young people the finest in Adventist educational service. On the financial side, the sale of Carolina Adventist Retirement Systems (CARS) has increased the MPA endowment fund this year by almost 900 percent. This fund will yield a steady, sustainable revenue stream for student assistance and capital improvement for the Academy.

Challenges arise because there is an enemy on Earth to contend with every day. However, the promise is sure: “...the one Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world,” 1 John 4:4, NIV. The Conference leadership holds fast to this promise as they seek God’s leading and blessing for the coming school year and beyond. MPA exists to guide young people into a life of service to others, and to instill a heartfelt desire in every student to continue reaching people for Christ until He comes again. This is the mission upheld by every individual who invests in Seventh-day Adventist education. ①

BY LESLIE D. LOUIS, PRESIDENT



Alive Youth Rally Celebrates 10 Years



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Roger Hernandez, ministerial director for the Southern Union, makes an appeal for students who want to be baptized, and students who feel called to ministry in some form.

Alive Youth Rally, the brainchild of Ryan Hodgins and Kevin Watson, celebrated its 10-year anniversary on March 31, 2018. The youth pastors and leaders at the Spartanburg, S.C., Church have changed through the years, but Watson and his team have worked diligently to make each year better than the last, which is not easy to do for 10 years. This year's crowd was one of the largest to date with more than 500 students in attendance, and the team of volunteers from the Spartanburg Church kept everything flowing smoothly. "You cannot do something like this without a lot of hands," one volunteer commented.

Because the rally took place on Easter weekend, the room's decor emphasized Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The stage was set up to resemble the rocks surrounding the empty tomb, and a giant replica of the crown of thorns was suspended in midair above a portable baptism. The fantastic artistry was created by Spartanburg member Henrietta Dead-

mond and her team, whose goal was to enhance the experience of the students who traveled from all over the Conference for the rally.

The guest speaker this year was Roger Hernandez, ministerial director and evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union. Although Hernandez spends most of his time traveling around the Union participating in evangelistic meetings, he truly has a heart for young people. The students were on the edge of their seats, hanging on to his every word. At the end of the church service, Hernandez made a call by asking the students two questions. If they wanted to make a decision for baptism, come to his right, and if they felt called to ministry in some way, come to his left. There was a large group of students on each side. Those attending witnessed the blessing of seeing young people committing their lives to Christ and to sharing the Gospel.

Before the Sabbath afternoon session began, Watson and Henry Johnson, asso-

ciate pastor of the Spartanburg Church, continued the anniversary celebration with a few giveaways. Each giveaway corresponded to a question asked by Johnson and Watson. In order to qualify for a chance at winning a prize, students had to raise their hands and not shout out the answers. The one question these men probably regret asking was for the students to guess their ages. The Sabbath evening session concluded with eight students entering the baptismal tank, and exiting with big smiles after publicly declaring their decision to follow Christ. "Seeing young people dedicate their lives to Jesus makes all the work and sacrifice for putting on an event like this for 10 years worth it. All Heaven is rejoicing, and so are we. I can't wait to see the next chapters in the lives of these young people as they impact our Conference for Jesus," said Johnson. ①

BY COURTNEY HEROD

God, Great Hope Visits Valdese

Valdese is the location of the largest U.S. settlement of Waldensians in 1893. The members of Great Hope, a small new church plant in Valdese, N.C., scheduled prophecy seminars during March 2018, with Haskell Williams, ministerial director for the Carolina Conference. In preparation for the seminars, a room was rented in the American Legion Hall, but the Great Hope group had no idea what was ahead. With much prayer, the “soil had been tilled” by holding two series of reversing diabetes classes, distributing many Bible studies, and hosting a booth at the Waldensian Festival. Ten thousand brochures were mailed in Valdese and the surrounding area. On the opening night of the prophecy seminars, the Great Hope group welcomed 21 guests, twice the usual ratio for the number of brochures mailed. Some of these guests were already taking Bible studies, and some were from the reversing diabetes classes.

When the group rented the downstairs room at the American Legion Hall, they were told there would be an event above them on the second night. However, no one mentioned the practice for the previous evening that would take place on the first night. The noise was very loud and distracting both nights, but on the second night, the parking lot was so full there were no parking spots left for the leaders who had arrived early, much less for the guests who would come later. Prayers ascended quickly: “God, there’s not a thing we can do! It’s Your problem, and You will need to work a miracle!”

God showed up! When opening time came on night two, not a guest was missing. They parked out in the field and hiked to the seminar with no complaints. Some attendees mentioned later that the information presented was so interesting that they just tuned out the noise and focused on the speaker. The organizers recognized that God works even when

individuals think a situation is a total disaster.

The American Legion folks were extremely apologetic for the inconvenience, and decided not to charge the group for the two nights. They also allowed the group to move to the larger, more convenient room on the upper ground level for the same low price of the smaller room originally rented.

One attendee, John*, missed the first night but attended the second night and for the rest of the meetings. However, he did not live in the area the brochures had been mailed. He saw the brochure in one of the homes he visited during his service calls as a plumber, and he decided to attend. The following week, on another service call, he invited the woman of the house to attend that night’s meeting only an hour before it was to begin. She happily attended many of the seminars. Even when a brochure is not mailed to the home of a truth seeker, God can handle it.

Another attendee, Mary, had initially responded to a Bible request card she received in the mail. A member of the Great Hope group tried to locate her but was unsuccessful. Mary was shopping in Walmart one day, and said something to the clerk about wanting to worship on Sabbath. The clerk happened to be Seventh-day Adventist, and told Mary where the little, relatively unknown Great Hope group met in Valdese, close to her home. Mary showed up to worship with the group and attended the prophecy seminars, even helping to distribute literature. She was warmly welcomed into church fellowship. Michelle is another attendee who is taking Bible studies and searching for truth. A church member named Myra invited her to come to the prophecy seminars. Michelle shared, “At first I came with Myra just to make her happy, but now I come because I want to hear truth.”

The group witnessed God working



PHOTO BY: SHARRYN MAHORNEY

Retired pastor Barry Mahorney baptizes Aida following Prophecy seminar.

on hearts. Twelve individuals attended through the end of the seminars, and four have joined the church, with others soon to follow in their footsteps. The Great Hope Church plant has seen God work in many ways, far beyond their feeble attempts. Once, when thanked for her work with Bible studies and transportation, Myra’s God-filled response was, “That’s why I’m here!” It is surely rewarding and exciting to work alongside God. ❶

**First names used to protect privacy.*

BY SHARRYN MAHORNEY

Hope Clinic Educates Students, Serves Community

Adventist University of Health Sciences' (ADU) newly expanded and relocated Hope Clinic had its grand opening celebration on April 4, 2018. Tia Hughes, Dr.O.T., department chair of occupational therapy (OT), and Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D., president of ADU, along with Hope Clinic staff, ADU faculty and staff, and others, attended the open house. Also present were clinic donors, including Daryl and Kimberly Dixon, Chris Bordner with Synergy Wealth Alliance, and members of Florida Hospital's CHiC Foundation.

The Hope Clinic is a teaching facility that provides outpatient occupational therapy, physical therapy (PT), mental health counseling, and nursing services. The clinic was the product of Hughes' determination to establish a facility where students in the occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nursing programs could observe faculty members provide care to patients without insurance.

Patients are seen for a variety of medical reasons, including stroke, brain injuries, orthopedic injuries, and developmental delays. This new facility will allow Hope Clinic staff to better serve even

more patients.

The event opened with Hughes welcoming and thanking the attendees for their support as she described the clinic's story from its inception until the present. The clinic provides no-cost services for the uninsured, underinsured, and individuals who would not otherwise have access to care, making an impact on an underserved portion of the local community. Hughes said, "The opportunity to serve is more of a blessing than receiving care." It offers opportunities for students from ADU's PT, OT, and nursing programs to gain first-hand outpatient clinical experience. There are plans to also add opportunities for physician assistant students later this year.

A patient from the Hope Clinic addressed the group next and shared his experience. He spoke of the positive attitudes of the staff who gave him hope after he had been told he might never walk again following a stroke. Like the other patients of the clinic, he was underinsured and was left with no plan for his recovery. But, thanks to the clinic's staff, he was able to leave his wheelchair and begin walking again.

Hernández concluded the ceremony, once again thanking attendees and donors for their support. He expressed his pride in Hughes and her team's hard work, and called the clinic "a story of faith from a leader with vision, heart, and passion." He referred to the patient's success story, saying, "Miracles are happening here."

A plaque was unveiled, dedicated to the donors who helped finance and build the new clinic, followed by a prayer dedication from Reynold Acosta, one of ADU's chaplains. After the ceremony, guests were invited to enjoy refreshments while exploring the new, updated facility.

The Hope Clinic provides treatment and care to the community while educating ADU's students on whole person care — a perfect embodiment of ADU's mission to develop skilled professionals who *live* the healing values of Christ. With the new facility, it faces a future bright with growth and opportunities, not only for the institution and its students, but for the people it serves. 🕊

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



The Hope Clinic staff poses inside the new Hope Clinic space: Angela Sampson (front row, left), OTR/L; Vicki Case, OTR/L; Milly Rodriguez, OTR/L; Susan Rodd, COTA/L; and Jennifer Sanabria, COTA/L; Rubin Acosta (back row, left), COTA/L; Jessica Drummond, PTA; Elizabeth Clark, D.P.T.; Tia Hughes, Dr.O.T.; and Jeff Emde, D.P.T.

Florida Conference Headquarters Highlights Spiritual Emphasis

The Lord's business is conducted here! There is a conscientious effort by the spiritual life committee, under the direction of José LeGrand, to make sure the ambiance and working environment reflects Christ in the Florida Conference office building in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Week of Spiritual Emphasis

Each year the calendar year begins on a high note with a Week of Spiritual Emphasis. This year was no exception, with insightful messages brought each morning by Orlando Lopez, senior pastor of Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Fla.

A dynamic speaker, Lopez spoke from his heart as he encouraged each person to open their hearts to "New Beginnings with Jesus." Each morning, hearts were also lifted in singing together and listening to local elementary and academy music groups perform musical selections.

Monday Worship

The spiritual life committee has an intentional plan in presenting Monday worship. The first Monday of the month's worship is presented by local teachers, pastors, and other Adventist employees. The second Monday worship is presented by departmental personnel. On the third Monday, new employees are interviewed, and then the president presents worship on the fourth Monday.

Communion

On a recent Monday, employees gathered in the atrium around tables fashioned in the shape of a cross to partake of the Lord's Supper. To make the occasion even more special, juice was served in cups made from the wood of olive trees from Israel.

The blessing upon the bread was given by Abdiel del Toro, vice president for



PHOTO BY: LEE BENNETT

Allan Machado, Florida Conference interim president, led employees in a communion service.



PHOTO BY: CHERYL GOLD

Forest Lake Education Center Wind Symphony in Longwood, Fla., under the direction of Dustin Gold, performed for the Florida Conference Week of Spiritual Emphasis.

Spanish language ministries. Timothy Goff, vice president for pastoral ministries, gave the blessing upon the juice.

Allan Machado, interim president of the Florida Conference, led out in the sacred service. His homily was based on the passage from 1 Peter 1:18-19, KJV: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." ❧



Orlando Lopez, senior pastor of Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Fla., spoke on "New Beginnings With Jesus" for the Florida Conference Office Week of Spiritual Emphasis.

BY GLADYS M. NEIGEL

Columbia City Company Celebrates High Day with Baptism

Members of Columbia City Company, Lake City, Fla., designated February 24, 2018, as “A High Day in Zion.” It was on this day the members commissioned their new baptistery by baptizing five precious souls for the Lord. The event was also auspicious because the members used their newly acquired baptismal robes for the first time.

The service was impressive in its order and solemnity. As each candidate was lowered into the water by George C. Worrell, pastor, specially selected songs were sung according to the candidate’s

wishes. As each person came out of the water, a crescendo of “Amen” was heard from the congregation.

This eclectic group of young people baptized was composed of a mother and daughter, grandmother and grandson, and a teenager. The service was well-attended as families and well-wishers of the candidates filled the church.

The service was concluded with an appeal. The neighbor of one of the candidates, who came to escort her to the pool, publicly expressed his desire to accept Jesus as his Lord and be baptized. 📞



Newly baptized members of Columbia City Company in Lake City, Fla.: Anderson Fuller (left), Evan Kinsella, Jonathan Webb, Audy Fuller, and Tracy Norwood.

BY GEORGE C. WORRELL

Florida Conference Pastor Offers Prayer for Florida State Senate

Varilus Pierre Jr., pastor for Temple Adventiste de West Palm Beach in Greenacres, Fla., and Gethsemane Church Company in Port St. Lucie, Fla., was invited by the State of Florida to offer the opening prayer for the Florida Senate on March 5, 2018, in Tallahassee, Fla. The senate was called to order by President Joe Negron at 10:25 a.m. A quorum was present with 38 senators in attendance. Pierre, who is trilingual and fluent in French, Creole, and English, prayed for all senators and House of Representative members in the State’s capital, coupled with all lawmakers in the U.S. and in its entirety.

After prayer, he had the unique opportunity to greet senators and some members of the House of Representatives. “I knew one of the senators from Miami; her name is Daphne Campbell,” said Pierre. “She is the first and the only Haitian senator in the State of Florida.” 📞



Varilus Pierre Jr., pastor, offered the opening prayer on March 5, 2018, for Florida State senators. He also prayed for members of the Florida House of Representatives, as well as the U.S. Congress.

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

OAKS Bells Choir Blesses Community Churches

Ministering to area churches is the dream of Mary Wilcox, teacher and director of the Ooltewah Adventist School (OAKS) bells and chimes choir in Ooltewah, Tenn.

The opportunity arrived when the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church graciously lent their bells and chimes equipment to OAKS at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Students with little to no musical knowledge now had the privilege of learning music.

As a thank you for the generosity of the Presbyterian Church, the OAKS bells and chimes choir performed at one of their church services, bringing a blessing to the members through their music. Many words of appreciation were expressed to Wilcox and the student choir.

A performance at the Ooltewah United Methodist Church, next-door neighbors to the OAKS school, resulted in an unexpected and welcome blessing. Arriving back at OAKS after the performance, Wilcox opened a thank-you card from the Methodist church, and discovered a check for \$500 to go toward the choir's



The OAKS bells and chimes choir students received financial blessings as well as raised funds through baking and yard sales.

fundraising project that had been sparked by a \$5,000 gift earlier in the 2017-2018 school year.

Bell choir students raised the remaining needed funds through the sale of baked goods and T-shirts. Additional funds were also raised through a church community-wide yard sale. By April 2018, Wilcox was able to purchase new bells for the choir.

Spreading the joy of worshipful melody and cheerful praise, the OAKS bells choir continues to return the blessing to the people and churches in the Chattanooga, Tenn., community. The



SUBMITTED BY: SANDRA HESLER

new bells will provide a valuable and continuing educational opportunity for the students to grow, not only in practical music education, but also in real-world community outreach.

The school expresses thanks to all who made this possibility a reality, as well as to Wilcox for fulfilling her childhood desire to spread the blessing of music. This is now playing out in the lives of OAKS students and their community. ❶

BY SANDRA HESLER

Greg Leavitt Joins as Auditing Director

Georgia-Cumberland Conference office welcomes Greg Leavitt to the treasury team as the director of auditing. He and his wife of 28 years, Arlene Leavitt, spent 24 years serving in Michigan, where he was the business manager for Great Lakes Adventist Academy.

"We are excited to add such a skilled and dedicated person to direct our auditing team," said Kurt Allen, vice president for finance.

The Leavitts two daughters, Brittany Leavitt and Bethany Leavitt, both happen to live in Georgia and Tennessee, and were definitely hoping their parents would head south. "Arlene and I both

went to Southern, and it just feels like home," said Leavitt on accepting the job.

Before moving to Michigan, Leavitt worked in Apison, Tenn., with G.R. Rush & Company, a CPA firm. He worked with auditing, taxes, and accounting, but felt like something was missing. He wanted to serve his Church and feel a sense of mission.

Leavitt says he is excited about travel, meeting new people, and helping to support the local church treasurers.

He added, "I am passionate about the Gospel and furthering God's work in these last days, and I want to be a part of finishing the work." ❶



PHOTO BY: BRIAN YOUNG

Greg Leavitt is the new auditing director for Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He will travel to audit the finances of Conference churches and schools.

BY JODI HEROD STEELE

Wally and Mary Ellen Fox Retire After 43 Years at GCA

Georgia-Cumberland Academy's (GCA) Alumni Weekend on April 6-8, 2018, was a bittersweet experience as current and former students and faculty gathered to wish Wally and Mary Ellen Fox a happy retirement. The couple was recognized during church with an award for their 77 years of combined service at GCA. Later that afternoon, several hundred people gathered in the GCA gymnasium for a Celebration of Service program and reception in honor of the Foxes.

Wally Fox said the turnout for their celebration was amazing. They also heard from many people who were unable to be there in person, but wanted to send the couple their congratulations.

"The line of people waiting to talk with us was just overwhelming," said Mary Ellen Fox. "We didn't want to miss anyone."

"It was priceless to get that kind of love and support," said her husband. "There couldn't have been a better way to finish out our career. We're so thankful for the opportunities we've had here. The love and support we've felt from everyone is definitely mutual."

One of the biggest honors of the day for the Foxes was the announcement that GCA's new gymnasium complex will be named The Wally Fox Wellness Center, and the school's renovated library will be named The Mary Ellen Fox Library and Resource Center. The couple says they greatly appreciate this special recognition, and are humbled by the gesture.

The Fox family moved to Calhoun, Ga., in 1975 when Wally Fox took the job of athletic director at GCA. Mary Ellen Fox has also been a fixture at the Academy, serving as librarian since 1984, as well as teaching home economics for many years.

"My wife had a definite impact on my career," said Fox. "Her support throughout the years helped make my

work successful."

The Foxes' memories and career highlights include friendships with both students and fellow faculty members. When they first came to GCA, they formed strong friendships with a number of other young faculty families, and still keep in touch with many of them. They have also connected with thousands of young people during the years, through lessons learned inside and outside of the classroom. They feel privileged to have witnessed God's leading in their students' lives.

"We joke that we can't go anywhere without seeing someone we know," said Mary Ellen Fox. "We even saw a former student on a cruise several years ago."

"It's probably the memories we cherish more than anything, and the fun times we've shared with the kids," said Wally Fox. "To watch the Lord work in their lives over the years, and see them going in the right direction are experiences you just can't replace."

As the Foxes look forward to retirement, they hope to travel more, and to spend time with family, including quality time with their grandchildren. Their friends at GCA are also delighted to know that they plan to continue living in Calhoun. The Georgia-Cumberland Academy campus will not be the same place without the Foxes. ❶

by TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JODI HEROD STEELE

The Fox Family in 1976: Wally and Mary Ellen Fox, with their daughter, Jennifer. The couple were both recognized for their service with GCA's new gymnasium complex, to be named The Wally Fox Wellness Center, and the school's renovated library will be named The Mary Ellen Fox Library and Resource Center.



PHOTO BY: ANDREW BOYD

Greg Gerard (left), GCA principal, and Bob Overstreet, alumni president, presented Wally and Mary Ellen Fox with service awards at GCA's Alumni Weekend this past April. Combined, they have 77 years of service at GCA.

Crooked Cop, Framed Convict Present at Camp Meeting

Crowds gathered at Camp Alamsico over the chilly weekend of April 6-7, 2018, as the second annual Alamsico Camp Meeting was held. The year's theme, which was also used at the Bass Memorial Academy Camp Meeting, May 23-26, 2018, was "Forgiven to Forgive," based on the text from Colossians 3:13. Darold Bigger, Ph.D., and his wife, Barbara Bigger, were the keynote presenters for the weekend, and they shared an incredible experience of losing their daughter to a brutal murder and going through the journey of forgiving the man who committed the heinous act. This has led to the development of a published book, *A Time to Forgive*; a DVD-based workshop, *Forgive Now*; a university class; and frequent speaking appointments.

Two other presenters, Andrew Collins and Jameel McGee, took the platform Sabbath afternoon, and shared a story that only God could have orchestrated. Collins was a police officer in Benton Harbor, Mich., and was inspired to start his career because he wanted to make a positive difference in his community. He also wanted to make a name for himself and was intent on being the top cop in every way he could. This eventually resulted in him falsifying his reports to improve his reputation. McGee, on the other hand, did not have a spotless record and harbored hatred and anger in his life, yet was going about a typical day of catching a ride to the store with his friend. Collins came to the store on a tip to make a drug bust, and found some drugs in the vehicle McGee was riding in. The drugs did not belong to McGee, but Collins was intent on getting the conviction, so he falsified his



Jameel McGee (left) and Andrew Collins share their story of forgiveness.

report to include McGee in the case.

McGee was found guilty based on the police report, and sentenced to the maximum prison time. A couple of years later, Collins himself was busted with drugs in his office, and, after making a plea deal to right the wrongs in his false reports, was sentenced to a few years in prison. McGee was released from jail, but not before realizing that he needed to change his life by allowing God to lead it instead of directing it himself. Collins came to the same understanding while he was in prison, and determined to be a follower of Jesus.

Years later, when Collins was released, he decided to go back to the neighborhoods where he had caused so much pain, and attempt to make it right. He became involved in a local program that helped people with crim-

inal records obtain and hold paying jobs. Shortly after that, McGee came to take one of those jobs. The two met, and although McGee had experienced so much loss from being wrongfully accused, he forgave Collins, who intensely apologized for his actions. The two have become great friends and have written a book about their whole experience, *Convicted: A Crooked Cop, an Innocent Man, and an Unlikely Journey of Forgiveness and Friendship*. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Preparations Under Way for Alamisco's 50th Anniversary

Camp Alamisco, though it had not been named yet, was introduced to the Southern Union in the May 1968 issue of the *Southern Tidings*. That article showed the constituency vote that took place on March 24, 1968, which enabled the Conference to lease the land from the Alabama Power Company, and proceed with building plans for a camping program. The lease for the property was signed on October 27, 1968. The agreement was in the interest of the public and the Conference, as it retained a significant portion of natural resources to be preserved on the shores of Lake Martin. The late J. Henson Whitehead, then secretary-treasurer of the Southern Union, stated, "I have seen many youth camps, most of them ideally located, but I have never seen as beautiful a location with as much potential as the proposed site on Lake Martin in Alabama. The view is breathtaking; the lake is large, clear, and beautiful."

The expectations for Alamisco were high, and dreams for its potential were big. During the next 50 years, most, if not all, of those expectations were met or exceeded, and dreams became a reality. A search of "Camp Alamisco" in the *Southern Tidings* archives from the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research nets more than 440 results; Alamisco has had an active role in reaching souls for Christ through Gulf States Conference.

For many, Alamisco is a special place to them. For school children, it is the place they come for outdoor school each year; for local church leaders, it is where they are equipped for service at elders' and deacons' retreats, Sabbath School training, and

more. Adventurers and Pathfinders utilize it throughout the year, as do other Christian groups, and Gulf States constituents for summer camp. To them, Alamisco has become the place where they feel the presence of God, and where their spiritual walk has been positively influenced.

This year marks the 50th year of people of all ages being drawn closer to God at Alamisco, and plans have been made to have an anniversary celebration, October 5-7, 2018. Ron Whitehead, youth director for the Lake Union, will be the keynote presenter, and Bill Wood, retired youth director for the Atlantic Union, will give a history-of-Alamisco presentation.

If you have been a staff member at Alamisco any time during the last 50 years, you are invited to attend and perform a classic camp skit on Saturday night. This weekend event is not just for staff, but also to anyone on whom Alamisco has made a positive impact.

Lodging reservations are scheduled to go online this month, and more information is available at www.campalamisco.org. ①



Spectators look on as young woman performs for the ski show on Lake Martin at Camp Alamisco.



Pathfinders and families sit down for a meal at Alamisco.



Bill Wood, former Atlantic Union youth director, and his wife, Janet, pose for a 1993 Camp Alamisco staff photo.

BY LINDA FREEMAN

Piedmont Church Burns Mortgage

Church members of the Piedmont, Ala., Church celebrated paying off their church property on Sabbath, March 31, 2018, with a mortgage-burning ceremony.

It was with a lot of emotion that Mike Duman, pastor, shared what it was like to see an F-5 tornado destroy the church he and fellow members had worked so hard to build. The tornado occurred on April 27, 2011, just two weeks before the first mortgage burning was scheduled. That church finished construction in 2006, and with generous financial support, including support from charter members Ron and Carol Pletcher and Desmond Doss, it was paid off four years later. Following that tornado, the reconstruction included a basement community storm shelter. Five years after reconstruction completion, the church is debt-free once again.

Dave Livermore, president of the Gulf States Conference, and Mike Duman, pastor and co-founder of Piedmont Church, led out in the service. Rick Blythe, former pastor and co-founder of Piedmont, was in attendance as well. The ceremony included greetings and remarks from Mel Eisele, former president of Gulf States, and Dennis Milburn, former treasurer of Gulf States. Video messages from those not able to attend included Brian Danese, treasurer of Gulf States; Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference; and Wes Peppers, associate ministerial director of the Michigan Conference. ❶



Mike Duman, pastor, leads a congregational song while Dennis Milburn (left), retired Southern Union undertreasurer and former treasurer of Gulf States; Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States; Mel Eisele, former president of Gulf States; and Michael Abraham, local elder, sing along for the ceremony.

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

New LifeTalk Radio Station Connects Listeners with Christ

New radio station WYAW-LP (“Where You Are Welcome”) 93.5 FM in Pooler/Savannah, Ga., began broadcasting LifeTalk Radio programming on February 14, 2018. WYAW joins the LifeTalk network of 130+ affiliate stations across North America that are connecting with their communities, and offering hope and wholeness through Jesus Christ.

“We are already airing local spots for our church,” reports Joe Wamack, pastor. “Our church members are loving it!” said Carroll Baker, station manager. “From the studio located in the Savannah First Adventist Church building, our new station covers the densely populated area surrounding the church.”

“I am so excited about this station!” exclaimed a new listener. “Jan” was driving through Pooler, Ga., when she happened to notice the Seventh-day Adventist Church sign announcing their new radio station. She tuned her car radio to 93.5 FM, and caught part of the program before she lost the signal.

“How can I hear more?” she asked. She learned she could get the free LifeTalk Radio mobile app for her phone, and immediately found the podcast of the show she wanted to hear again. She also learned she could listen to LifeTalk online at www.lifetalk.net, or listen via

ROKU, satellite, or Amazon Echo.

Does your church pray to reach out to the community for Christ, and wonder how it can get a LifeTalk station in the area?

LifeTalk Radio has assisted more than 150 churches in starting a radio outreach ministry. Other new stations in the network include the following:

- Asheville, N.C., 104.7 FM
- Brandon/Tampa, Fla., WSDX-LP 101.9 FM
- Cape Coral, Fla., WLLJ-LP 101.7 FM
- Lenoir City, Tenn., WBLC 95.1 FM/1360 AM
- Maple Grove, Minn., KPJT-LP 99.1 FM (Minnesota Conference)

“This radio ministry is an incredible opportunity to reach out into the community! It is so far-reaching, 24/7. It is a greater bang for our [evangelistic] buck. We do wish there were funds available to help new stations get started,” commented Frank Bailey, manager of the new LifeTalk Radio affiliate WSDX in Brandon (Tampa area), Fla.

John Bradshaw, speaker/director for It Is Written, said, “LifeTalk Radio is our partner in ministry. Together, we are connecting people with Christ. LifeTalk can help you to reach your community for Christ.”

LifeTalk is the radio outlet for pro-

gramming from Voice of Prophecy, Breath of Life, It Is Written, Jesus 101, Faith for Today, and all of the North American Division Adventist ministries.

Steve Dickman, ASI president and station manager of WDNX in Savannah, Tenn., says, “LifeTalk does an amazing job of providing a stable, Christ-centered, and balanced stream of programming that will help you connect with your local community. We have been using the LifeTalk programming since 1998.”

“LifeTalk Radio seems like one of those hidden treasures of our Church. [I hope churches] understand what they have access to! I hope churches highlight LifeTalk Radio on their websites,” said Ron Vozar, pastor.

“LifeTalk Radio is the premier Adventist supplier of radio content. What a blessing it is to hear the inspiring stories of how LifeTalk impacts listeners’ lives,” commented Ken Denslow, assistant to the North American Division president.

Get the free LifeTalk Radio mobile app or listen online at www.lifetalk.net. For free sharing cards to hand to your neighbor or friend, email your name and address to info@lifetalk.net or call 1-800-775-HOPE (4673). ☎

BY BECKY CARLSON



Carroll Baker is the station manager/engineer at the Savannah First Church radio station WYAW-LP 93.5 FM in Pooler, Ga.

MJA Showcases Class Projects at Flavors of Memphis

Memphis Junior Academy (MJA) is no stranger to the annual Education Fair. The posters, the presentations, the papers — MJA students have been doing them for years. This year, the planning team wanted something different. Several ideas were thrown around, but nothing had the right feel, the right flavor. Moreover, they felt that in Memphis, flavor is VERY important!

Then the idea was born, a Community Fair. MJA is in a city rich in culture, the arts, history, and well, flavor — so why not showcase that? The student body provided educational information on the great city they call home on March 4, 2018.

The preK-K class showcased their career ambitions as their favorite Memphis professions. They looked the part, knew their careers details, and happily shared with visitors their displays.

The first- and second-graders constructed

models of their favorite Memphis locales, as well as creating a display with pictures and information about their neighborhoods.

The third- through fifth-graders presented notable African Americans in history by means of creative displays, original artwork, and 3-D models.

Students in sixth through eighth grades chose a non-profit organization in the community, where they learned all about the mission of the organization, interviewed leaders, and even put in a few volunteer hours.

Lastly, the ninth- and 10th-graders selected a city landmark to highlight. Even lifelong Memphians learned something new about their beloved city.

A famous musician once said, “There is a grit in Memphis. If you’re here long enough you get to the gold beneath the grit, and then you fall in love with the grit itself.

It is quintessentially an American city that

is rich in culture and diversity almost like nowhere else.”

The students of Memphis Junior Academy most definitely let that gold shine. ❶

BY KAYLEE BAUGHMAN



PHOTO BY: LISA MCLARTY

Layla Hall's career ambition is to be a dentist.

Lexington Women's Ministries Experience “R.E.A.L.” Growth

In the last several years at Lexington Church in Lexington, Ky., few activities were happening in women's ministries. The leadership role was even vacant for a time. However, beginning in 2017 with leaders Ana Banos, Olivia Morris, and their team — Cindy Willey, Sherri Strickland, Lizzie Garcia, Andrea Miller, and Heidi Herrera — this ministry has become very active, with more than 50 women at some events.

Volunteers like Ellen Morris, Emma Morris, Dionne Blackburn, Irmgard Kohler, and Lisa Chumley assisting with preparations, providing food, or taking pictures also aided in this success. Most important are God's abundant blessings, those praying for the ministry, and those consistently attending. The events are so popular that an “intruder” (Bryan Banos, pastor) even



Leader Ana Banos welcomes the women to the fall craft event, and introduces Becky Mirsky, the evening speaker.

managed to get a few snacks and hellos in before getting kicked out.

The ministry's slogan, “We are Re-deemed, Esteemed, Adopted, Loved,” (R.E.A.L.) emphasizes women as individuals cherished by God. Each event begins with a message shared by a woman from the congregation, and is often tied to the

event theme. Opportunities such as preparing Bags of Love for homeless women or sending cards to inactive members allows these events to be spiritual, ministry minded, and social.

Changes are coming for women's ministries as the Banos family moves to another district in May, and Olivia Morris leaves for college in July. A special quote says, “As women of faith, our greatest Friend is Christ, but when He blesses us with sisters in Christ, we experience a bond that will never die.” Realizing this, Lexington women's ministries plans to keep their activities going, and continue to look for ways to show the women of the Lexington area the blessings of bonds in Christ. ❶

BY NIKKI GETMAN

Leach Church Holds Seventh Annual Easter Prayer Breakfast

One of the greatest means of friendship evangelism is to conduct events that allow people from all walks of life to sit at your table and eat. Food often tears down walls and fosters the development of friendships, as Jesus himself demonstrated in John 21:17. Jesus asks Peter at breakfast if He loved Him. Peter emphatically affirmed his Master with a hearty “yes!” After each answer Jesus responded by saying, “Feed my sheep!” At the Leach Church in west Tennessee, two ways have been used to do just that, which include both the physical and spiritual as Jesus intended.

Each year the church is blessed with two major events that feature food: the annual Easter Morning Prayer Breakfast and Thanksgiving Agape Luncheon. The intent of these two events is to bring together

church and community friends for prayer, food, stories, and fellowship. This year’s special emphasis for the annual brunch was praying for four distinct areas: the nation’s leaders, community leaders, church leaders, and families. The prayer session began with a leader from a local Mormon congregation praying for the U.S. President and his cabinet, followed by two church elders and a deacon praying for their distinct areas.

The room was filled to capacity as participants heard stories of God’s faithfulness and undying love. The event culminated in a short video vignette of eight individuals impacted by the events of the crucifixion and resurrection weekend. The success of these events has grown so significantly that a new fellowship hall is in the process of being built this spring. ❶



Attendees during the 2018 Easter morning prayer breakfast

BY JOHN BAKER

Franklin Church Miraculously Finds a Home

After 15 years of renting, the Franklin, Tenn., Church finally has a permanent church home after a string of rapid, miraculous events last fall.

Formed in 2001 in a joint effort by the Madison Campus and Nashville First congregations, the group rented a space in an office park. In 2011, the church purchased a 10-acre property in Franklin, and in 2012 began meeting in the cafeteria of the public school next door. Every week for five years, the members had to transport, set up, and tear down everything needed for worship.

A large fundraising campaign was developed for a multi-phase master plan to include a chapel, school, and eventually a full campus. Through the years, there have been big directional signs of God’s favor, but then all the doors to move forward would close. By every appearance, the church was in an intractable situation — financially and logistically.

When Alex Sozinov joined the congregation in August 2017 as pastor, his assessment confirmed the predicament. “Based on the issues and restrictions we had at the other prop-



Rendering of the future Franklin, Tenn., Church campus

erty, the first phase of the project with a small chapel would take at least 15 years, and the lease with the school was running out.”

The first week of September, the board voted to explore options. The next day, a 14-acre property with an already built youth center and fully planned church campus was identified. In an urgent business session, the church voted to move forward with an offer, and hired member Naomi Bannister as the real estate agent. The Franklin Church closed on the property on November 9, 2017, and had their first worship service there Thanksgiving weekend.

“From the time we made the offer to close, it seemed like every day had a new hurdle, and then just as quickly, it would be resolved,” said

Bannister.

Steve Haley, Conference president, shared with the congregation, “In over 30 years of ministry, the opportunity for a small congregation to purchase this beautiful property in a high-income, high-cost area rates as one of the most stunning events that I’ve ever witnessed. Just when it seemed that there was no immediate means by which the church could move forward, God made this property available, at an affordable price, and in a prime location in one of the fastest growing counties in North America. Within weeks of closing on the new property, unexpectedly, we had a buyer for the former acreage we owned. Amazing! I don’t use the word ‘miracle’ lightly, but this has indeed been a miracle, and God alone deserves the glory. Truly, God has great plans for the Franklin, Tenn., Church, and I can’t wait to see how He will bless and prosper the congregation in the future!” ❶

BY CYNTHIA WILLEY AND ANA BANOS

Summerville Members Continue “Touch 10K Challenge”

The Summerville, S.C., Church continued their outreach-oriented momentum on March 24, 2018, by launching their Touch 10K Challenge. Touch 10K is an initiative of the regional conference personal ministries departments in partnership with their respective publishing departments. The simple goal is to inspire and empower each church to touch the lives of 10,000 people in their communities with the Gospel. Touching someone’s life could be through blood pressure screenings at a health fair, food distribution to the hungry, Vacation Bible School, or — as in this case — literature distribution.

The day began with a celebratory yet abbreviated worship service that transitioned into a witness service. The members were led into the community by their pastor, Raymond Johnson, along with South Atlantic Conference publishing director, Carl McRoy. After distributing about 300 *Message* magazines door to door, the members returned to the church to eat, testify about their 300



Summerville member Horace Johnson (right) stands with a man from the community.

touches, and brainstorm various follow up strategies.

One provocative moment of the brainstorming session that emboldened the group was a revelation made plain through a demographic study. According to city-data.com, approximately 80,000 people (58.8 percent of the population) have no religious affiliation.

In spite of all the steeples punctuating the city of Summerville, “There are large



Raymond Johnson (left), pastor, and the Summerville members display their Touch 10K Challenge T-shirts.

numbers who do not listen to the preaching of God’s Word or attend any religious service. If they are reached by the Gospel, it must be carried to their homes,” *Ministry of Healing*, page 143-4. Upon learning this, the members agreed that touching 10K is only the beginning! 📌

BY CARL MCROY

Summerville Holds Annual Women’s International Day of Prayer

The annual Women’s International Day of Prayer was held at Summerville, S.C., Church on March 3, 2018. The church was filled with anticipation because the women’s ministries leader challenged the women with the theme “Each One Bring One,” to invite other women to the celebration who are not Adventists. They wanted the day to be about prayer, with an evangelistic approach.

It was a bright, sunny morning, with coolness in the air. The church pews began to fill with members and visitors.



Many countries were represented during the parade of flags.

They came from the north and south, east and west, and were invited to join with Jesus as the Supreme Guest.

Divine worship began with the Parade of Flags representing members and friends of the church. One special feature of the service was when two guests who weren't Adventists shared their experiences of answered prayer in their lives. Debra Summers told about her husband's battle with cancer, and that their son was a perfect match for bone marrow transplant. However, in the midst of rejoicing and thanking God, he became ill again, and was diagnosed with throat cancer. They began to question God and their

belief in Him. Subsequently, God began to work a set of miracles in their lives that reassured them that He was still on their side. The testimony was so powerful that there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

The message for the day coincided with the testimonies, because the speaker, Hannah Walker Johnson, elder, reemphasized to the congregation, "No matter what we're going through, God sees, He understands, and He cares!"

Following the spiritual food, came the physical meal — a display of culinary treats from Antigua, Barbados, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica,



The Summerville members enjoy their meal during the Women's International Day of Prayer dinner.

Mexico, Philippines, Virgin Islands, and Zambia. This is an annual event, and all are invited to attend next year! ❶

BY RAYMOND JOHNSON

Christ is the Answer Members "Hit the Bricks" to Share Gospel

There was wind, scattered showers, and fluctuating temperatures.

There was also gratitude, determination, and fellowship as the members of Christ is the Answer Church in Orangeburg, S.C., experienced a revival as they "hit the bricks" to share the Gospel.

Carl McRoy, Conference communication/publishing director and former pastor of Christ is the Answer, received a warm welcome back to the church as he introduced the Touch 10K Challenge to the congregation. The goal is for every church in the Conference to touch 10,000 people in their community with some form of evangelistic outreach. The method used on April 7, 2018, was to share *Message* magazines in an apartment complex near the church.

The members enjoyed the teamwork in the fellowship hall as they labeled the magazines with their local church's contact information, and then they placed them in plastic door-hanger bags from www.sharewaves.org (the South Atlantic Conference online store for affordable outreach literature). Some members took literature to communities in other surrounding areas.



Christ is the Answer members "hit the bricks" to share the Gospel and distribute *Message* magazines to a nearby apartment complex.

Close to half of the attendees gathered for a potluck in one of the member's apartments before touching approximately 350 neighbors with *Message* magazines in less than an hour. This small church made a big impact

in a short span of time by keeping it simple. The members are excited about reaching their goal. ❶

BY CARL MCROY

OAA Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Academy Building

The Oakwood community waited years to break ground for a new academy. Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) broke ground on its new academy building for grades 9-12 on March 30, 2018. It will be remembered as a great day in OAA history, not only because of its significance to the Oakwood community, but also because of its significance to Seventh-day Adventists and African American communities. Rupert Bushner Jr., D.Min., senior pastor of the Mt. Calvary Church in Huntsville, Ala., prayed a prayer of thankfulness to God, stating that, “We are our ancestors’ wildest dream.”

OAA’s groundbreaking ceremony was small but elegant. Gathered together were students and employees of the school, local area pastors, conference

and union officials, and dignitaries from the local area government. Will Culver, councilman of Huntsville District 5, presented congratulatory remarks, as did Alex Bryant, executive secretary of the North American Division. Also offering words of congratulations and encouragement were Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference; Benjamin Jones Jr., president of the South Central Conference; and Johnny Holiday, superintendent of schools for South Central.

The building plans call for 11 classrooms, including a collaboration space that will have clear walls and three science labs, one each for chemistry, biology, and STEM, as well as an administrative suite. To conclude the ceremony, Gabriel Madrid, OAA principal, presented

a small gold commemorative shovel to individuals in recognition of their invaluable contributions that brought OAA to this point. 🗝️

BY PAUL D. NIXON



A commemorative shovel is presented to T. Marshall Kelly by Gabriel Madrid, OAA principal.



Participating in the OAA groundbreaking ceremony are Alphonso Green (left), First Church associate pastor; Michael Ross, New Life pastor; Julius Edmund, Oakwood University Church associate pastor; Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church senior pastor; Paul Goodridge, Oakwood University Church associate pastor; Willie Taylor, Trinity pastor; and Rupert Bushner Jr., D.Min., Mt. Calvary senior pastor.

OAA Students Win Awards at State Science Fair

Seven Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) students earned the right to compete in the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) this past April 2018. All seven OAA students won multiple awards at the event, and OAA took home 28 awards, the second most awards of any school represented. Two students, Brianna Henry and Arielle Madrid, placed first in their respective divisions. In addition, Henry and Jayden Vanterpool advanced to the next stage, and will present their projects at the international level.

Henry will advance to the Broadcom

Masters for the Junior International science competition. Vanterpool will attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the Student Observer program, May 13-18, 2018, in Pittsburg, Pa.

Oakwood Adventist Academy congratulates all the winners on a job well done! OAA is proud of how they represented their families, school, region, state, and most all, God! 🙏

BY NANETTA JOINER-PRESSLEY



OAA Robotics team with Brandon Dent (back row, left), OAA math and physics teacher, and Vaughan Mountain (back row, right), assistant coach

OAA Places First, Third at Southern Challenge for Robotics

Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) participated in the Southern Challenge, March 25, 2018, an annual tournament held at Southern Adventist University that features LEGO robotics and research projects presented by middle and high school students. OAA received first place for their core values presentation, and third place for their research project. The Southern Challenge has three levels of competition — robot missions, scientific research, and a core values presentation. The theme was “Hydrodynamics,” which required teams to program robots to solve water-related problems associated with the process of locating, transporting, and using and disposing water.

Teams also had to conduct research to identify their own problem, and recommend a viable solution. Additionally, they were required to share their research

with at least two professionals, and include the latter’s responses in their final research report.

The OAA team researched the problem of high soil salinity from irrigation and its detrimental effects on produce. They identified several reasons why salt collects in irrigation water, and how the evaporation of water from the surface of the Earth causes salt to collect around the roots of plants and produce. After much research and collaboration with professors from Oakwood University, Alabama A&M University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the team shared their solution, which included setting an optimal irrigation schedule for typical weather conditions, and using sensors to detect excess rain or arid conditions to cancel or initiate additional water cycles as needed. 🙏



OAA students at State Science Fair with Gabriel Madrid, OAA principal (back row, left), and Nanetta Joiner-Pressley, science teacher (right)

BY BRANDON DENT

Southeastern Hosts Pathfinder Bible Experience



Pathfinders from across the North American Division and beyond huddle to answer test questions during the Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals. Nearly 200 teams of six demonstrated their knowledge of Daniel and Esther.

They came from as far as California, Washington, Oregon, Canada, and some as far as Great Britain. And, they all came for one thing — to share in the study of the Word of God. The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) is the official North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible study program. Each year teams of six members study a book of the Bible to be tested at several events on various levels. There are four levels of competition: area, conference, union, and division. This year's division was held at the Southeastern Conference Camp-ground, Camp Hawthorne in Hawthorne, Fla.

More than 4,000 Pathfinders, parents, and friends flocked to Camp Hawthorne on April 20, 2018, to spend the weekend testing their Bible knowledge. The weekend event began with a Vesper service that featured songs; a short play based on the book of Esther; and a keynote message by Vandeon Griffin, associate director of youth ministries at the NAD. The Sabbath morning schedule began with the finals testing. The chairs in the camp-ground's main pavilion were all rearranged,

so that nearly 200 teams of six could huddle in small groups and discuss the word of God.

Each team listened for the question (which was also read in Spanish), and then they were given 30 seconds to write down the correct answer. When the time expired, a "runner" took each team's final answer to the panel of judges to be tallied and scored, along with all their other responses. Each team that answers at least 90 percent of the questions correctly receives a first place award. The teams were asked 90 questions (taken from Daniel and Esther) worth a total of 170 points. Of the 185 teams that participated in this year's competition, 114 teams were awarded first place. It is evident that this year's participants were well prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of the Scriptures.

The Sabbath worship service was held after the morning testing. The worship service featured special music from Samantha Grady, the Adventist teenager who was among the victims of the Stoneman Douglas Shooting in March of this year. Alex Bryant, NAD executive secretary, delivered a sermon to remind the Pathfinders that they were



PHOTO BY: C. C. THOMPSON

Alex Bryant, NAD executive secretary, reminded the Pathfinders that they were chosen by God. Sabbath worship served as the climax to the testing event.



PHOTO BY: C. C. THOMPSON

Pathfinder Bible Experience supporter watches the competition from the rear of her vehicle. Since supporters are not allowed inside the testing area, many watched online via mobile devices and closed circuit television.

"chosen by God."

Prince Lewis, Southeastern Conference youth director, remarked, "It was a blessing to host such an awesome event. We look forward to opening our doors to PBE again in the future." 🕊

BY COMMUNICATION STAFF

Southeastern Partners for Sustainable Health

Members of the Northside Church in Miami, Fla., brought together roughly 300 volunteers to provide health services for more than 1,000 community residents on March 24, 2018. Local universities such as Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine, Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, Miami Miller School of Medicine, and Florida International University sent scores of medical students to provide on-site medical care, evaluations, and testing, including mammograms and tests for diabetes, HIV, and Hepatitis C. Also, local health care professionals volunteered their services to provide optical care, as well as answer questions about pre-existing conditions.

Several Adventist and non-Adventist organizations, local media outlets, and even a local school district office collaborated to organize and provide a comprehensive health awareness and care event that was completely free to the public. Also, attendees with extensive needs were given referrals for follow-up care at low or no cost. Children enjoyed puppet shows, biblical stories, songs, animal creations from balloons, and snack packs while parents browsed through the fair.

And, it wasn't just the children's area that told about God's love. The health event was a living expression of the love of God. With a mission-driven mandate, the focus was to create partnerships that will continue over time to provide care and support and demonstrate God's love. ❶

BY BETH DEAN



PHOTO BY: BETH DEAN

Mobile testing units from local medical schools provide free mammograms and HIV tests to community residents. More than 300 volunteers from numerous organizations partnered to provide free healthcare to the North Miami, Fla., community.



PHOTO BY: BETH DEAN

A local organization donated groceries that served more than 500 families. Free groceries were distributed to those in need.



PHOTO BY: BETH DEAN

Barry University podiatry students provided foot care to health fair attendees. More than 1,000 residents were served during the health fair.

Oakwood Offers Place of Quiet Rest, Beauty



Road leading to Oakwood Memorial Gardens

Since its establishment in 2001, Oakwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Huntsville, Ala., has been filling a need for families experiencing the loss of a loved one. The 15-acre cemetery is located at the southern boundary of Oakwood's property, near the Historic Slave Cemetery and Pioneer Lake.

How comforting it is to know that their loved one is resting in a place that is naturally lovely, and can be considered, in many ways, "sacred ground." It is a peaceful place where family members can pause and remember their loved ones.

In the mid-1970s, while pastoring the Oakwood College Church (now Oakwood University Church), Eric C. Ward expressed a desire to see a cemetery on the campus. Delbert Baker, then Oakwood president, championed the concept some 30 years later, and Ward's dream became a reality. When Ward died in 2004, he was buried in his hometown of Los Angeles, Calif. However, in 2017 his family decided to move his remains to Oakwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery — a fitting decision since the cemetery



Oakwood Memorial Gardens sign

might not exist were it not for Ward's vision. Some well-known black Adventists are buried there, including Earl E. Cleveland, Eva B. Dykes, and Garland J. Millet.

The current Oakwood University president, Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., has dramatically expanded the business operation of the cemetery as one of Oakwood's industries.

Gerald Kibble, cemetery director, and

other personnel will be available at burial services to ensure that families' plans are executed, and guests are comfortable during graveside services.

Each Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, American flags are placed on the graves of veterans buried in the cemetery in honor of their service to their country. ❶

BY STAFF WRITER

BROOKS, HERMAN O., 83, born Feb. 3, 1934 in Fort Meade, FL, died Dec. 2, 2017 in Lakeland, FL. He was a life-long member of the Church, first in Ft. Meade and then in Lakeland since 1968. His faith and trust in God increased as he got older, and it was tested as he faced more and more health issues. Herman worked hard all his life as a nurseryman/landscaper, maintenance man for almost 34 years for the Polk County Association for Handicapped Citizens, raised cattle, planted big gardens, and had a small citrus grove on his acreage. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Arliss; three daughters: Judy Brooks of Bartow, FL, Connie (Tracy) Takemoto of Hanapepe, HI, and Sandra Peatross of Winter Springs, FL; one sister, Faye Garcia of Homeland, FL; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, David and Nannie Lou Brooks; his first wife, June; three brothers: Jack, Harold, and Earl; two sisters: Betty O'Steen and Lucy Hartwein; and one son-in-law, Phillip Peatross. A memorial service was held at the Lakeland Church, followed by a private family burial in New Hope Cemetery in Ft. Meade with Pastor Robert Beck officiating.

BROWN, SHARON ANN, 82, of Collegedale, TN, died March 13, 2018, at a local health care facility surrounded by her family. Arrangements were by Cremation Center of Chattanooga.

BURKS, SHIRLEY ANN BENNETT, 80, born Sept. 15, 1937, died Feb. 10, 2018. She was a strong, courageous, and joyful woman. She was a woman of strong faith and a giving heart, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, as well as a prolific gardener. Shirley was the co-founder of Life Line Foods and Ameritrek Tours. She is survived by her six children: Lester (Terry) Burks, Twyla (Bill) Landess, Teresa (Billy Frank) Angel, Leland Burks, April (Lee) Whitman, and June (James) Price; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and her younger brother, Joe Bennett. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Gary Burks; her parents: Ernie and Bessie Bennett; her twin sister, Charlotte (Bennett) Hallabough; and her older brother, Neil Bennett. Shirley loved the Lord and was certain of His love for her. Her heart's desire was to experience the presence of God in the Earth made new. Shirley was a charter member of the Pikeville Church. A memorial was held in her honor on Feb. 17, 2018, with her son-in-law, Lee Whitman, officiating.

CHURCHILL, AGNES, 87, born Dec. 15, 1930 in Chicago, IL, died Feb. 1, 2018 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living

Center Church in Apopka for one year, but she was a lifetime Adventist. She was employed as a director of Florida Hospital South for volunteer services for 30 to 35 years. She is survived by one daughter, Cynthia Jean Scheffler. The service was conducted by Pastor Jim King at Baldwin Fairchild West in Altamonte Springs, FL.

DAVIS, WILLIAM EDWARD, 89, born April 13, 1928 in Rock Island, TN, died Feb. 28, 2018 in Goodlettsville, TN. As a young teenager, he went to work in a cotton mill and continued in other labor-intensive jobs. In 1952, he joined the U.S. Marines, serving in the Korean War, and was awarded several medals for his service and skills. Following seven years in the service, he began a new career as a truck driver. His love and talent for music brought pleasure to many. He was a writer and composed many poems. He was a faithful member of the Ridgeway, TN, Church. He is survived by two sons: Mark E. Davis and Ervin (Karen) Brown; three daughters: Tracy Davis, Oleta (David) Emerson, and Cherie (David) La Tourette; one brother, Aubra W. (Billie Faye) Davis; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lona Davis; and several siblings.

ELLER, JOSEPH QUENTIN, 90, of Collegedale, TN, born Nov. 11, 1927 in Rockwell, NC, to the late Calvin and Josie Eller, died Feb. 2, 2018. He moved to Collegedale in 1946. He graduated from Collegedale Academy and attended Southern Missionary College. He was a commercial builder and worked for T.U. Parks Construction, Payne and Harris Construction, and Rufus and Sanders Whaley Construction. The last 20 years of his working career were at Southern Adventist University. He is survived by his four children: Barbara Aileen Eller, Ann Eller Arquitt, Edward (Tracy) Eller, and Jimmy (Luann) Eller; four sisters: Peggy Daniel, Charlotte (Dan) Tullock, Venita Key, Joan Fox; seven grandchildren: Tyler (Christine) Eller, Trevor Eller, Mark Arquitt, Alex Arquitt, Jeffrey Arquitt, Megan (Lincoln) Duff, and Zachary Eller. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara Allen Jacobs Eller; and one brother, Kermit Duane Eller. The funeral service was held Feb. 4, 2018, in the funeral home chapel with Dr. Doug Jacobs officiating. Burial followed at Collegedale Memorial Park.

IHRIG, BARBARA, 94, born Oct. 1, 1923 in Addison, NY, died Feb. 19, 2018 in Madison, TN. She was a member of the Bordeaux Church in Nashville, TN. She is survived by three daughters: Marilyn Owen, Chris Warden, and Becky Wheeler; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded

in death by her husband, Irvin "Harold" Ihrig. Harold was a long time employee of the Southern Publishing Association after which he was employed by Review and Herald.

KWIEK, CHESTER, 96, born Jan. 20, 1922 in Sandusky, OH, died Jan. 22, 2018 in New Port Richey, FL. He was a member of the New Port Richey Church for 17 years. He survived by one son, Darryl of New Port Richey; one daughter, Carol Pulfer of Churubusco, IN; one brother of DeLand; nine grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Jonathon Pawson at the Meadow Lawn Funeral Home in New Port Richey. Interment was at the Meadow Lawn Cemetery in New Port Richey.

SHULTZ, JOAN ADELL RADER, 83, died April 12, 2018. Arrangements were handled by Covenant Funeral & Crematory, Crox.

SMITH, DOROTHY MAY, 99 of McDonald, TN, born April 21, 1918, died Feb. 9, 2018 in Chattanooga, TN. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, LB Smith; daughter, Pamela (Terry) Dietrich; two grandchildren: Nikki (Brandon) Sutton and Mark (Shelli) Dietrich; four great-grandchildren: Hayden, Dylan, Landon Dietrich, and Cassie Sutton. A Memorial Service was conducted Feb. 17, 2018 at the Collegedale Church.

SPURLOCK JR., JOSEPH M., 65, of McDonald, TN, born in Ft. Rucker, AL, died March 19, 2018 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Joe spent his early life in Frostproof, FL, before moving to Collegedale, TN, in his teens. Joe was a custom home builder in the Chattanooga area for many years. The homes he built stand around the area as monuments to his talent and creativity. Joe loved to make people laugh, and his sense of humor brought joy to all who knew him. Joe is survived by his wife of almost 44 years, Donna Spurlock; two daughters: Kelly (Josh) Sink and Stephanie (Justice) Haga; four grandchildren: Autumn and Emmett Haga and Kirubel and Amahle Sink; two sisters: Karen (John) Gilbreath and Kay (Ed) Nestell and their families; as well as other family members; and beloved friends whom he considered family. A celebration of Joe's life was held on March 24, 2018.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST ATLANTA CHILDREN'S

BUSINESS FAIR - June 3. Renée Bishop, a member of Pillars of Faith Church, will host the fair. The fair is exclusively for children, 4-16, to sell handmade items or services. This endeavor is to promote creativity and fiscal responsibility. It is free to attend and everyone is encouraged to support our young entrepreneurs. Details: www.atlantachildbizfair.com.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACAD-

EMY REUNION - June 8-10. For alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

CELEBRATE YOUR FAVORITE

TEACHER. The Cover Feature for the July 2018 Southern Tidings will highlight personal tributes to teachers who had a lasting influence on their students. If there is such a teacher who made a difference in your life, please share your story at www.southernunion.com/teachers. In 250 words, answer the following: Who was your favorite teacher? Why?

LAURELWOOD ADVENTIST

ACADEMY - Aug. 3-5. Members of the Class of 1968 will meet at the Adobe Resort in Yachts, Oregon, for a 50-year class reunion. Call and make your reservations now. Reference Laurelwood Academy's 50th Class Reunion. Questions? Call Jacquie Jenkins Biloff at 605-295-0040 or email at skyjaky@gmail.com.

STANDIFER GAP SDA SCHOOL

CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY - Sept. 28, 29. All former students and former staff are invited to attend the celebration in Chattanooga, TN. Festivities will begin on

Friday through Saturday evening. Contact: 423-892-6013 or for further details, visit: sgsdaschool.org

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct.

5, 6. Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, and '14. Details: 701-751-6177, x212, or visit our website at www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOME-COMING WEEKEND - Oct. 5-7.

FA Campus. Join us as we honor the

class years ending in 3's and 8's. The Class of 1968 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy choir members. Please update your contact information at agibbs@fletcheracademy.com, 828-209-6704. More details at: www.fletcheracademy.com.

WEIMAR INSTITUTE 40TH HOME-COMING - Nov. 2-4.

We are celebrating 40 years of God's blessings at Weimar Institute this year! If you attended academy or pursued higher education here, please join us. Honor classes: '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, '13. For more information: 530-422-7964 or <http://weimar.edu/alumni/>

SUNSET

	JUN 1	JUN 8	JUN 15	JUN 22	JUN 29	JUL 6
ATLANTA, GA	8:43	8:46	8:49	8:51	8:52	8:51
CHARLESTON, SC	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:31	8:31
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:41	8:41	8:41
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:50	8:53	8:56	8:58	8:59	8:58
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:54	7:58	8:01	8:02	8:03	8:02
JACKSON, MS	8:02	8:06	8:09	8:10	8:11	8:11
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:00	9:04	9:08	9:09	9:10	9:09
MEMPHIS, TN	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:18	8:18	8:17
MIAMI, FL	8:08	8:11	8:13	8:15	8:16	8:16
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:47	7:50	7:53	7:55	7:56	7:55
NASHVILLE, TN	7:58	8:02	8:05	8:07	8:08	8:07
ORLANDO, FL	8:18	8:22	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:26
TAMPA, FL	8:21	8:24	8:27	8:29	8:30	8:29
WILMINGTON, NC	8:18	8:22	8:25	8:27	8:27	8:26

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PROPERTY AVAILABLE

COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE: 1.5 bedroom fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "What a find!" say guests, "Delightful!" \$70/night for two (2-night minimum). Call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at www.rogerkingrentals.com [6]

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

FLORIDA LIVING, INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING – celebrating 53 years of service. A small, relaxed, sunny and warm environment for SDA retirees. Affordable, lease only condos, efficiencies and homes. Located near SDA hospitals, medical offices, shopping and entertainment. Vegetarian meals and healthy living style promoted. 407-862-2646, www.floridalivingretirement.com [6-3]

ENJOY WORRY-FREE INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Lovely, spacious apartments available now. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet on the day of your no-obligation tour. Call Lisa for details. 828-209-6935 and visit: www.fletcherparkinn.com [6]

COLLEGEDALE AREA – 7 level acres with a creek and large plantation style home, \$342,000. Ringgold, GA. One acre home with 4 bed, 3.5 bath with above ground pool, \$289,900. Visit www.DixonTeam.com. Wendy Dixon, ask for a member of the Dixon Team with Keller Williams Realty, Ooltewah: 423-702-2000, direct, 423-664-1800, office. [6]

SOUTHERN TINY LIVING proudly presented by Southern Adventist University. The Tiny House features 300 square feet of living space, high ceiling with two lofts, fully equipped kitchen, full-size bathtub and shower, fully furnished. Reduced: now only \$49,500. For more information call 423-236-2537, email: tprice@southern.edu or visit www.southerntinyliving.com [6]

HOUSE FOR SALE IN THE COLLEGEDALE AREA: Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom home located off Tallant Road near Southern Adventist University on 3/4 acre lot. Check out the virtual tour at www.6009tallant.com. Contact Jon D'Avanzo, Davanzo Real Estate: 423-834-4545 or JDhelpingyou@gmail.com [6]

PICTURESQUE 65 ACRES with end of road privacy. Nice double-wide, ready to move in to. Also included is a horse barn, shop and unfinished cabin. Very private location near Adventist community. Dunlap TN address. Church/school only 20 minutes. Asking \$249,000. Call Chuck for more details: 423-949-8211. [6]

LATE MODEL 2300 sq. ft., 3 bed, 2 bath triple-wide mobile home in Altamont, TN. Metal carport, 12x16 well house, 3 small ponds, large blueberry patch, 16.9 acres on blacktop road. City water available. Call 249,000.

Call Soon Lee, 931-980-9011. [6]

40X80 COMMERCIAL METAL BUILDING – Altamont, TN. Well insulated, with walk-in and 10x10 rollup door. 2 storage buildings 24x40 each with draw bucket wells, large fenced garden area, blueberries, 169 level acres on hardtop road, utilities available. Call Soon Lee, 931-980-9011. [6]

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Digital Engagement Manager** for the Marketing and University Relations department to develop content for SAU constituents by leading, developing, and implementing the university's social/digital advertising strategy. This position focuses on analytics, testing, and optimization, along with social campaigns/online relationship development. To apply/see full description visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **CIRC Lead Programmer/Analyst** in the School of Computing. This position oversees/coordinates work of students/staff engaged in software development/analysis. B.S. in Computer Science or similar and 5 years of programming experience. Graduate education in computer science preferred. To apply and see full description visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [6]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time professor for the Nursing Department, starting July 1, 2018. Master's degree in nursing, minimum of 5 years clinical practice in nursing with family and children, current Alabama nursing license, excellent physical assessment skills and interpersonal relationship, must have a strongly expressed

commitment to Jesus Christ and the teachings of the SDA church as evidenced by regular SDA Church membership. Brief description of duties: provides didactic and clinical instructions related to BSN Nursing; teaches course in pediatric nursing and pediatric clinical; engages in student advisement; participates in educational planning, curriculum revision, faculty development; serves on departmental and university committees; collaborates with faculty to improve student success; engages in professional development activities to maintain currency and expertise; serves on departmental and university committees; demonstrate a strong commitment to nursing excellence; coordinates, updates and maintains syllabi, course material, and systemic evaluation reports. *Visit website www.oakwood.edu/Employment. Send application, curriculum vitae and transcripts to hroffice@oakwood.edu* [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an **Administrative Assistant, Nursing**. Responsible for a variety of program management activities under the supervision of the Department Chair and demonstrates competence in various routine support services which include generating reports, maintaining budgets, managing correspondence with clients, recruits, or other parties outside the program, collecting and maintaining accreditation and assessment documents, and management of confidential files. Will maintain program files, spreadsheets, manipulate web-based applications, conduct significant amounts of research in support of program accreditation and assessment activities. *www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_7* [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Administrative Assistant, **Social Work**. Manages a variety of general office activities relating to future and current students, faculty, university personnel and members of the community. General duties involve routine office management and communication, document

preparation and coordination, financial management, and ongoing event planning. *www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_10* [6]

UNION COLLEGE seeks full-time **professor of communication** with strong experience in emerging media and public relations beginning July 2019. Doctorate is preferred. *Please submit a curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at mark.robison@ucollege.edu* [6, 7]

THE EDDLEMON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC., located on the campus of Eddlemon Adventist School in Spartanburg, SC, is currently seeking a director. The center provides care for 24 children, ages 2-4. The position has dual responsibilities of director and part-time teacher. *For more information contact Jennifer Spears: 864-415-7954, jenniferspears@gmail.com* [6]

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES - Laurelbrook Academy is a self supporting institution training missionaries. We have the following positions open: dietary manager, vegetarian cook, CNA's, farm manager, nursing home administrator. We provide many opportunities to go on mission trips with the students and staff to develop your talents for God. *For more information, call 423-664-5343 or email president@laurelbrook.org* [6-8]

OB-GYN, PEDIATRICIAN, PSYCHIATRIST, AND PSYCHOLOGIST needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. *Call Dr. Randall Steffens at: 615-604-0142.* [6]

HOUSE PARENT OR CAREGIVER for mentally challenged adult female. Must be energetic with church affiliation verifiable. Caregiver must live in rural setting or can live in her country home near Uchee Pines Health Institute in Seale, Alabama. Prefer married couple but will accept single with no small children. Call back number: 334-855-0733 [6]

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER is seeking a **Medical Technologist** (AS-

CP) to be our Laboratory Manager. Call 423-987-0831 or apply online: www.wildwoodhealth.org/about-us/personnel/staff-application [6]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist* [6-12]

AUTHORS OF COOKBOOKS, HEALTH BOOKS, CHILDREN'S CHAPTER AND PICTURE BOOKS, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. *Find our new titles at your local ABC or www.TeachServices.com, used SDA books at www.LNFBooks.com* [6-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies* [6-5]

SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED? Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For information, application and current catalog, send \$25 to: SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [6-8]

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN'S Pastor C.A. Murray and friends. Two trips this fall, November 11 - 19, 2018 \$3,095.00. November 18-27, 2018 \$3,395.00. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864. [6-10]

Is an Enhanced Life Estate For Me?

Penny's children were no longer in the church. She was afraid that, upon her demise, the distribution of her assets would cause conflict between them. She was also quite sure they would not honor her wish to give something to her church and Savior who were so dear to her.

She contacted her Conference's Planned Giving and Trust Services Department. They outlined several options including an Enhanced Life Estate Deed, which provides for the transfer of real estate to beneficiaries outside of probate. With their help she was able to devise a plan that gave her peace.

At her funeral one of her children commented that her planning had saved the family from a great deal of arguing and strife.

▶ **Act now. Please call your Planned Giving Department today.**

Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

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Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



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CAROLINA

ShareHim Mission Trip – June 11-27. South African Union.

Master Guide Training – July 13. NPR.

Prayer Summit – July 20-22. April 8. Ridgecrest Conference Center, 1 Ridgecrest Drive, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

LE Summer Retreat – Aug. 9-12. NPR. Pathfinders/Adventurers Leadership – Aug. 24-26. NPR.

FLORIDA

Complete calendar online – floridaconference.com/events

A Better Choice / Florida Adventist Book Center – Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule – Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before 5:30 p.m. on the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday delivery and before noon on the Monday before a scheduled Tuesday delivery.

June 24. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

July 1. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

July 8. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

July 15. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Marantha in Miami Gardens.

July 29. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Varsity Pathfinder Ultimate Adventure – July 6-9. Adventure trip to Tennessee including caving, whitewater rafting, ziplining, aerial adventure, hiking, and camping. Cost: \$250 (nonrefundable but can be transferred to another person). Details/registration: floridaconference.com/events/varsity-ultimate-adventure. Registration deadline: June 26.

Young Professionals' Gathering – July 20-21. Spring Meadows Church, 5783 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd., Sanford. "What's Your Story" is a gathering for post-college young professionals (ideal age 22-35), whether you have a story to tell, just starting your story, or do not yet have a story to tell. Guest performers including comedian Andrew Stanley and contemporary Christian musician Jonny Diaz. Cost: free. Registration: floridaconference.com/events/young-professionals-gathering

Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Convention – July 27-29. Miami DoubleTree (Hilton Airport Hotel), 711 NW 72nd Ave., Miami. Cost: \$129 if registered by March 29, \$149 afterward or \$169 on site. Includes all meals. Accommodation fee additional (reserved directly with hotel). Details/registration: floridaconference.com/events/leadership-convention-0

Children's Ministries Child Evangelism Training – July 28. 8:00 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Miami DoubleTree (Hilton Airport Hotel), 711 NW 72nd Ave., Miami. Partnering with the Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Convention for this one-day certification in child evangelism. You must attend all seminars to receive a certificate. The schedule will match the seminar schedule for the Leadership Convention. Discounted rates at DoubleTree Hilton are available through July 13.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Scenic City ARK 5K/10K – June 3. A 400-meter race is free to ages 12 and under. Meet at the Southern Adventist University track. Proceeds benefit Scenic City ARK. Collegedale, TN.

3 Point Play Basketball Camp – June 4-7. Auburn, GA.

Olde Time Camp Meeting – June 7-9. Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, TN.

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp – June 10-17. Camps this week: Junior I, Paintball I, Lifeguard RAD, FitLife Camp I (June 10-June

24) and WIT (wrangler in training), Crandall, GA.

3 Point Play Basketball and Soccer Camps – June 11-14. Maryville, TN.

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp – June 17-24. Camps this week: Junior II, Ultimate RAD, Paintball II, SIT (staff in training), DiscipleTrek, and WIT. Crandall, GA.

GULF STATES

Prayer Summit – Aug. 17-19. Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL. www.gscsda.org/prayer-ministries.

Dollars & Sense Financial Seminar – Sept. 22-23. Ft. Walton Beach Church. www.gscsda.org/dollars.

Camp Alamisco 50th Anniversary Event – Oct. 5-7. www.campalamisco.org.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Hispanic Camp Meeting – June 8-9. Highland Academy.

Executive Committee – June 12. Conference Office.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Academic Summer Camps – June 18-20. Southern is hosting camps for high school students in automotive repair, business entrepreneurship, creative writing, filmmaking, fine arts painting, photography, pre-med, psychology, social work/missions, strings chamber music, vegetarian culinary arts, and women and minorities in civic engagement. Registration is \$150 for day campers (\$200 if housing is needed). For more information or to register, visit southern.edu/camps or call 423-236-2781.

Summer SALT Intensive – July 5-8. Designed for busy people looking for intense evangelism training in a short period, Summer SALT covers the basics of personal and public evangelism, the evangelism cycle, and tools for outreach in your local church and community. Families are welcome for this one-week intensive, coordinated in partnership with It Is Written. For more information, visit southern.edu/salt.

SmartStart Begins – July 23. New students at Southern can earn three credit hours free during the summer (a savings of more than \$2,000). To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

I came so that they may **have** and **enjoy** life, and have it in **abundance**.

— John 10:10



Abundant Life

Adventist Health System takes a Christ-centered, whole-person approach to healthcare, serving more than 4.7 million patients each year. To do this, we look to the principles of Creation as the blueprint for helping others live an abundant life. Explore these eight principles of CREATION Health at CreationHealth.com.