

TIDINGS

Southern 

FEBRUARY 2019

DISASTER RESPONSE IN PANAMA CITY

*Continuing need for
volunteers and assistance
following hurricane*

WHEN GOD'S
PLAN IS GREATER
THAN YOUR OWN

RECRUITMENT OR
REVIVAL?

ACCOUNTABILITY
STRENGTHENS
PASTORAL
MINISTRY

BREAKING FREE!

Evangelism



Dave Livermore
President of the
Gulf States Conference

Guest Editorial

Remember when you heard the “Good News”? I can recall those feelings in an instant. Up until that time I had never heard of Jesus being my Savior. In the church I was raised in, He never was mentioned as the One and only One Who saves us. As a boy and young man, I was conditioned to trust the church as the only entity that salvation could come through. I cannot describe in words the exhilaration when I realized that Jesus was and is my Lord and Savior; my life became complete for me. No longer was I searching, endlessly searching, for fulfillment.

Ellen White says, “It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil and we cannot change them Education, culture, the exercise of will, human effort all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ,” *Steps to Christ*, p. 18.

White again says, “If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are,” *Steps to Christ*, p. 31.

A Seventh-day Adventist Christian begins to realize that to be “in Christ” means to have his faith grow toward and into obedience. Jesus then begins to move us out of our comfort zone. We begin to see others in a new, fresh light. All of a sudden — and I mean miraculously fast — the value of a soul is raised in our hearts. We begin to speak about our Lord and Savior with words that sparkle with conviction. It is a privilege in our discipleship development to be used to build His Kingdom.

After my conversion, I had this strong desire to share Jesus. I found myself sitting in a park with a young mother of twins. As the kids played on the playground, we opened our Bibles together. We used a Bible study guide, but I couldn’t contain myself to that Bible guide. I had to share what Jesus had done for me. After several months of meeting in that park, on one cool fall day I asked her, “Is there any reason why you wouldn’t be baptized?” She said, “No, I can’t think of any reason. When do you think I could be baptized?” It was like a fire in my bones.

This year, 2019, is dedicated to sharing the experience we have with Jesus. We have so much to share! Our God needs us to step out of our comfort zone and help someone come into a relationship with Jesus. ❶

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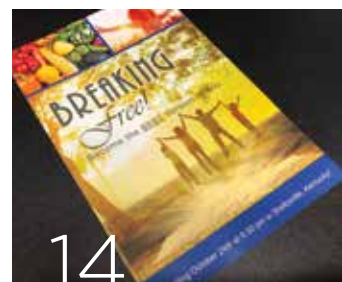
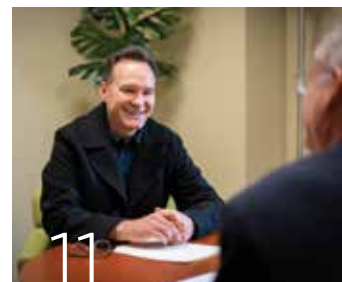
features

- 4
DISASTER RESPONSE IN
PANAMA CITY
- 8
WHEN GOD'S PLAN IS
GREATER THAN YOUR OWN
- 9
RECRUITMENT OR REVIVAL?
- 10
SOUTH BAY BECOMES AN
OFFICIAL CHURCH
- 11
ACCOUNTABILITY
STRENGTHENS PASTORAL
MINISTRY
- 12
INNOVATIVE EVANGELISM IN
A TWO-CHURCH DISTRICT
- 14
BREAKING FREE!

news

- 15 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST
UNIVERSITY
- 16 CAROLINA
- 18 FLORIDA
- 20 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- 22 GULF STATES
- 24 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- 26 SOUTH ATLANTIC
- 30 SOUTH CENTRAL
- 32 SOUTHEASTERN
- 34 OBITUARIES
- 39 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
- 46 EVENTS CALENDAR
- 47 ANNOUNCEMENTS/SUNSET
SCHEDULE

COVER PHOTO: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY



DISASTER RESPONSE IN PANAMA CITY

Continuing need for volunteers and assistance following hurricane



PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

ACSDR volunteers Michael Holmes (front) and George McPherson deliver food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies to an elderly couple down the street.

BY CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Hurricane Michael blasted the Florida Panhandle on October 10, 2018, causing catastrophic damage. One of the strongest hurricanes to make landfall in North America, Michael had sustained winds of 155 mph. After fierce winds ceased and ocean waves calmed, the aftermath of Hurricane Michael was overwhelmingly evident.

Panama City, Florida, population approximately 37,000, experienced widespread devastation with the loss of lives, homes, and livelihood.

Since October, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) has been operating a distribution center housed in the Maranatha Church in Panama City. Donations from individuals,

organizations, and the Tallahassee warehouse have enabled ACSDR to serve 300 to 500 people weekly. Social media, fliers, and word of mouth have been very effective advertisement.

On a daily basis, stories are told of the resilient people in Panama City who are trying to keep hope alive. One man, “Brian,” was already dealing with having



Devastated Panama City, Florida, after Hurricane Michael

a terminal brain tumor; then came the added burden of having his apartment condemned, and trying to find a place for his family.

A Mexico Beach couple had to sleep in their sport utility vehicle after they lost their home and most of their possessions. And, as if things could not get any worse, their SUV ran out of gas. Then came a ray of hope out of the despair. Their vehicle happened to stop in front of a distribution center, and the family was able to get gas, food, clothes, and warm hugs.

Then there's "Dennis," whose home also had to be condemned because of the severe damage caused by fallen trees. He was living on his front porch with a few salvaged items when the ACS DR volunteers met him. Shelters were not readily available by this time. However, while in a store, two complete strangers overheard volunteers talking about Dennis' situation. They inquired about his living conditions, then decided to help buy some essential items. Thanks to the generous,

anonymous donors, Dennis got a new tent and cot, which provided a safer, drier, and more comfortable living arrangement.

After receiving a recommendation from her friend, "Tasha" came to the ACS DR distribution center hoping for a miracle. Since the hurricane, Tasha and seven family members have been living in her house. The 90-day supply of emergency food assistance had been depleted. The day Hurricane Michael made landfall was to have been Tasha's first day of employment after being too ill to work for two years. Tasha tearfully praised God and repeatedly expressed her gratitude for the food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and clothing she was able to receive.

"Mr. Matt," a Subway associate, has made it his goal to encourage everyone that enters the store, or that he meets in the community. He lives on the outskirts of the city, but was still affected to a large degree. The home he lives in wasn't badly damaged, but many of the possessions he

left in his friend's home were destroyed by the downed trees. However, to him possessions are merely material items that do not matter long term. Rather, he wants people to have hope and trust God. He noted there was an increase in the number of suicides in the area after the hurricane, which he attributed to the despair and hopelessness people felt as a result of their losses. Matt told hurricane victims, "Remember the best part of the storm made it through — you! Never, never, never give up!"

Though news cameras may have gone on to a new story, the real humans of Panama City, Florida, will need assistance for years to come due to loss of property and income, and decreased local access to healthcare. There are still some people without electricity because they cannot afford to pay for repairs that are needed before electrical services can be restored. The loss, which occurred in a few hours, will take years of recovery, as evidenced with other hurricanes like Andrew, Irma,



PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Dennis Myrick stands in front of the tent that was given to him for temporary accommodations.



PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Tasha came to the ACS DR distribution center for food. Afterward she tearfully praised God and repeatedly expressed her gratitude for the food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and clothing she was able to receive.



PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Matt, a Subway associate, lost many of his possessions during Hurricane Michael, but not his courage. He likes to tell hurricane victims, "Remember the best part of the storm made it through — you! Never, never, never give up!"



PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Michael Holmes assembles donations for the community.

PHOTO BY: CHARIS OLNEE MCLARTY

Wayne Blanding put finishing touches on food boxes.

and Katrina.

There are two hospitals in the city, but only one of them has the emergency room in operation. There are several examples of what people have had to do in order to be able to receive healthcare. Soon after the hurricane, Tasha's grandmother needed emergency hospitalization, but the ambulances were unable to get to her home because of downed trees and live wires. She drove her to a local hospital; however, the only section open was the emergency room. The hospital flew her to another hospital 70 miles away. Likewise, "Melissa" and her family temporarily located out of town for nearly a month so her husband could receive dialysis treatment.

It has been several months since hurricane Michael left the Florida Panhandle devastated, but the needs are still fresh. Panama City and the surrounding affected areas need continued support. We can meet their needs by volunteering, donating, and praying.

Said Wayne Blanding, the ACS DR distribution center manager, "We can use help always, particularly in the mobile distribution. Our greatest need now

is bleach, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies. Whenever I'm feeling low in spirit, God sends someone to lift my spirit, usually by the very people I'm here to take care of. He always reminds me He is here — amidst all the destruction and misery, HE IS HERE."

The local churches continue to help, and the distribution center operated by the South Central Conference is expected to serve Panama City and the surrounding areas through the end of March. Audrey Norman, office manager for the center, says, "My belief is that God allowed the local Seventh-day Adventist church facilities to only sustain minimal damage so they could serve as support centers for fellow hurricane survivors in Bay County, Florida. Furthermore, this provides a tremendous opportunity for church members to be hurricane 'thrivers' — survivors reaching out to help others who have experienced the disaster. What a wonderful way to show the love of Christ! How rewarding to know God was able to use you to touch the hearts and lives of His children!"

Over time, however, the number of vol-

unteers has decreased, which impacts the ability of the distribution center to meet needs.

"I believe that the greatest need of the hurricane survivors and thrivers of Bay County, Florida, is not unlike that of other persons who have experienced a disaster," says Norman. "These are real humans like you and I that need to know they have not been forgotten. This can be proven to them with visible and tangible support. Just saying, 'I will pray for you,' isn't enough. Put some legs, hearts, and hands on your prayers by giving hugs, a listening ear, kind words; [and] helping with debris cleanup, employment, healthcare, and emotional and spiritual care."

If you would like to volunteer or assist, you may contact Wayne Blanding, distribution center manager of the Panama City Adventist Distribution Center, at 205-903-5550. The address is 1217 East 14th Court, Panama City, Florida 32401. ●

Charis Olnee McLarty, M.P.H., is a nursing student at Daytona State College. She volunteered in the Panama City, Florida, disaster relief efforts.

WHEN GOD'S PLAN *is Greater Than Your Own*

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

When Karen Razon, M.O.T., OTR/L, first came to AdventHealth University (AHU) for its Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program in 2011, her plan was set. She was a focused student used to earning straight A's, managing extracurricular activities, and being in Honor's programs. She enjoyed helping people and soon began volunteering at AHU's Campus Ministries. Her duties grew from helping with social media and organizing gatherings to assisting with worship sessions and playing music.

Karen said it was a blessing to work with other students, particularly for those who were away from home. Campus Ministries gave them a place to belong. She talked about students who were struggling to afford food and how being able to give them meals was rewarding. Now, after graduating with her master's in occupational therapy in 2017, she has returned as a part-time chaplain.

Campus Ministries is a haven for many of AHU's students — a place for socializing, spiritual guidance, or even a quiet study spot. AHU chaplains are well-known, friendly faces around campus. They gather together with students for meals, prayer, mentoring, and fun.

Karen often meets with students who are scared and worried after failing an exam or about being accepted into their program of choice. She understands how they're feeling — lost and confused when their careful career plans are seemingly derailed. Not long ago, she was in the same position.

Karen described her school years as focused on academic performance. "In my head, I thought my worthiness was determined by getting straight A's and how I did in school activities." Having a strained relationship with her parents contributed to her desire to perform well in school. She graduated at the top of her class. She had earned her B.A. in health sciences and a master's



AHU Mission Department employees include Reynold Acosta (left), Karen Razon, Niesha Steinke, and Mollie Duper.

in occupational therapy. Even before graduating, she had secured a job, pending the passing of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

But, when she took the NBCOT, she failed her first attempt. Then, she failed her second. And, she lost the OT job she had been offered.

Karen had succeeded at being the best for so long, but now, at the biggest test of her life, she had failed. She began to pull away from Campus Ministries, her church, and even God. "I was mad. Why had He let me down? I was confused," she explained.

Both times she had missed a passing grade by just five to 10 points. After seven years of studying, training, and doing everything right, she was at a loss. "I was a mess — academically, spiritually, emotionally ... questioning whether I could ever be an OT."

She decided to take a two-month break to figure out what to do next. But, unexpectedly, she said, during this time her relationship with her parents began to improve. "We got closer, started worshipping at home together regularly for the first time." She began to read the Bible again. She had

worked in ministry with other students for years at AHU, but now was exploring the Bible "to seek Him on my own." She revisited the story of Joseph and of how God put him in pits to bring his family closer. His story resonated with her.

She thought, maybe this was the reason she had failed. For so long she had focused on her academic standing and becoming an OT as what she wanted more than anything, but even more than that, she realized she longed to strengthen her family ties. "He knows your heart's real desire. I think He was showing me that," she said.

She came back and tried again. This time she passed. She soon accepted a part-time OT job in the Outpatient Neuro Department with AdventHealth Orlando and Celebration, the same place she had job shadowed seven years prior, leading her to pursue an OT career. With her extra time, she returned to AHU to become a part-time chaplain after speaking with Niesha Steinke, an AHU chaplain who has been Karen's mentor.

"God's plan for me was greater than the plan I had for myself." Her experiences give her new perspective as a chaplain when she meets with students. She feels confident saying to them, "Even if you fail, or change your path, God is leading you the right way."

Karen never thought that ministry was in her future, but now she hopes that it will always be a part of her life. "It keeps me grounded and closer to God." She recalled how another chaplain, Reynold Acosta, told her that ministry might be her true calling. "I hope I can say that to someone. That 'maybe this is what God wants for you.'"

Lisa Marie Esser is the communications manager in the Marketing & Public Relations Department at AdventHealth University.

Recruitment OR REVIVAL?

Students are prepared to be baptized.

BY ANDREW PILEGGI AND KIMBERLY MANN

Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, was devastated by the tragic murder of a beloved, passionate, loving, and compassionate student named Carvell Goodlow early in the fall semester of 2018. Students who knew Carvell were paralyzed with grief when the news reached them. Oakwood's Office of Spiritual Life and Missions organized a midday prayer vigil, evening prayer service, and memorial service to honor the life of this phenomenal young man. Carvell did not come to Oakwood as a Seventh-day Adventist, but he was on fire for the Lord. His passion and zeal for God made a tremendous impact on the student body. More than half of the student population showed up to honor his legacy of love and faith. God used this tragedy to awaken many students from their slumber.

José Rojas, pastor and president at MOVEMENTUM, LLC, had been invited to be the speaker for "Power Packed Weekend," an annual mini revival that takes place in the fall. Moved with compassion borne from enduring the loss of his brother to homicide, Rojas delivered four powerful sermons that reached the hearts of all who listened. Just a few weeks after Rojas' departure, God would do something great through another of His manservants, reminiscent of 1 Corinthians 3:6 where one worker planted and another watered, but the harvest belongs to God!

OU Live 2018, an annual recruitment event for high school students throughout the North American Division, was held October 3-7. God was recruiting souls for His Kingdom as well as students for Oakwood University. Keynote speaker Myron Edmonds, D.Min.,



Andrew Pileggi (right) baptizes a student.

lead pastor of Grace Community Church in Cleveland, Ohio, delivered two powerful sermons. His second one, at AYM: Release, Oakwood's Friday Vesper service, drew campus family and a large crowd online.

Edmonds preached from Luke 22, following the journey of Peter during Jesus' trial and crucifixion. He explained how Peter genuinely believed in his heart that he was good, and would never deny Jesus or leave him, yet found himself trying to get as far away from association with Jesus as possible. Edmonds then paralleled that story with the story of Peter in Acts 2, where he preached a sermon resulting in the baptism of 3,000 men, plus women and children, right on the spot.

Edmonds challenged the students to get out of an environment created to simulate a spiritual experience for the entertainment of others, and called them to conviction and repentance. He tugged at the students' inner struggles, proclaiming that God has a plan, even with their fall in mind. He also acknowledged that the death of a loved one or friend often moves

us to want the Holy Spirit in our lives, because we don't know what tomorrow holds.

As the sermon continued, the young people began to see themselves reflected in the story of Peter and recognized a deep need for the Holy Spirit to provide deliverance, restoration, and wholeness. This led to an explosion of repentance and reconnection with Christ that was healing for the entire campus.

Edmonds made an appeal and the Holy Spirit led 105 students to make decisions to be baptized or rebaptized. The Office of Spiritual Life and Oakwood University pastoral staff quickly organized a baptism for the next morning. Ninety-six students showed up for baptism Sabbath, October 6. They met with Andrew Pileggi, senior chaplain; received a mini-Bible study; and talked about their new life in Christ.

First Church in Huntsville gladly sent over additional baptismal robes so that every student who wished to was able to be baptised. Pileggi was assisted in the pool by Kimberly Mann, associate chaplain; Tina Carriger, pastor; and Colwick Wilson, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president of Oakwood University, and ordained minister. Carlton Byrd, D.Min., led the baptism from the rostrum, and concluded with an appeal. At the last moment, a student made a decision and was baptized just before the service ended. 🕊

Andrew Pileggi and Kimberly Mann is the senior chaplain in the Family Life Center at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama, and Kimberly Mann is the associate chaplain.

SOUTH BAY

Becomes an Official Church

BY EDDIE SCHWISOW

South Bay Company in Chattanooga, Tennessee, became an official Conference church on September 8, 2018. The believers celebrated in an inspiring afternoon service of praise and thanks for God's blessings, and the children led congregational singing, with special music offered by the youth.

Members expressed thanks to all who have partnered with them on their journey to become an official church. They recognized the support of the parent churches, East Ridge and McDonald Road, as well as the energy and inspiration of their pastor, Chris Anderson, and his wife, Faith, both of whom were involved from the start.

Ed Wright, Conference president, remarked, "This is a large and vibrant group — the largest church organization of which I have been a part."

Eddie Schwisow, elder, family ministries director, and Samaritan assistance director, gave an account of the congregation's history, sharing that South Bay grew out of the East Ridge Church, which was a church plant from the McDonald Road Church.

The South Bay group began doing outreach in May 2015, and held their first services as a mission group on August 19, 2015, at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Almost immediately the South Bay team became actively involved with evangelism, including its first major outreach supporting the city-wide "Impact Chattanooga" meetings with John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written.

In the spring of 2016, the group kicked off its "Dinner with the Doctor" outreach in Hixson, Tennessee, often attracting more than 100 community members to the monthly presentation. In March 2016 it hosted a Global Youth Day.

Already the worshippers had outgrown the Northminster Presbyterian facility, so in April the South Bay congregation be-



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Members of the newly formed South Bay Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, which was formed on September 8, 2018, gather. South Bay is a church plant from the East Ridge Church, which was originally planted by the McDonald Road Church.

gan meeting at GraceWorks Church near Highway 153 and Lee Highway. Their first community outreach event there was Vacation Bible School (VBS) in July. This program brought dozens of community members into the church, and helped solidify the connections between South Bay members and those who had been attending only occasionally.

The congregation celebrated its first anniversary as a mission group on August 25, 2016, with a special evening service at GraceWorks Church, and on October 13, 2016, in cooperation with the East Ridge Church, South Bay held its first major evangelistic crusade, "Which Way America?" with Eric Flickinger from It Is Written. A team of students from Southern Adventist University's SALT program assisted with those meetings, which led to several individuals cementing their decision for Christ in baptism.

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference transferred the congregation from mission group to company status on February 17, 2017, in recognition of its ability to function outside the supportive umbrella of its parent church, East Ridge.

In late March of the same year, South Bay once again invited the community to learn about Bible prophecy with a series of meetings titled "Mysteries of the Bible,"

presented by Chris Anderson with support from local elders.

By late summer South Bay Company was notified that, due to upcoming construction at GraceWorks, it would need to find a new host church. After a community-wide search, the congregation was able to rent Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, located on East Brainerd Road in Chattanooga. The first service was held there on September 2, 2017.

While ministering out of Wesley, the company continued to focus its efforts to minister to the community. Much of the focus during the first half of 2018 was on health evangelism with the Best Weigh program, a follow-up Daniel study, and a Reversing Diabetes seminar presented in sequence. The church also sponsored Neil Nedley's Depression and Anxiety Recovery program, as well as continuing its focus on children's evangelism through a VBS program.

South Bay Church currently has 142 members who are looking forward to finding a permanent physical location for worship, as they consider the opportunities to plant additional like-minded congregations in the future. What a joy to trace God's hand at work in and through South Bay as we celebrate its becoming church number 175 in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference! ●

ACCOUNTABILITY

Strengthens Pastoral Ministry

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



Brian Danese, vice president of church development for Gulf States, meets with a pastor as part of regular visitation between administration and pastors.

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

The pastoral ministry could easily be described as a journey through hills and valleys. Many go through mountain-top experiences of spiritual connectedness to God and positive outcomes in their churches, as evidenced by successful church board meetings, programming, and souls being won to Christ. However, many also experience the lows of feeling inadequate, unsuccessful, or that their ministry really isn't making positive changes in the lives of their friends and members. Pastors rarely feel that it is appropriate to seek encouragement or help from others because, well, it is the pastor's job to be that for everyone else. As a result, many pastors work alone; become their own boss, so-to-speak; and take responsibility for their success and failure. Often this to their demise, along with the churches they lead.

In 2018 the Gulf States Conference decided to attempt to change this standard method of operation. Part of that change was to eliminate the traditional ministerial department and director position. A new position was created, vice president for pastoral development. Initially led by

Brian Danese, now vice president of church development, the position is currently filled by Cary Fry, formally a full-time pastor in Gulf States. With the new position came a new strategy: each pastor in the Conference would receive a quarterly visit from Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States; Danese; or Martin Fancher, executive secretary of Gulf States, in the pastor's home or at the Conference office. The visits would last several hours and allow the pastor to share their current struggles; receive advice from the experienced leaders; and also share their ideas, goals, and plans for advancing the Gospel in their districts.

A planning guide was created that allowed the pastors to set goals for baptisms, attendance, tithe and offering, church training, and personal development. Along with setting those goals, the details of which were entirely left to the pastor, was an encouragement to write down the plan they would use to reach those goals. As the next quarter's visit came along, each of these goals was assessed and adjusted if necessary, and advice was given on whether the plan that was implemented

was working, or if another strategy ought to be used. The specifics of each pastor's plan was not mandated; however, they were each required to have some plan and follow through with it.

As the meetings continued, those who were diligent in applying their plans to their districts saw a positive outlook for their ministry. Even if success wasn't met at every turn, many were glad that they had something in place to measure their progress. Samuel Riemersma, pastor of the Community Church in Meridian, Mississippi, stated, "I'm impressed with the amount of time that administration is spending on meeting with us. I really feel that they are closely connected to the pastors in the field." Riemersma also added that in using this new strategy, "They're truly modeling pastoral ministry, showing us by example how to pastor our members." Dan Thompson, pastor of the Montgomery, Alabama, First Church, added, "Having the Conference follow up with us about our plans makes a big difference. It helps to keep pastors accountable to the work. And, not because the administration is looking to find fault with us, but because they want us to succeed."

Participating in these quarterly visits also provides pastors with an opportunity to revisit the positive work they have done over the last several months. It allows them to see their successes and have someone there to celebrate that success with them. Navigating the hills and valleys of pastoral ministry is no longer a journey that needs to be taken alone. Support from Conference officials and leaders shows evidence that we're all in the same work with the same ultimate goal. To encourage each other and support each ministry is time worth spending. ●

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

INNOVATIVE EVANGELISM

in a Two-Church District

BY BRIAN MCKINNEY

Throughout ministry and for the past few years, my approach to evangelism and evangelistic meetings had always been the same. Each year the plan would be to hold an evangelistic meeting in one church, and the next year hold a meeting in the second church. This was the typical model that was followed in most two-church districts. Using this same model, in 2014 and 2015, I held evangelistic meetings in the Thomasville-Quitman, Georgia, district, in each respective location. For these two evangelistic meetings, the churches completed the Revelation Seminar and the Daniel Prophecy Seminar, which was a blessing to the churches and the surrounding communities. The seminar approach was different for me since I had never approached evangelistic meetings using this format; however, it was found to be very effective.

One afternoon I was contemplating how I should approach my meeting the following year. As I was praying, I knew I wanted to continue with the seminar format, but I didn't know which Bible lessons I wanted to utilize. As I continued to think and pray about my approach to the upcoming meetings, my wife, Mae, said, "Why don't you write your own lessons?" When she spoke, I sensed God providing the answer to my prayer through her words. This led me to start on a spiritual journey that I had not anticipated. That year I began writing Bible lessons titled, "What God Says About..." At the end of this jour-

ney, I had completed 32 Bible lessons.

Throughout this journey, I was also praying about an effective approach to holding the evangelistic meetings with both churches in the same year. With newly written Bible lessons, God led me to introduce an innovative evangelistic meeting approach strategically designed to reach the community, and benefit the membership with the cooperative and systematic efforts of both churches within my district. The plan was to hold a four-week meeting with both churches. The first meeting would be held in one church four nights a week for two weeks. At the conclusion of the first two weeks, the venue would shift to the sister church for the final two weeks of the meeting.

Both churches, which are about 30 minutes apart, planned and financed the meeting separately with a clear understanding that the meeting would last for a total of four weeks. The budgets and expenses of both churches remained separate, and did not overlap. This unique approach would relieve each church from having to finance the entire four-week meeting themselves. Moreover, the churches would partner by shouldering the finances in their location, while also having the opportunity to host, participate in, and enjoy the benefits of the entire meeting.

After much prayer and with the support of both churches, this evangelistic meeting model was implemented. Each church advertised for the dates that they would host the meeting in their

local community. Entering the meeting, only the members knew the overall format and duration of the meeting. However, during the second week, I announced that I would continue presenting in the sister church for another two weeks, and that all were invited to attend. Interestingly, not only did many church members continue to attend when the venue shifted, some who were not Adventists also continued to come and were baptized.

The nightly meetings utilized the seminar approach. Each night everyone received the following night's "What God Says About..." lesson to complete at home before it was covered in the next meeting. Some of the lesson titles included "The Great Controversy," "The Coming Crisis," "You and Your Health," "Bible Baptism," "Why So Many Denominations?" "The New Testament Sabbath," "The Bittersweet Book," "Christ In His Sanctuary," "The State of the Dead," and "The Second Coming." Many expressed that the lessons were simple, thorough, and easy to understand.

This approach to evangelism proved to be an effective outreach method in the local context. Both churches and communities had the opportunity to reap the benefits of a collaborative, four-week evangelistic meeting for two consecutive years. ●

Brian McKinney is the pastor of the Thomasville-Quitman, Georgia, district.



Madison Galloway (left), Joseph Kibodeaux Jr., and John Staten became members of the Church during the evangelistic meetings, and Trasonda Williams (not pictured) joined by profession of faith.



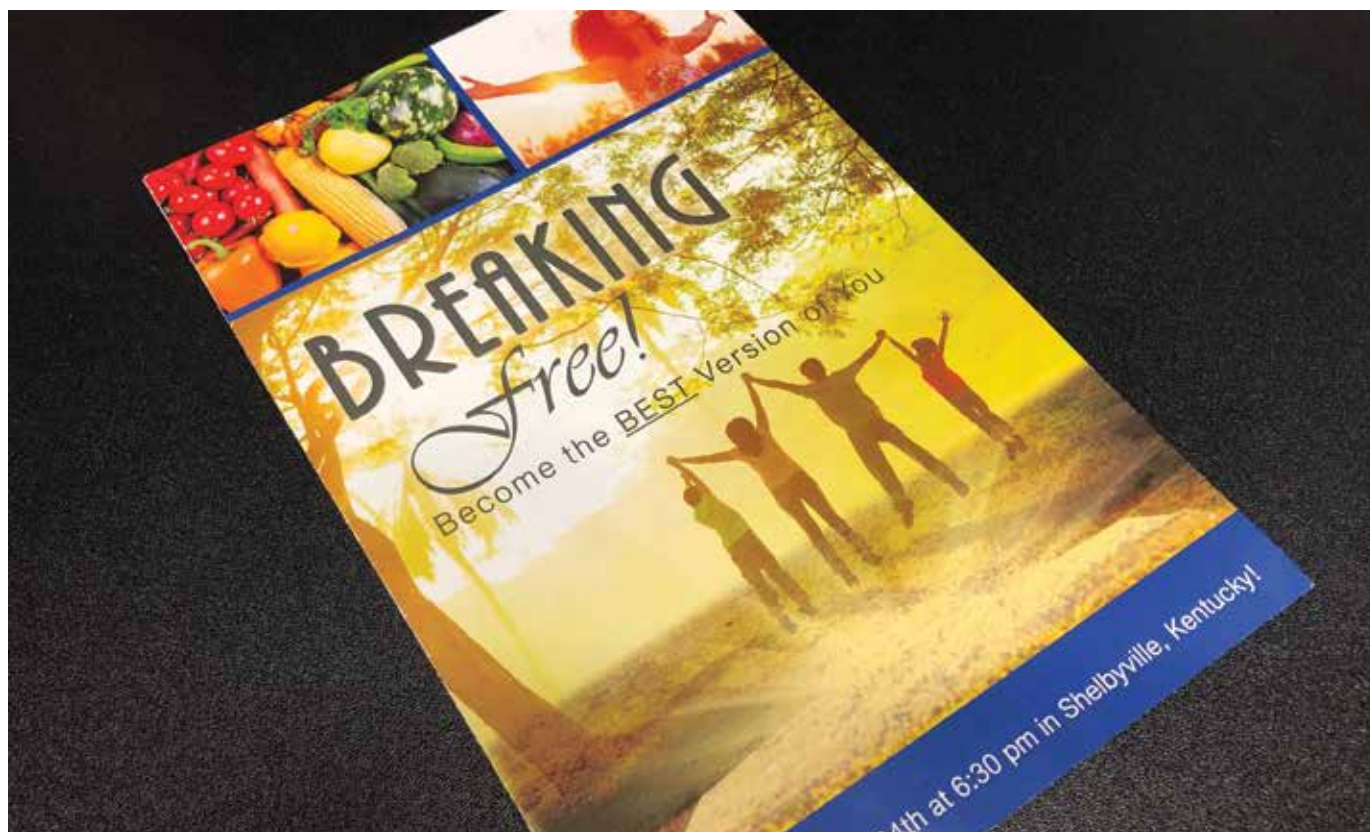
Brian McKinney, pastor, baptizes Joseph Kibodeaux Jr.



Evelyn Bryant was baptized during the evangelistic meetings.

BREAKING FREE!

BY DARWIN FOLEY



Shelbyville Church, Shelbyville, Kentucky, is a church of 70 members just east of Louisville, Kentucky. Like most communities today, Shelbyville residents are concerned about the problem of drugs, alcohol, and other addictions. The community already has two active ministries that address the drug problem, but the church wanted to show the cause of all addictive behavior and offer a solution of true health and happiness. They decided to use their Ingathering Reversion funds, combined with additional church funds, to finance a seminar.

Derick Logan and his family had moved to the county. He had experience in conducting addiction seminars, and the church decided to ask him and his wife, Deeana, to conduct a four-part “Breaking Free” seminar.

The seminar combined the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s health message with the presentation of the Gospel to address the addiction problem. In preparation for the meetings, Derick trained the members on how to participate and interact with the guests. A colorful brochure proclaiming “Breaking Free! Become the BEST Version of You!” with phone numbers and a website where participants could preregister was shared by the church members. The seminar was advertised in the local newspaper and on the radio station, promising attendees they would learn to overcome depression, break destructive habits, eliminate lifestyle-induced diseases, and live the abundant life. There were approximately 60 attendees on opening night, November 24, 2018, at the Stratton Community Cen-

ter in downtown Shelbyville.

Each Wednesday evening guests were welcomed and registered. Sessions were opened with prayer, followed by a health nugget by Deeana focusing on the eight laws of health, and food samples and recipes. Derick then followed with his messages about “The Origin of Disease,” “God’s Most Effective Remedies,” “Mind Cure,” and “Living the Abundant Life.” Closing the evening were door prizes that promoted healthful living, followed by closing prayer.

Nightly attendance averaged 50 with eight to 12 guests each evening. Already, eight individuals have signed up for cooking classes, and four have signed up for Bible studies. More than half of those in attendance rededicated their lives to Christ. 🙏

School of Music Celebrates Christmas with Classical Opera



The orchestra and performers work together in retelling the story of the Magi through music in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

This December, in celebration of Christ's birth, Southern Adventist University's School of Music performed the classic Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Current and former students brought many of the key roles to life, accompanied by three of Southern's music ensembles: Bel Canto, Die Meistersinger, and the Symphony Orchestra.

Written by Gian Carlo Menotti in 1951, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* retells the story of the Magi from the point of view of Amahl, a young, impoverished boy with a wild imagination who meets three kings on their journey to find the newborn Savior.

Laurie Redmer Minner, associate professor of music and symphony orchestra conductor, saw this opera as the perfect fit for the choirs, the soloists, and the instrumentalists.

"This is another way of sharing art," she said.

The main roles were cast during the summer, followed by months of practice to perfect the technical intricacies of the piece. Julie Penner, professor of music and director



The little boy, Amahl, is enthralled by the kings. Left to right: Benjamin Lawson, junior theology major, as the "Page"; Jonathan Bartholomew, Southern alum, as "King Kaspar"; Ian Hassevoort as "Amahl"; Charles Lawson, senior theology major, as "King Melchior"; and Jonathan Rodney, senior music education and international studies double major, as "King Balthazar."

of the production, is grateful for how well each performance was received by students, employees, and community members.

"I am thankful to God for His inspiration and blessing over all of the performances,"



Jonathan Rodney, as "King Balthazar," explains his regal blood.



Emily Tan, senior music major, as "Mother" (second from left), invites the shepherds in to meet the three kings.

Penner said. "Those I spoke with afterward were touched by the story and by the performers' portrayals of it." ●

BY STAFF WRITER

Hardeeville Hispanic Church Celebrates Inauguration

The Hardeeville, S.C., Hispanic Church celebrated the inauguration of its beautiful new sanctuary on Sabbath, Dec. 1, 2018, with the attendance of Conference leaders and administrators, pastors who have served the congregation, representatives of Maranatha International, members of neighboring churches, and friends of the community.

The activity began at 9:20 a.m. with the ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a service of songs and praise to the Lord, and a review of the Sabbath School lesson.

During the worship service, a moment was taken to publicly acknowledge the following people and institutions for their help and support in the construction of the new sanctuary: the founders of the Hardeeville Church; pastors Moisés Sauza, Fredy Villamil, Israel Mora, and Domingo Paulino; the administrators of the Carolina Conference; Maranatha International; contractors and construction workers; and donors and members of the Hardeeville Church and sister churches.

The worship service was permeated with music and praise presented by the local church worship group, and the special participations of Elissa and Eve Mora and Christian singer Jose Ocampo. Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, presented an inspiring sermon, "Raise Your Ebenezer," of which the central message was God's constant faithfulness to His children.

After the worship service, participants were able to enjoy a reception organized by Janet Paulino, who, with the cooperation of deacons, deaconesses, and women of the church, served traditional Mexican food to everyone.

The general atmosphere was saturated with joy and thankfulness to God. The inauguration of this new church closes a chapter marked by moments of sadness and joy in the life of this congregation. In 2004 the small group of believers who



Before the excited church members entered the new sanctuary, Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, along with the builder (left) and the head elder (right), led out in a prayer of dedication and a ribbon cutting ceremony.



were part of the church of Hardeeville began to dream of building a house of worship. In 2005, under the direction of Fredy Villamil, pastor, fundraising began through an organized plan of sacrificial offerings.

In 2008 the search started for a property where a church building could be built. Finally, in 2010, the congregation was able to acquire a section of a shopping mall in Hardeeville. Many resources and efforts had to be invested to convert the property into a church building.

The remodeling process included having to build an entire sewer system required by the city. After completing 60 percent of the remodeling project, the members began meeting in a room that served as both a sanctuary and a dining room.

In 2011 tragedy knocked on the doors of this church. A fire destroyed the entire shopping center, including the place of worship that the faithful members had built with so much love and sacrifice. In front of the rubble of their beloved

PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

sanctuary, the members gathered together with their shepherd, overwhelmed by sadness and with tears in their eyes.

However, the faith and determination of these faithful servants of God soon prevailed and began to dispel the shadows with which the enemy of souls wanted to cover His people. Satan's blow was again turned into a blessing: The church gradually regained courage and determination to conclude what God had begun.

After the departure of Fredy Villamil, pastor, and under the leadership of Israel Mora, pastor, the sanctuary construction project was resumed, this time in a separate space from the other businesses that had also been burned in the fire. In June 2017 the construction of the sanctuary was completed, and on November 30, 2018, one day before the inauguration, the project was finished with the paving of the parking lot under the general coordination

of Domingo Paulino, pastor, and the director of construction of the church, Pedro Ramos.

The members of this faithful congregation are convinced that this experience has enriched their lives and their Christian experience, and with joy they proclaim, "So far has Jehovah helped us," I Samuel 7:12. ①

BY PASTOR DOMINGO A. PAULINO

University City Church Holds Family Life Center Grand Opening Celebration

The University City Church in Charlotte, N.C., held a grand opening celebration for their new Family Life Center on the evening of September 29, 2018. Members and guests gathered first in the church sanctuary for a worship service before crossing the parking lot for the ribbon-cutting in front of the new building. The evening concluded with a festival inside the Family Life Center that included games and food.

The 9,000-square-foot metal frame building was constructed by Rutherfordton-based Maple Leaf Design & Build, which also built the Family Life Center for the Arden, N.C., Church. Maple Leaf owner Bernie Dilgert was presented with a plaque during the ribbon-cutting. The Center contains a gymnasium, kitchen, and two finished classrooms. Storage space upstairs can eventually be converted into two or three additional classrooms during a future building phase.

The Family Life Center serves as home for Cornerstone Adventist Academy, a grades 1-8 church school now in its third year of operation. The school had previously been meeting in cramped quarters in the church fellowship hall. The church will also use the new building for fellowship and outreach activities.

Speakers at the celebration included



Ryan Ashlock, pastor; church members; and the builder cut the ceremonial ribbon of the new Family Life Center.



Rick and Kathy Russel manned the snow cone booth at the festival that followed the dedication of the new Family Life Center.

Brian King, building committee chairman; Sonja Eberhart, CAA head teacher; Randy Davis, former pastor; Beth Grissom, church elder; Rick Russell, Carolina Conference treasurer; Gary Tolbert, former pastor; and Ryan Ashlock, current pastor. Captain Allan Rutledge, commander of the CMPD University City Division, also attended the event. ①

BY PASTOR RYAN ASHLOCK

PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Bushnell Biker Leads Tumbleweed Ministries

Paul Englund began attending church three years ago in Bushnell, Fla., after being baptized in 2014 in Caribou, Maine. A retired truck driver and avid motorcyclist, Paul decided Florida offered him the year-round weather to enjoy his love of riding.

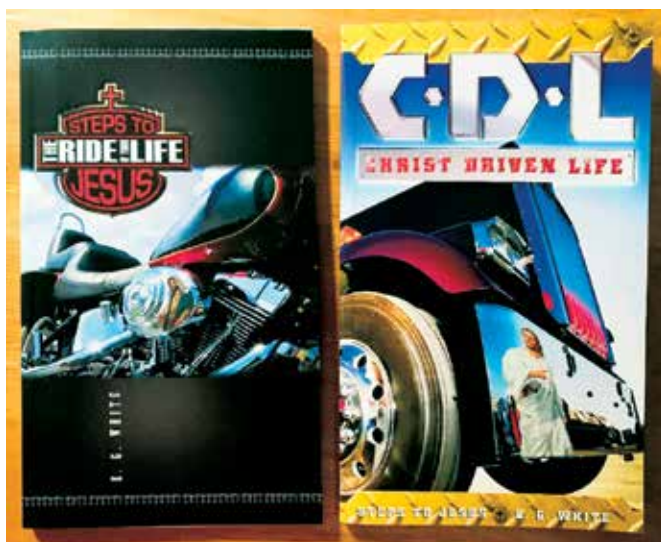
“As I sat in church one Sabbath morning, I was listening to Pastor Dan Forbes’ sermon,” says Englund. “Forbes asked, ‘If your church was gone tomorrow, would anyone in the community notice?’ That question stayed in my head long after the Sabbath had passed. What was I personally doing to reach souls for Jesus?”

A few days later as he was riding his motorcycle, he passed a truck stop on the interstate. The Lord impressed Englund that this was a ministry just waiting for someone to take it up. He began to realize he could take literature to the truck stops and motorcycle shops in the area, so he spoke to the church personal ministries person about what God had impressed upon him. She thought it was indeed a wonderful idea and ordered a case of *Steps to Christ* for truckers, *Christ Driven Life*; a case of *Steps to Christ* for bikers, *The Ride of Your Life*; and various GLOW tracts to be used as book markers.



PHOTO BY: DIANE MARTIN

Paul Englund heads out to truck stops with his Tumbleweed Ministries.



When the books arrived, Englund strapped the box to the back of his motorcycle, said a prayer for God to bless what he was about to do, and headed for the interstate. He picked the three closest truck stops for his first time out, and left five of each book to be placed by the cash registers.

Within a few weeks, the truck stop managers were glad to see him as they were completely out of books. The reception was so positive, he knew the Lord’s hand was in the ministry. He began leaving more books and added

two more truck stops. Books and literature soon traveled all over the U.S. and Canada. Englund named his ministry Tumbleweed Ministries, which he feels best describes his ability to go anywhere to spread the love of God.

“People are hungry for the Word,” says Englund. “If God can use a simple man like me, He can use anyone. I feel privileged to be allowed to help God spread the Good News.”

BY DIANE MARTIN

Eden Gardens Retirement Community Hosts Youth Rally



Edwin Cotto of Beyond Pews Ministries was guest speaker for the youth rally.

Inverness, Fla., Church, in the retirement community of Eden Gardens, hosted young people and their families for a youth rally on Friday evening, November 2, and Sabbath, November 3, 2018.

Participants traveled from as far away as Tampa, Thonotosassa, and Ocala, Fla., to join together with those from the surrounding area to receive inspiration and training. Speaker Edwin Cotto, Beyond Pews Ministries and a graduate of Amazing Facts School of Evangelism, presented practical and inspiring principles for the youth on how to successfully win souls for Christ.

What makes this rally so special? Two years ago there were only two young people in the entire church. As a result of an evangelistic series conducted at the church a year ago, a number of families with youth were baptized. The youth department has made a

commitment to designate the first Sabbath afternoon of each month to go out into the neighborhood around the church to pass out literature and invite people to church.

The young people were also instructed, when visiting families, to give to any youth a special book specifically written and published by speaker and writer Sally Strieb. Strieb is a member of the church, and a well-known author of children's Christian books. She wrote this book especially for young people in the community, and because of the church's renewed interest in reaching them.

Already these efforts have borne fruit. One woman the young people met has begun attending church, and she has brought a friend as well. ❶

BY DAN FORBES, ED.D.

Michelle Gordon Commissioned at Spring Meadows Church

Michelle Louise Gordon was commissioned on November 10, 2018, at Spring Meadows Church, Sanford, Fla., where she is a member. Since 2012 she serves as a hospital chaplain at Florida Hospital.

She was raised nondenominational by her parents, Jon and Janice Itschner. Her family was involved in their church, and she and her brother attended the attached Christian school. At the age of 10, Gordon had an experience at church where she felt God's calling on her life, and a distinct presence of peace in her heart.

Shortly after, her mom was diagnosed with cancer, and after four years of illness, she passed away. Knowing God was in control, Gordon chose to live her life in service to Him.

Eventually, her dad married Beverly,



through whom Michelle got to know the Seventh-day Adventist Church. God led her to Auburn Adventist Academy for her

last two years of high school, where her Bible teacher, Darchelle Worley, mentored her and led her in Bible studies. She was baptized into the Adventist Church at the end of her senior year, and during that year she was called by God to ministry. She completed a theology degree at Walla Walla College, now Walla Walla University, in Walla Walla, Wash.

Gordon accepted a position in the M.Div./CPE Program at Florida Hospital in 2008. Since then she has completed an M.Div. degree at Andrews University, and completed a residency in clinical pastoral education at Kettering Medical Center. She has a passion for serving those in crisis.

She is married to Dwayne Gordon, and they are expecting an addition to their family in the spring. ❶

A.W. Spalding Students Hold Human Hearts



Students in the early childhood classes at A.W. Spalding in Collegedale, Tenn., had an unusual hands experience. They were given the unique opportunity to hold a human heart as part of their biology unit, "All About Me." Special presenter Gordon Guild, D.O. (left), a local physician, taught the class.

The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) classes at A.W. Spalding in Collegedale, Tenn., had a more hands-on experience than they were anticipating. The three- to four-year-old students were given a unique opportunity to hold real human hearts.

Prior to the human hearts arriving in

class, ECEC teacher Amy Wash began the class' biology unit, "All About Me." They started by learning how to put together human skeletons and vital organs through songs, visual aids, and hands-on diagrams. Wash had paper cutouts of skeletons and organs scaled to the size of the students' bodies. With a song to help guide them, the students were able

to put an entire human skeleton together by the end of the week. Unbeknownst to the class, a special surprise was in store.

During the week the class was putting together skeletons, Wash contacted Gordon Guild, D.O., a local physician in Ooltewah, Tenn., who has three grandsons in the Greater Collegedale School System. She asked him if he had anything he could bring to show the students. Guild happened to have access to two human hearts, one male and one female.

With all the parents' permission, Guild came in to the classroom to present the hearts. All but two of the students, by their own choice, held the hearts with excitement and curiosity.

After getting over the formaldehyde odor, a barrage of questions came:

"How did you get the hearts?"

"Why do they smell like that?"

"Why are they that color? I thought hearts were red."

Guild took the time to ease the students concerns, and explained how some people volunteer their bodies for science after they die. He then explained the hearts' color and size differences between genders, as well as ways the students could improve the health of their own hearts.

When explaining the hearts' size differences, Guild said, "Despite the male heart being bigger, the female heart has just as much love to give."

The ECEC classes are no strangers to unique hands-on experiences or visitors.

As Wash stated, "We've had a scuba diver, a pilot, policeman, and baker/owner of Piece-a-Cake Bakery come into the classroom before."

These opportunities and the many to come are sure to serve as a testament to the dedication of the ECEC teachers to their students' hearts, minds, and futures. ❶

PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY ANGI HOWELL

BY BRENDAN HALL, COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY SOPHOMORE

Jonathan Montes Named Conference Youth Director

Jonathan Montes is the newly appointed Georgia-Cumberland Conference youth ministries director, and will serve as summer camp director at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Montes seems a natural fit to serve at Cohutta. He says, "Cohutta Springs Youth Camp is where I got my call to ministry, it was my first job in ministry, and it is where I met my wife."

Gary Rustad, vice president for administration/secretariat, says, "Jonathan has a gift of making the Gospel something people want. With this gift, along with his passion for youth, love of camp, working alongside a team, and equipping youth leaders, I believe Jonathan will be a great addition."

Montes worked 10 years at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp during both high school and college. He worked for former youth directors Dave Cress and Fred Fuller, and says both men inspired him



Jonathan Montes is the new Georgia-Cumberland youth director.

greatly, providing positive ministry experiences.

Yet, Montes didn't want to be a pastor. He went to Southern Adventist University and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. After graduation, Rio Lindo

Academy in Healdsburg, Calif., called and asked him to be task force boys' dean and assistant pastor. He didn't feel he could serve as pastor, but said, "I will take whatever God called me to." So he went to Rio Lindo. Montes has most recently served as the associate and youth pastor for the Calhoun, Ga., Church; he was also the head chaplain for Ekamai International School in Bangkok, Thailand; and served two times as boys' dean and pastor at Rio Lindo Academy.

Montes and his wife, Alana, have two children, Kaiya, 12, and Jonah, 9. Their family loves to hang out and travel together. Montes has a master's degree in Christian ministries from Grigg's University. For fun, he enjoys watching and playing sports, and laughingly admits he might have a minor issue with collecting Pez dispensers. ❶

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Pillars of Faith Church Organized

The Pillars of Faith Company in Ellenwood, Ga., celebrated church organization day, and became the 177th church in the sisterhood of churches in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference on November 17, 2018. A delegation from the Conference, led by Ed Wright, president, oversaw the worship celebration. Rickie Holmes, Pillars of Faith pastor, was excited for his congregation and the ministry, and the evangelism yet to come.

Numerous members, guests, friends, community residents, Sunday worshippers, and believers and non-believers attended the divine worship service. The sanctuary was filled to capacity with standing room only. The worshippers extended into the halls, classrooms, and fellowship hall. Some worshippers even

waited in their cars in the parking lot.

Wright preached from the book of Esther, and reminded the congregation that all are called for "such a time as this." Immediately after the sermon, a line formed and Pillars of Faith Church members signed their names to be registered as charter members of their new church.

Next the congregation entered the fellowship hall and enjoy a vegetarian meal. It was a very happy family that worshipped that Sabbath, the day God blessed and sanctified.

On this high Sabbath, the worshippers knew they were in the presence of the Lord. The Pillars of Faith family was ready: God called and they answered. ❶

BY RICKIE HOLMES



Pillars of Faith Church members in Ellenwood, Ga., celebrated their church's official organization Nov. 17, 2018.

PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY RICKIE HOLMES

Church Renovation is Labor of Love



Mel Eisele (left), retired Gulf States conference president; Brenda Stephens, church treasurer; Brian Danese, vice president of church development for Gulf States; Dan Thompson, local pastor; Tui Pitman, retired pastor; Cynthia Bush, women's ministry director for Gulf States; and Bernell Mapp, local elder, participate in the ribbon cutting at Montgomery First following the church remodel.



The remodeled sanctuary features new chairs, carpet, paint, lighting, and more.

The Montgomery, Ala., First Church celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 3, 2018, to mark the culmination of a one-year journey of renovating more than 80 percent of the nearly 4 1/2 acres of the church campus. A remarkable component of this project is that the renovations were completed almost entirely by church members as a labor of love for kingdom building.

Mel Eisele, retired president of Gulf States Conference and chair of the building committee, shared, "I was privileged to be a part of this church renovation, because the changes will be used to reach people and help them be prepared for the coming of Jesus." With every careful detail, members united to accomplish the work covering months of long days and evenings. Brian Danese, treasurer of Gulf States Conference, said, "I was so inspired by the way the remodel touched almost every area of the church. I think

what impressed me the most was the legacy the leadership left for the next generation — passing them a building with new seating, lighting, and updated systems that solved most maintenance issues for the next several decades." Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Dan Thompson, pastor of Montgomery First, stated, "We are looking forward to God's blessing in our church, and many more activities that we can continue to do here!" It was an incredible, high Sabbath filled with a tremendous sense of gratitude, accomplishment, and oneness in Christ.

Eisele shared, "We have a united, working building committee, and a very supportive church family. On specially called days, 20 to 30 men and women were there helping with even dirty jobs. We could feel the rest of the church at home praying for us." Throughout the journey of this project, it became evident that the renovations extended be-

yond brick and mortar, wires and paint, to touching lives and healing hearts. Bernell Mapp, local elder, noted, "The scope, the challenges, the completeness, the beauty, and the newness of the renovation encouraged us all to ask God to renovate our hearts as well, making them like new again." Brenda Stephens, church treasurer, said, "You cannot track the distance you have traveled when you stop to focus on all the twists and turns. Rest in the Lord and view the distance from the comfort of His arms."

Members commented on how the renovation resulted in a remarkable transformation honoring the ministry of Jesus Christ! Tui Pitman, retired pastor, emphasized, "The one word to describe our remodeling is a miracle. When we ran into problems, we prayed about it, and God gave us the answers. The end result is a beautiful church! 🙏"

BY CYNTHIA BUSH

Conference Holds Town Hall Online



Constituents were able to watch the town hall meeting from any internet-connected smart device.

Constituents from around the Gulf States Conference used their phones, tablets, smart TVs, and other internet-connected devices on Thursday, November 29, 2018, to watch the Town Hall LIVE program as it was broadcast from the Conference office in Montgomery, Ala. Historically, Conference administration would travel around the Conference to present updates in person. This usually resulted in many days and hundreds of miles traveled to several districts throughout the territory. Once administrators were in these meetings, they could only present a portion of what was happening throughout the Conference, as many of the department directors weren't there to share specifics on their ministries. It also required church members to travel to a district church to attain the mid-term report.

Transitioning to video broadcasts, sev-

eral Gulf States departments were able to share a pre-recorded message, summarizing their work for the last 2 1/2 years. Utilizing this format also provided a platform to house these video reports for viewing at any time. If a church member missed the live stream, they were immediately able to go to gscsda.org/townhall and watch the entire stream or pick and choose the specific report they wanted to see. These videos were also made available for download if a church or local member wanted to store them offline and share them with someone without an internet connection.

Reports from constituents were positive. Many were glad that they could watch the report from the comfort of their own home. One member stated, "Oh, I just watched the whole thing. It was great!" and later added, "Brian Danese's report helped me make a decision that

was weighing heavily on me. [Seeing] where tithe goes was very interesting."

In addition to the video reports, written reports were printed and sent to every constituent's home leading up to the event. These articles were part of a special edition of the *GSC Today* magazine, and served as a promotion for the video event and Town Hall web page. Constituents were also given the opportunity to participate by sending in questions or concerns before the meeting. These messages could be sent via a form on the webpage, email, or a specially created phone number that could receive text messages and voicemails. Those that viewed the stream were also able to engage in the live chat on YouTube and Facebook live streams. ●

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Evangelism in New Era Embraced

The Middletown Church in Louisville, Ky., had come to believe that evangelism in their area did not work. Whenever the idea of holding an evangelistic series was suggested, it was quickly put to rest as something of another era. When the church board was again approached with the idea of holding an evangelistic series, all agreed that something would have to be different if they were to proceed. The outreach committee read studies of evangelism in today's world, and discovered that successful meetings are the result of months of preparing the soil; developing relationships with friends, co-workers, and neighbors; and being present in the community.

A year of outreach events focusing on health related issues was planned. Members were encouraged to witness in their everyday lives, using the unique witnessing style described in David Hartman's book, *Winning Ways to Witness*.

In January a seasoned canvassing team arrived to work the territory around the



Baptismal candidates

church, with the primary purpose of finding people interested in learning more about the Bible. After the canvassers left, a Bible worker stayed to develop the interests gained. A second canvassing team came in the summer, along with two more Bible workers.

Interests were invited to at least one bridging event each month. Events included Eight Weeks to Wellness, Financial Peace, Vegetarian Taste Fest followed up with vegetarian cooking classes, Dinner with a Doctor, a CPR

class, Diabetes Undone, and Super Foods of the Bible.

From the beginning, all agreed that the evangelistic series held in the fall must be Jesus-centered, with every prophecy, every doctrine presented with Jesus at the core. Romone Gibbs, a theology graduate of Ouachita Hills College who had done Bible work at Middletown for two years, was invited to be the speaker.

On opening night more than 90 people filled the sanctuary. As many as 129 people attended at times. By the end of the series, nine adults and nine children took their stand and were baptized. Others are continuing to study, and many friendships were formed.

So, does evangelism still work? Middletown Church praises God that, yes, it does, through the power of the Holy Spirit and His leading in developing innovative ways to prepare the ground. ①

BY BARBARA HAGELE

Ridgetop Pathfinders Active in Community

The Ridgetop, Tenn., Ridgerunner Pathfinders collected more than 2,000 food items on Halloween and delivered them to the Community Service Center for distribution. The annual event is one of three recent outreach programs sponsored by the club. Under the direction of Becky Massey, the Pathfinders also collected 84 of Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes filled by church members and friends. In addition, they participated in a 5K run-walk in partnership with the beneficiary of the event, the Ridgetop Volunteer Fire Department. ①

BY HELEN KELLY



The Ridgerunners with the food items collected

Richmond Members Hold “Jesus, Our Superhero” VBS

Richmond, Ky., Church held Vacation Bible School (VBS) under the leadership of Donna Crawford. Church members joined her several times for pre-planning, and enthusiastically supported her selection of the theme, “Jesus, Our Superhero.”

God answered prayers resulting in 23 children in attendance, three of which were children of members. Helpers included Nick and Christy Miller, Morgen Begley, Kathy Jo Cooper, Carolyn Chasteen, Jill Mathis, Lana Bailey, Ed Hudson, and Carol Courtney. The oldest children were asked to assist with the younger ones.

Not only did the children learn Who should be the number one Superhero in their lives, but also that they could be superheroes for others. Every evening began with the children marching into the sanctuary singing, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” followed by more songs, the pledges, and prayer before parting for crafts. Crafts were followed by a Bible story, snacks, and rec-



Children attending VBS enjoying the crafts

reational games. The evening ended with a discussion of Jesus as Superhero and more songs. The children particularly liked the songs that had hand movements.

Members praise God for the attendees, the members who worked so diligently, and those who brought children. Four children who were transported to VBS are now being

transported to church. It is a blessing to see more children in the church. Members join together in prayer that all VBS programs will connect children to God, create change in their hearts, and give them opportunities to share God’s love with others. ❶

BY CAROL COURTNEY

Two Churches from Different Conferences Hold Community Event

About 50 individuals from the Pulaski, Tenn., community received a hot meal served by members of the Philadelphia Church and the Pulaski Church at the City Recreational Center on Sunday, November 18, 2018. Members of both churches collaborated to decorate, prepare, and serve a variety of dishes and desserts. Advertised by fliers and radio announcements during the week, the event allowed many men, women, and children a hot meal days before Thanksgiving.

Members from the South Central Conference Philadelphia Church planned the event, and invited the members of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Pulaski



Some of the attendees at the meal

Church to participate. The Pulaski members not only helped with a financial donation, but also with volunteering.

According to the attendees, it was de-

licious. There were very few who did not have seconds, and some even asked if they could take food to friends and family members who were unable to attend.

At the end of the meal, most of the volunteers looked exhausted, but big smiles decked their faces. One homeless gentleman who walks around Pulaski with a small dog at his side, expressed appreciation for the meal. The volunteers not only fed him, but also gave a big plate to his dog. The church members fed thankful citizens of Pulaski, and also made lasting friendships. ❶

BY CIRO SEPULVEDA

“Children First” is Evangelism at its Best

A “Children’s First” approach to evangelism compelled the Children’s Ministries Department of Abney Chapel Church in Fayetteville, N.C., to take action. Under the leadership of Tonya Fewell, they decided to show the children they are first. The evangelism message began by renovating the Sabbath School classrooms. The message ended by having Vacation Bible School (VBS) create memories to encourage continuous prayer for the children.

The renovation project began in October 2017, and on October 13, 2018, the classrooms and the prayer garden gazebo were dedicated. The gazebo building project was a \$4,000 investment, and the classroom renovations cost \$25,000. The sacrificial giving of various members resulted in both projects being completed outside of the church budget.

The gazebo was built by adults and youth from VBS. The major renovation of the classrooms involved an outside contractor, but the final additions were



Participants in the ribbon-cutting ceremony included teenager Camoni Clark (left); Richard Wheeler, Sabbath School superintendent; Estella Lustin, primary; Sherwin Callwood, pastor; Jaelee South, beginner; Mitchell Harris, head elder; Cameron Knox, junior; and Jacqui Tillman, Sabbath School teacher.



Renovated green room for the juniors’ class



The adults and youth built the Vacation Bible School gazebo.

the direct result of adults and youth who worked tirelessly to achieve the goal. This commitment to children first has resulted in an evangelistic movement with impressive results. That’s evangelism at its best!

Sabbath School attendance and volunteers have increased, 12 children have been baptized, Children’s Church has been re-established, and a number of quality

Sabbath programs have been executed with children leading out. The members have invested substantively in the children’s spiritual future. That’s evangelism at its best.

The before-and-after differences are striking. Rooms that are vibrant and engaging. All of the rooms have new laminate floors and area rugs; white boards;

smart TVs/DVDs; storage cabinets; and school-quality, heavy-duty tables and chairs. The theme across all the classrooms is that God is the Creator of all things.

The members are grateful for everyone who made this dream a reality. “Children First” is evangelism at its best! 📌

BY DEBORAH M. HARRIS, PH.D.

Charlotte Berean Brings Denominations Together for Health Event

The Charlotte, N.C., Berean Church health ministries team, under the leadership of nurse Deborah Johnson, wanted to do something different for the church's 2018 health fair. They decided to send letters signed by Godwin Mitchell, Charlotte Berean pastor, to 38 churches of all denominations within the zip code, inviting them to join Berean in a community health event. The team then waited and prayed.

More than a month passed, and then Johnson received a call from the pastor of a local Presbyterian church interested in learning more. "That one call gave us encouragement that other denominations might be interested in what we had in mind," Johnson said.

Armed with that encouragement, the team followed up the letters with phone calls and received more positive responses. Among the first to respond was Joanne Freeman, pastor of the Community Outreach Christian Ministry, a nearby non-denominational church. "When I received the letter, I wasn't sure what to think, but I was excited about the idea of denominations working together. This kind of collaboration was out of the box and so refreshing," Freeman commented.

Berean's health team was soon holding planning meetings with members of various denominations to prepare for a "Community Health Explosion."

"We asked those from the other denominations what health challenges their church and community were facing," Johnson said, "and the topics that emerged were mental health, addictions, and opioids." This resulted in the event theme, "Healthy Family, Happy Family."

This health fair was unique for Berean due to several firsts — the first time Berean's health fair was held over a five-



Message Magazine was given out at the Charlotte Berean Health Explosion.



Richard Berry, M.D.

day period, October 3-7, 2018; the first time members from seven denominations, along with two other Adventist churches, helped to plan and organize an event; and the first time some activities were hosted by other churches.

The opening night focused on healing broken relationships and understanding temperaments, with presentations by Michael Hall, counseling psychologist, and Gary James, pastor.

Thursday's presentations, held at Joanne Freeman's church, were on mental health and addictions. Kareem Puranda, therapist, shared experiences from his background in law enforcement. Clinical addictions specialist Steve Benson talked about the addiction cycle.

At Macedonia Baptist Church on Friday, October 5, Richard Berry, M.D., board certified internist and representative for the South Atlantic Conference Health Minis-

tries Department, gave a fascinating presentation on changing bad habits.

The whole team convened at Community Outreach Christian Ministry, where more than 30 vendors conducted health screenings, provided counseling, distributed health-related information, and conducted demonstrations.

Sunday morning concluded Community Health Explosion with female health exams, prostate screenings, and private medical consultations with Berry.



Charlotte Berean health screening

Responses from the 300-plus event attendees were overwhelmingly positive. Bible studies, inquires about the church, literature distribution, and first-time visitors for Sabbath worship resulted. One visitor commented, “All of this was excellent for me. I plan to take control of my health instead of being indifferent. Please make this a yearly affair.” Charlotte Berean members plan to do just that! ❶

BY BARBARA HALL

New Jerusalem Holds Women’s Day, *EndItNow* Rally

Women’s ministries, known as S.T.E.P.S. (Strolling Through Each Path as Sisters), at New Jerusalem Praise and Worship Center in Douglasville, Ga., celebrated and empowered women with a morning worship program on October 13, 2018, entitled “Chosen Imperfectly Perfect.” The stories of five of the women in Jesus’ DNA were powerfully dramatized during the worship service, followed by an *EndItNow* Rally at 5 p.m.

“Stop the Violence,” “No More Sex Trafficking,” “Save our Children,” and “We Won’t be Silent About Domestic Violence” were the rally cries to “END IT NOW!!! END IT NOW!!! Stop Violence Against Women and Children.” The members were the voices of the voiceless. *EndItNow* is a global Adventist initiative to raise awareness, and advocate for the end of violence against women and children around the world. It aims to mobilize Seventh-day Adventists around the world, and invites other community groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue.

Members marched for those walking on eggshells trying to keep peace in their homes. They marched where God planted them, and for two miles, children, teens, adults, males, and females lifted up their voices for *EndItNow*. They wanted the community to know:



EndItNow Rally participants

- In Georgia 30 percent of women between the ages of 14 and 44 have been assaulted by an intimate partner at least once.
- More than 100 Georgians are killed every year in domestic violence related homicides.
- Georgia’s domestic violence organizations responded to more than 72,000 incidents in 2017.
- About 5,000 girls are at risk of being sex trafficked in Georgia.

New Jerusalem Praise and Worship Center’s women’s ministries and Midway Community Resource Center (MCRC) partnered with the Office of the Solicitor General of Douglas County, the Office of the District Attorney of Douglas County, and the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office to bring awareness to the destruction of families caused by domestic violence, and

to provide information and resources for those who are affected by domestic violence.

MCRC is the Adventist Community Services (ACS) outreach of New Jerusalem Praise and Worship Center. MCRC is located in the heart of the community, and engages with residents to nurture their hope, self-value, and ability to succeed. MCRC has the opportunity to address problems like drugs, crime, and violence; and for empowerment of men and women for productive citizenship, mentoring youth, and connecting needy individuals to the community service agencies in Douglasville and Douglas County.

New Jerusalem Praise and Worship Center’s motto is “Love in Action by Helping, Serving, and Connecting!” ❶

BY EVERTON ENNIS, D.MIN. AND DARLENE SHEARDON

Prayer for Healing Leads to Feeding Homeless



Sumter Berea Pathfinders feed and enjoy table fellowship with the homeless.



Lillie Riley

The Berea Eagles Pathfinder Club assisted in feeding more than 100 homeless people on November 25, 2018. They were the latest to catch onto the vision that began with Lillie Riley, a member of Berea Church in Sumter, S.C.

Riley woke up feeling depressed on the night of December 31, 2014, and thought she would not live through the night. She asked God to spare her and promised that if He did, she would serve food to the homeless people who congregated alongside the Oswego main road in Sumter. The next day (New Year's Day), she joyously served 60 people hot meals all by herself. Riley's sister, Rosa Plowden, joined her two months later, and for the last four years the two sisters have been serving food to the homeless every fourth Sunday. The feeding is done outdoors all year round, with Riley and Plowden supplying the majority of food themselves.



Rosa Plowden

When asked what keeps her going, Riley responded with a glow in her eyes, "I like the laughter, to see the people, listen to their testimonies, and look at their bright faces." She said that even amidst the trials the homeless endured, they are sometimes happier than people who can support themselves. Because

of this, she believes that the homeless are blessed. Plowden echoed the same sentiments as her sister, and thanked Riley for getting her involved in this ministry. There is a special family-like bond with the homeless and the servers as they eat and fellowship together.

This ministry does not have a name, but Plowden believes that it will continue to strive because God is leading it. Riley said that by God's grace, she and her sister will continue this ministry for as long as they are able to move. Berea requests prayer for the two sisters that God will continue to grow this ministry and use them to touch people with spiritual and physical food. After four years, Riley's answered prayer is still transforming hearts and glorifying God! 🙏

BY CARLINE SAMUELS

Latino Women Complete Women's Ministries Certification



Newly certified women's ministries leaders

The Efesus Church in Birmingham, Ala., celebrated 25 individuals who completed the Women's Ministries Certification on November 10, 2018. The entire effort was coordinated and conducted by Nahomy Perez, Latino women's ministries leader at South Central Conference. Supporters, husbands, children, and others filled the church as the women, clad in matching lilac dresses, anxiously awaited their certificates. Fifteen women were from the area Spanish churches of Gadsden, Ala., where Magali Cruz is the women's ministries leader; and 10 were from Efesus Church, where Yadira Marchena is the women's ministries leader.

Guest speaker Sonia Paul, women's ministries director for South Central, was invited to the celebration of these

amazing women. The speaker focused on Titus 2:3-5, acknowledging 10 responsibilities that God requires of women concerning their purpose of caring for their family, husband, home, and being a role model to their church community.

What makes this event so significant is that the women painstakingly shared the information with those who could not read. Patience and dedication were shown as they communicated effectively with individuals who couldn't read.

The women took advantage of those long Sabbath afternoons and put in three to four hours of study for seminars dealing with Christian virtues and behavior. During the week, the women met immediately after Prayer Meeting. After six months, the women completed their course of study and submitted it to

the General Conference for approval of completion.

A reception followed in the Fellowship Hall of Efesus Church. Not only was there a reception, but the binders were proudly displayed on the tables around the room for all to see and experience this major achievement.

Each recipient received individual certificates and a beautiful lilac scarf imprinted with the women's ministries universal logo. All the women were saluted and recognized for their accomplishment. ①

BY SONIA E. PAUL, WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

“Commissioned To Serve” is Women’s Retreat Theme

The South Central Conference hosted its 15th biennial Women’s Retreat on November 15-18, 2018, at Cohutta Springs Convention Center in Crandall, Ga., themed “Commissioned To Serve.” The theme encouraged the women to make a difference in their church community by getting involved in serving and meeting the needs of others in the simplest way.

Guest speakers were Nicole Brise’, retired former women’s ministries director at the Southeastern Conference; Bessie White, South Central Conference; Mytonia Newman, Potomac Conference; and Shari Loveday, who challenged the women to “Nail It!” when they returned to their church communities.

The Thursday evening session began with opening speaker Nicolle Brise’, who challenged the women to consider that “God Has a Vision for You.” She encouraged the women to prayerfully seek God’s vision for their lives.

Each day began with an early morning online prayer ministry, “Morning Manna,” at 6 a.m., followed by a 45-minute brisk exercise, “Move It!” with coach Pruitt, celebrated health educator with Atlanta Public Schools, who also received the Michelle Obama “Move It Award” in 2015.

Seminars were titled in conjunction with the theme Commissioned To Serve, such as “Setting the Table While You Wait.” Bessie White revealed a new “Approach to Bible Study: Parts I and II.” A spiritual gifts inventory was conducted by Nicole Brise’, who encouraged all to bloom where you are planted by reminding the women that they are gifted by the Holy Spirit, and that there is a ministry for everyone.

The weekend activities culminated with the Saturday night activity, “A Ministry Fair.” A simple how-to displays of various ministry ideas were presented from Sunshine Seniors, a card-sending ministry; Lunch & Love, a ministry that provides weekly lunches to the homeless population;



A ministry fair was the Saturday night activity.



Sylvia Germany (at podium) received an award for 38 years of women’s ministries service. Laura Smith, retired former Southern Union women’s ministries director; Sonia Paul, South Central women’s ministries director; and Shirley Scott, Southern Union women’s ministries director, look on.



MyTonia Paul, guest presenter

SPA Day, collecting hotel toiletries and distributing to the homeless; and Pop-Up-Boutique, adopting a public housing community and hosting a boutique of free/gently worn clothing and accessories. Each ministry was furnished with free take-home pamphlets on how to implement the ministry.

Following the ministry fair, the women were excited as they selected/won gifts from Bessie’s Bazaar, while being served hot dogs, popcorn, hot apple cider, and nachos.

The weekend’s purpose was fulfilled in an effort of utilizing one’s creativity and using it in service to the “least of these.” By prayerfully using their talents and spiritual gifts, it was confirmed that there is a ministry for every woman. ①

BY SONIA PAUL, WOMEN’S
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Hispanic Members Meet at Camp Hawthorne for Camp Meeting

More than 2,000 attendees gathered for the first Hispanic Ministries Camp Meeting ever to be held on the beautiful grounds of Southeastern Conference Campground in Hawthorne, Fla., November 16-18, 2018. Miguel Yepez, pastor of the Genesis/Winter Garden district, led in a grand opening that featured heroes of the Bible and introduced the theme, “Faithful.”

Maria Parker took children ranging in ages from 3 to 10 years old on a journey back in time to the kingdom of Babylon. In an impressive display that brought to life the experiences of Daniel and his three Hebrew friends, the children had front row seats as the stories of the Bible legends came to life.

Christopher Lockhart, pastor from Martinique, ministered to the teenagers. He encouraged them to be faithful in a world that has lost its moral compass. The youth were also challenged by Ruber Alvarez, pastor from the Kansas Conference, and his wife, Mileydis, as they discussed relevant issues affecting the youth of today. Psychologist Deily Pileta facilitated an encounter for singles, 40-plus years old, encouraging them



Mileydis Alvarez (left) and Ruber Alvarez, pastor from the Kansas Conference, challenged the youth as they discussed relevant issues affecting the youth of today. Ruber Alvarez was also the keynote speaker for the first Hispanic Ministries Camp Meeting ever to be held on the beautiful grounds of Southeastern Conference Campground in Hawthorne, Fla. More than 2,000 were in attendance.

to embrace their singleness. Ruber Alvarez was also the keynote speaker.

There were laughter and moments of reflection as Arnaldo Cruz, pastor, and his wife, Menchy, a licensed marriage counselor, together encouraged the married cou-

ples by addressing real-life issues, and gave tips on how to make their homes a happy, beautiful place. The session concluded with prayers of consecration offered by Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Hispanic ministries director, and his wife, Nibia; and Mark Stoddart, chaplain, and his wife, Nicola Stoddart, Ph.D., Southeastern Conference human resources director.

The setting sun provided a beautiful backdrop of vibrant colors for a solemn ceremony prepared by Junior and Kirenia Ozuna, and Michael Owusu, D.Min., dedicated the marriages and families. Lanterns were lit and released to float on the lake as symbols of their commitment to faithfulness while keeping the light of love alive. The evening ended with an amazing display of fireworks, followed by an exciting basketball game.

The team is thankful for the support of the Southeastern Conference administration, all the directors and office staff, and camp ranger Devon Blackwood and his staff. 🙏

BY ROGER ALVAREZ, HISPANIC MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Students Answer Call for Baptism During Outdoor School

As the hot temperatures dip in the sunshine state of Florida, the sixth-grade students across the Southeastern Conference look forward to a classroom break from tests, projects, lectures, and even a mini-getaway from home.

Each November the Southeastern Office of Education hosts sixth-grade students from the 15 schools as far south as Florida City, to the northernmost school in Jacksonville. This year was no different as students, teachers, chaperones, and parents gathered



“Education in Nature with God” was the theme for the sixth-grade Outdoor School held at Southeastern Camp Hawthorne, November 5-7, 2018. On Tuesday night, the campers came together for an Agape Feast, where three students answered the call for baptism.

at the sacred grounds of Camp Hawthorne for an encounter with God through nature.

The theme for Outdoor School was “Education in Nature with God.” Alvin Payne, of Playground Ministries in Miami, Fla., served as the camp pastor and the activities director. Each day the students came together with their teams and coaches, as they competed for points in daily recreational activities such as team building, crafting, and sports. The students were overjoyed with the petting zoo

interactions and horseback riding. Many of them did rock climbing, ziplining, and even some good old-fashioned jump roping.

Tuesday night the campers came together for an Agape Feast. This was a powerful worship experience filled with songs, testimonies, and prayers, followed by a light meal. The Holy Spirit moved on the hearts and souls of the campers. Three students answered the call for baptism. To date, one student at Miami Union Academy, Benjamin

Alcide, has rededicated his life to Christ as a testament to God’s never-ending grace.

Some of the campers expressed sadness as the days at the campground ended. Attendees witnessed the Lord’s hand at work, and many marveled at His unfailing presence in their lives. They are looking forward to Outdoor School 2019 in November. 📌

BY BETHANY H. PARKER, PRINCIPAL,
PERRINE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Earthquake Strikes During Young Adult Mission Trip to Haiti

Southeastern Conference continues its mission-driven focus, and recently spearheaded a young adult mission trip to Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Twenty young adults embarked on a mission that would be one for the record books, October 5-8, 2018. With the North Haiti Mission of Seventh-day Adventists as the host, the group’s primary project was to restore a battered church building.

Upon arrival the team immediately began surveying the mountainous region and coordinating efforts to commence their service project. Energized by the potential to make an impact, Prince Lewis, Southeastern youth director, delivered God’s Word at a local church during the Sabbath morning service. Leonard Newton, pastor of Daughter of Zion Church, served as the Conference chaperone, and encouraged hundreds in the congregation. The need was great, yet the hope was greater. Nicolas Louis, Southeastern Haitian ministries coordinator, facilitated the trip and secured the accommodations. Materials and supplies were delivered as the group collectively rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Restoring tattered pews and cleaning areas of debris, the volunteers worked around the clock to revive the space. Many locals looked on with eyes filled with adoration. Children from the neighboring community gathered to watch the team work. Volunteers scraped, scrubbed, and painted walls to transform the space.



Southeastern Conference young adults restored a battered church building in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, October 5-8, 2018. Along with local volunteers, they refurbished tattered pews; cleaned areas of debris; and scraped, scrubbed, and painted walls. The mission trip had to be prematurely aborted when a magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck the island, and Hurricane Oscar churned in the Atlantic.

As the service projects began to go in to full effect, an unexpected act of nature created an unforeseen change of events. A magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck the island. The epicenter of the earthquake occurred approximately 170 kilometers from where the group was stationed. The group was shaken but safe. Surrounding cities were not as fortunate, and reported casualties and injuries. Another unforeseen act of nature, Hurricane Oscar, churned in the

Atlantic. The safety of the group was the first priority, and tough decisions had to be made. The mission trip had to be prematurely aborted, and the group had to make expedited arrangements to get back to the U.S. They vowed to return with more resources, however, to spread the love of God throughout the island. 📌

BY DANIELA JEAN



BENNETT, HARRY J., 102, born March 1, 1916 in Phoenix, AZ, died Oct. 12, 2018, in Sebring, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church for 46 years. He graduated from nursing in 1941 from Washington Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing in Takoma Park, MD, and in 1942 from Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, MD, with a B.S. in nursing. He was one of the first male nurses to obtain this degree, and the first college graduate in his entire family history.

His denominational employment include:

1942-1943—Sheyenne River Academy, Harvey, ND, as dean of boys, school nurse, and teacher of biology and chemistry.

1943-1944—Forest Lake Academy, Maitland, FL, as dean of boys, school nurse, and biology teacher.

1944-1945—Call to Congo Union, Southern African Division, transportation and period of orientation.

Feb. 1946-Feb. 1950—Rwanda-Urundi, Director of Ndora Mission.

Feb. 1950—Rwanda, Ordained to Ministry at Gitwe Mission.

Feb. 1950-1951—Furlough.

Feb. 1951-Jan. 1954—Congo Union, Africa, Secretary-Treasurer of Rwanda-Urundi, Mission Field.

Jan. 1954-Jan. 1955—South Congo Mission Field, Africa, president.

1955-Dec. 1957—Cape Town, South Africa, Helderberg College, teaching Bible, biology, physiology and anatomy, and health principles).

December 1957—Furlough.

1958-1959—Attendance at Potomac University (moved to Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI).

1959-1960—Southwestern Junior College, Keene, TX, dean of men.

1961-1970—Southwestern Junior College, Keene, TX, Bible teacher.

1970-1973—Menard Hospital, Menard, TX, chaplain and pastor.

1973-1982—Walker Memorial Hospital, Avon Park, FL, chaplain.

At age 66, he retired. He said this was just the year the pay checks quit, but the work went on. He remained active as a volunteer chaplain, both at Florida Hospital Sebring, and for 45 years he made rounds and ministered to the residents at Royal Care Nursing Home in Avon Park, FL. He continued living in his own home after his wife, Ercel, died in 2007, and remained active in the community and in the Avon Park Church. His hobbies included caring for his yard, maintaining his car, and music. He loved classical music and played the violin and sang in choirs. He loved to walk and ride his 3-wheel bike. He never had a rugged physique, but he was relatively healthy all his life. He would refer to Isaiah 58 in his own words: "Do something for someone else, and it will better your own health."

He is survived by one son, Harry Jr. of San Diego, CA; one daughter, Marilyn Bennett-Justesen of Avon Park; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His wife of 67 years, Ercel Bradley, predeceased him.

A celebration of Harry's life took place at Avon Park Church on Nov. 18, 2018, with George W. Brown as the speaker. Interment was in the Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park.

LEE, DORIS C., 90, born July 23, 1928 in Fredericktown, OH, died Oct. 19, 2018 in Sebring, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Church, Avon Park, FL, for 39 years.

Doris was a registered nurse who graduated from Madison College in Tennessee in 1951. She worked in all areas of nursing with more than 30 years in paid positions, and more than 24 years of service as a volunteer. Her denominational employment include R.N. at Florida Hospital Orlando in the late 1950s; R.N. at Madison Hospital in Tennessee, 1960-1968; R.N. at Tacoma Hospital in Greenville, TN, 1968-1971; R.N. and assistant director of nursing at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, 1978-1986; R.N. and director of nursing at Florida Living Nursing Home, 1986-1989; R.N. at Florida Hospital Rehab, 1989-1992. From 1994 to 2018, she was a volunteer for parish nurses, community services, and CREATION Health ministries through the Avon Park Church. She also served in Pathfinder leadership for more than 20 years. She will be remembered for her ongoing and friendly spirit, leadership qualities, and generosity of her time and energy.

In 1952, she married John McClellan, and together they had four children: Johnny, Jimmy, Judy, and Joy. In 1987, she married Roland Lee who predeceased her. Her survivors include James McClellan of Sun Lakes, Ariz.; two daughters: Judy Ewing of Avon Park, and Joy Bradley of Loma Linda, CA; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor J.P. O'Connor at the Avon Park Church. Interment was at the Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park.





MILLER, DIXIE J., 89, born Oct. 7, 1929 in Atlanta, GA, died Nov. 12, 2018 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Markham Woods Church in Longwood, FL, where she was a greeter for 30 years. Her 30 years of denominational employment for the Adventist Healthcare System; first in Greenville, TN, then at Florida Hospital South in Orlando, FL, and retired from Florida Hospital North in 1994. She was the support person her many friends would reach out to for help, and was known for her giving ways. Dixie loved to travel and took many missionary trips overseas with many stories of helping feed children and assisting doctors in giving medical attention to those in need. Like her father, she was a storyteller and was asked to speak at many Sabbath Schools and other functions. She was a true Southern belle and loved to entertain. If one scoop of ice cream was good, then a few more were all the better. You couldn't leave her kitchen table without having to loosen your belt. She had a lifelong love for animals, and would pick up a stray without a second thought. She is survived by one son, Ron Nowfel; one step-daughter, Karen Gillis; and three nieces: Carol Vile, Dixie Jean Cunningham, and Mickie Newgard.

The service was conducted by her niece's husband, Harold Cunningham. Interment was in Greeneville, TN, where her parents, sister, and brother-in-law are buried.

PETERS, WILLIAM C., 94, born Aug. 15, 1924 in Easton, PA, died Oct. 19, 2018 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park Church.

He was employed by denomination with the Harris Pine Mills plants in Hamburg, PA, from 1958 to 1964, and with the Tranquility, NJ, Plant from 1964 to 1986. He is survived by his wife of three and one half years, Darlene Rouse Peters; one son, Gregory W. Peters from Pisgah Forrest, NC; two daughters: Linda E. Hofmann from Avon Park and Patricia L. Joshnick from Hackettstown, NJ; one sister, Ellen Wismer from Easton, PA; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. The homily was given by Elder George W. Brown at the memorial service at Avon Park Church. Interment was in Philadelphia, PA.



POWELL, LINDON GRAY "LIN," 73, born April 5, 1945 in Louisville, KY, died Oct. 4, 2018 in Panama City, FL. His parents were the late Lindon Lafayette "Sug" and Martha Gray Powell. Lin was a resident of New Castle in Henry County, KY. He was the pastor and member at Gratz, KY.

He was a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) with a bachelor's degree in business administration; a graduate of Southern Adventist University (SAU) with a bachelor's degree in religion; and a graduate of the University of Louisville (UofL) with a master's degree in criminal justice administration. After graduating from EKU, he sold life insurance until he and his father bought a battery business in western Kentucky. Although the business was booming, Lin and his wife, Sandy, decided to sell the business and accept the call to join the Kenneth Cox evangelistic team, holding multi-media Bible prophecy presentations throughout the southern states and beyond, including Haiti. They worked side by side 24/7 in this ministry, and it was a joyous, inspiring time in their lives. They then both enrolled and completed degrees in religion at SAU to prepare themselves more fully for ministry. The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference invited them to be one of its full-time evangelistic teams. During the years, they held evangelistic meetings

and revivals in virtually every church in the Conference, and in a number of other states. It was in 1984 that they returned to their hometown of New Castle. In 1994, the Conference invited Lin to serve as the director of trust services, director of stewardship, and association secretary, positions he held until his retirement in 2015. Lin and Sandy also pastored churches for many years, and were currently pastoring the Gratz, KY, Church. Lin has always taken an active role in his community. For many years, he participated in a men's community prayer breakfast every Saturday morning in New Castle. For more than 30 years on Christmas day, he "went to jail" to wish prisoners a Merry Christmas, and share a gift with them. He served as a deputy sheriff and investigator for the Henry County Sheriff's Department. Lin was trained in dispute mediation and in crisis intervention, and helped many individuals and families through these services. He was involved in the first volunteer fire department and the first volunteer EMS in New Castle, and served his community in both for many years. Although Lin faced health challenges through the years, due to kidney failure, complications with his kidney transplants, spinal stenosis, scoliosis, and Rottweiler dog attacks, he was one of the most optimistic, determined, and non-complaining individuals one could ever meet. Lin had an enduring faith in God, a passion for sharing the Good News of God's grace and salvation through Jesus Christ our Savior, and a driving desire to be a faithful prayer warrior, interceding on behalf of hundreds daily. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sandy Wallace Powell; two sisters: Sally Powell Bond Lowrey and Martha Anne Willoughby; two nephews: Tom (Jen) Bond III and Dru (Janet) Willoughby; one niece, Kristi Davidsaver; and 11 great-nieces and great-nephews. Lin was preceded in death by his parents; one nephew, Jeffrey Clay Bond; and one niece, Allison Willoughby Robinson. Awaiting the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he will rest in the New Castle Cemetery along with his family under the family Ginkgo tree.



ROBERTSON, ASHLEY C., 87, born Feb. 7, 1931 in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, died Sept. 7, 2018 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 37 years. He graduated from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI in 1977, with a major in agriculture.

His denominational work included several stints as a literature evangelist; two years at Canadian Union College, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada, as grounds and maintenance; two years at Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon, OH, as greenhouse and grounds; seven years at Andrews University as construction (welding), greenhouse, and grounds; and 20 years at Charlotte Medical Center in Punto Gorda, FL, as grounds and maintenance.

Since retirement, he has been active in Port Charlotte Church Community Services and maintenance for Rainbow's End Pre-School.

He was married to Frances for 52 years when she was deceased in 2006. HE is survived by his wife he married in 2017, Janie Hallock; one son, Terry (Yolanda) Robertson; two grandchildren; and one

great-grandchild. He was the youngest of 12 children and survived all of them.

The service was conducted by C. Lee Huff at the Port Charlotte Church.

SHANKO, PATRICIA A., 86, born Dec. 19, 1931 in Des Moines, IA, died Oct. 21, 2018 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL. She attended both Union College in Lincoln, NE, and Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, MD, where she completed her nursing degree in 1955.

Her first job as a nurse was at Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, MD. She met her future husband on the fourth floor of the hospital when she joined in singing a song with a singing band, and shared a songbook with Noel Shanko. They were married in Des Moines, IA, in June of 1957. Over the years, she worked as a nurse in various hospitals in multiple cities where her husband was the pastor, and she did private duty nursing. Pat assisted her husband in his pastoral work for years, and then served in a paid position as church secretary for the St. Petersburg, FL, Church for five years. There was never any question of her spiritual life being a priority which kept her grounded no matter her situation. She took the lead in teaching and demonstrating the love of Jesus to her children. She created a welcoming home to everyone from young preacher interns and their families to the neighbor next door. She loved her God, her family, her church, and her country.

She became the director of women's ministries for Florida Conference, and served in this position for 12 years. Her focus was to provide spiritual inspiration, nurture, and motivation for women. Helping them feed their spiritual souls inspired her. Under her leadership, the annual Women's Retreat grew from one weekend a year to three weekends with one weekend specifically dedicated to Spanish-speaking women.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Noel H. Shanko; one son, Rob (Jill) Shanko; two daughters: Shellie (Dennis) Campbell, and Susie (Eddie) Bonds; and three grandchildren: Chelsea, Lexi, and Peri. She was predeceased by her parents, Harold and Helen Loundsberry, and her much loved brother, Bob Loundsberry.

The funeral service was conducted at the Yale, VA, Church with interment at the Yale Seventh-day Adventist Cemetery. A memorial service was also held at the Forest Lake Church, Apoka, FL, with words of comfort and hope given by Pastor Barbara McCoy.



STEWART SR., DAVID NATHANIEL, 92, born Sept. 23, 1924 in New Hill, N.C., died April 21, 2016 in Atlanta, GA.

STEWART, DONELLA VIVIAN RICKS, 95, born Oct. 16, 1922 in Whitakers, N.C., died July 21, 2018 in Huntsville, AL.

David worked as a literature and lay evangelist; Southeastern Conference Camp Meeting sanitation manager; and he served on the Conference committee.

Donella was a Southeastern Conference elementary educator in Tampa, FL. Following Bible studies and food distribution to the elderly in their community, they spearheaded and organized the founding of the Thonotosassa Church in Seffner, FL. David retired from the state of Florida to draw the plans and oversee its completion. It was dedicated in March of 1984.

David was head elder for 26 years, and Donella served the children's Sabbath School Department, and as a Pathfinder Master Guide and named the club The Light Bearers. They retired and moved to Hunts-

ville in 2005, where they witnessed by using religious tracts. They are survived by their children David (Victoria) Stewart Jr. and D. Renee Mobley; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; and many other relatives. Their services were held at the Oakwood University Church, and they rest at Oakwood Memorial Gardens in Huntsville, until Christ returns.

CARRIS, DOROTHY RUTH, 87, born April 12, 1931 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, died Nov. 9, 2018 at NHC in Hendersonville, TN. Her parents were the late John and Emma Wertz. She was a very active member of the Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN, for more than 60 years. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and knitting. She is survived by one daughter, Teresa (Eddie) Johnston; two sons: Eugene (Melinda) Carris and Brian Carris; eight grandchildren: Justin Carris, Leslie (Kelley) Frantz, Amber Blakely, Jessica Carris, Aimee (Dustin) Langley, Michael (Wendy) Carris, Madison (Troy) Alexander, and Natalie (Chris) Shoulders; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and one brother, David (Nancy) Wertz. She was preceded in death by one sister, Inez Trombore.

DARNELL, MARGARET A., 76, born Feb. 24, 1942, died March 3, 2018 in Arden, NC. Margaret is survived by her husband, Nolan Darnell; two sons: David and Loren Darnell; and two granddaughters: Leilani and Nyla Darnell.

EASLER, NORMAN WALDO, 91, born Oct. 9, 1927 in Skowhegan, ME, died Dec. 7, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC. Norman graduated from Lawrence High School in Fairfield, ME, where he was a member of the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps), and briefly attended Atlantic Union College. He later became an Inhalation Therapy-Assistant, working for a time at the New England Sanitarium in Massachusetts. For several years, Norman worked in the Maintenance Department and Nature Museum at the Hinckley School for Boys, Hinckley, ME. For more than 20 years, he served as a caretaker in Wisconsin and Florida, providing transportation, home repair and painting, landscaping, and companionship. Norman was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church, for many years. In 2010, he moved to Hendersonville, NC, where he shared a home with his widowed sister at the Fletcher Park Inn. While living there he became a member of the Fletcher Church. He's survived by two nieces: Diane (Brent) Sedgwick of Punta Gorda, FL, and Deb (Dennis) Campbell of West Chesterfield, NH; three nephews: Lawrence (Loretta) Grant of Fairfax, VT, Alan (Teri) Grant of Murphy's, CA, and Richard Grant from Takoma Park, MD; several grandchildren; great-grandnephews; and nieces.

FEINBERG, IRVING (JERRY), 100, born July 6, 1918 in New Jersey, died Oct. 23, 2018 in New Port Richey, FL. He was a member of the New Port Richey, FL, Church for 38 years. His service and interment was held at the Meadowlawn Funeral Home in New Port Richey.

FULBRIGHT, MARIE, 100, born Jan. 31, 1918, at Mt. Pleasant, AR, died Oct. 14, 2018 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. She is survived by one son, Rodney (Harriet) Fulbright; one brother, Jay (Karen) Lewis; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. The graveside service and interment was at Mt. Pleasant.

GRAYBILL, BETTY L., 90, born June 6, 1928, in Johnsville, MD, died Aug. 30, 2018 in Westminster, MD. She was a member of the Columbia City Company in Lake City, FL, since early in 2018. She graduated from Frederick Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing in 1948, and worked at Frederick Hospital and as a chief nurse at Fort Detrick, MD. After retiring from civil service, she relocated to Florida where she resided for more than 40 years in the Palm Harbor and New Port Richey areas. She was very active in her church and community. She made many volunteer trips to under-developed countries helping to build schools and churches, as well as providing health care. She is survived by her sister, Doris (Lionel) Quesinberry of Westminster, MD. Interment was at Westminster.

GRIFFIN JR., CLARENCE E., 83, born April 23, 1935 in Burke County, NC, died Dec. 5, 2018 in Morganton, NC. He was the son of the late Clarence E. Griffin Sr., and Mary Hardy Griffin. Clarence was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, and worked at Grace Hospital for more than 44 years. He was a member of Morganton Church, and served as an elder. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kay Frances Carter Griffin; one sister, Doris McKesson of Morganton; numerous nieces; nephews; sisters-in-law; and brothers-in-law. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters: Clara Mae Griffin and Betty Sue Browder.

HALL, BEVERLY JOANN, 80, died Feb 26, 2018. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN. She is survived by two sons: Randall (Donna) Hall

and Larry (Kristi) Hall; one daughter-in-law, Sherry Hall; six grandchildren: Christy Suter, Jordan Hall, Mitchell Hall, Hannah Hall, Madison Hall, and Sophia Hall; three great-grandchildren: Nathan Suter, Hailey Suter, and Harper Hall; one brother, Ron (Sherry) Riffel; and one sister-in-law, Dot Riffel. She was preceded in death by one son, Kenneth Hall; one granddaughter, Beverly Hall; and two brothers: Donald and Warren Riffel.

HENDERSON JR., RICHARD PERTHELL, 70, born Sept. 13, 1948 in Atlanta, GA, to the late Richard Perthell and Daisy Rebecca Henderson he was the sixth child of 13 children in the family, died on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 2018. He was educated in the public schools of Atlanta and Lithonia. Upon graduation from the Bruce Street High School in 1966, he pursued studies in pre-med at Morehouse. After three years, he transferred to Oakwood College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in health science in 1971. Richard was known as a "jack of all trades." He worked for Emory as a phlebotomist and lab technician. His other business interests include painter, truck driver, school bus driver, landscaper, farmer, foster parent of more than 10 children, and custodian for the Stone Mountain Church. Richard's greatest love was living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was baptized by Elder H. L. Cleveland into the Berean Church. "Daddy's child" as he was affectionately known, joined his father as a lay preacher. Together, they traveled around Georgia preaching and helping people. They were instrumental in planting the First Covington Church. Later Richard became one of the first member and leader of Afro descent of the Stone Mountain Church. His passion for the salvation of others led him to work as a pioneer volunteer among the immigrant and refugee populations of Clarkston. He was instrumental in the planting of the first Karen and Zomi churches in Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He is survived by his wife, Ciin Zun Cing; two sons: Richard Henderson III and Matthew (McKenzie) Henderson; two granddaughters: Zoe and Ava; 11 sisters and brothers: Shirley Lenon, George (Mary) Henderson, Carlene (William) Bradley, Mary Bussey, Virginia (Graham) Hardeman, Clarissa Williams, Erma Brown, Alfreda Reynolds, Alfred Henderson, Kelvin (Alice) Henderson, and Felecia Myles; nieces; nephews;

five god-children: Jody Horsley, Adrian Villianueva, Markson Williams, Faye Smith, and Cheryl Bell; a host of other relatives; and faithful friends. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Louisiana Henderson; and one sister, Mam-miette Wilson.

KIDD, CLIFFORD G., 92, born on Nov. 15, 1925 in Barnswood, St. Mary, Jamaica, died Oct. 28, 2018 in Lauderhill, FL. He was a member of the Lauderhill Church in Lauderhill. He was a community person, kind, loving, a gentleman, and a prayer warrior. He was the second of three children, and being an only son created in him a sense of responsibility, so he joined the family's farming business after getting his education. His love of driving drove him to buying and owning a mini bus, and driving became his career. He migrated to the United States in 1987, where he married the love of his life, Eugenie Gordon. Their love for the Lord sent them to the Lauderhill Church where he became a deacon. He formed the Prayer Band group, and a nursing home visitation group that exists today. He was also an avid farmer and planted lots of vegetables including spinach, corn, squash, and peppers of which the community and his church family enjoyed. Many tributes were given, by church members, persons from the community, and friends telling of his pleasing personality and his kindness. One woman recalled how he was kind to her when she was 13 years old in Jamaica. She recalled coming from the hospital hungry and not having bus fare to get home. Mr. Kidd saw to it that she got something to eat and told her to go into his bus. He will long be remembered for his loving disposition, his kind words of encouragement, his singing, and his powerful handshake. He had a good sense of humor and could make you laugh on your saddest day. Although he will be sorely missed, we rejoice he is resting in the Lord until that great resurrection day when we will see him again. He is survived by his wife, Eugenie; his eight children: Merlene, Norman, Arlene, Garth, Sonja, John, Haldean, and Phillip; one sister, Dulce; 40 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; nephews; nieces; a host of family; and friends. The service of thanksgiving was conducted by Pastors Garry A. Gordon, Pastor Lester Elliott, Pastor Leroy Liburd, and Pastor Claude Hardcastle II at the Lauderhill

Church. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

MIDKIFF, VIRGINIA R., 83, born March 24, 1935 in Joliet, IL, died Nov. 18, 2018 in Apopka, FL. She was an organist for many years at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, where she was a member for 52 years. She is survived by her two sons: John Midkiff III in Casselberry, FL, and James (Miranda) Midkiff of New South Wales, Australia; one daughter, Carol Skillin of Apopka; one brother, Ronald Grant of Cedaredge, CO; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild. The service was held at Baldwin Fairchild in West Altamonte, FL. Interment was in Highland Memorial Gardens in Apopka.

SERNS, RICHARD "DICK" FRANK, 90, born Feb 21, 1928 in Wichita, KS, died Sept. 16, 2018. His home was in Loomis, CA. Serns pastored churches throughout the U.S. including southern California, Hawaii, North Carolina, and the Loomis and Carmichael Adventist churches in the Sacramento area. He served in the colporteur ministry in Texas and Florida. Serns led music and played saxophone in many churches, enjoyed all sorts of games, waterskied until he was 84, and travelled to all 50 states and around the world. He loved his children, loved people, loved laughter, and loved the Lord, his favorite Scripture was Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always." He is survived by his wife, Wilma; three children: Marilee Dalton of Newcastle, Diane Serns of San Diego, and Dan Serns of Burleson, TX; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. We look forward to seeing him again at the resurrection when Jesus returns.

SWANSON, WILLIAM (BILL) R., 66, born May 10, 1952 in Milwaukee, WI, died Nov. 23, 2018 in Orlando, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 26 years. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lynda Swanson; one son, Andrew (Cristina) Swanson of Apopka; one daughter, Erica (Tony) Peach of Apopka; one brother, Bob (Verbelee) Swanson of Altamonte Springs, FL; one sister, Vicki (Wendell) Hahn of Grand Rapids, MI; and five grandchildren. The service was conducted by Marti Jones and Dr. Michael Gordon.

VOGEL, EDWARD T. "ED," 81, born April 25, 1937 in Milwaukee, WI, to the

late William Solomon Vogel and Gertrude Vogel, died Nov. 8, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC. Edward received his master's degree in public health, and was a physical therapy administrator. He was a nursing home administrator and then a hospital administrator. Following his retirement from the medical field, he owned a Buck Stove business and then was a general contractor. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Karen K. Vogel of Hendersonville, NC; three daughters: Vicki (Jeff) Owens of Palm Coast, FL; Cynthia (Jim) Wiley of Hendersonville, NC; and Candace Warner of Orlando, FL; two sons: Steven (Cherry) Vogel of Ooltewah, TN, and Guy (Iris) Smith of Hilton Head Island, SC; seven grandchildren: Alicia and Michael Malinki, Grant and Dylan Vogel, Erin Wiley Mitschow, Curtis Wiley, and Lillian Smith; one nephew, Bill Vogel; one sister-in-law, Jean Vogel; and close friends, Mr. and Mrs. James McCammon. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gertrude and William Solomon Vogel; one sister, Betty Vogel; and one brother, Nealon Vogel.

WETHERELL, BEATRICE MARIE (BOSTIAN), 90, born Feb. 22, 1928 in Sunbury, PA, died Nov. 7, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC. Beatrice lived a life of service. Early in her career she worked in a child nursery. She taught at a Seventh-day Adventist Church School in Washington, D.C. The highlight of her life was the 25 years she worked at a Quaker Care Facility, managed by an Adventist administrator. She served as activities director, daily planning activities for the elderly in the home. She is survived by her husband, William Wetherell of Hendersonville, NC; sons, William Wetherell of Windsor, CA; Russell Wetherell of Dayton, OH; John Wetherell of Clarksville, MD; one sister, Elizabeth Harris of Chattanooga, TN; one brother, Don (Dorothy) Bostian of Hendersonville, NC.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Dean for the School of Education and Psychology** (SEP) and responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time teaching **faculty for the School of Music**. This position will provide curricular oversight to and teach lower- and upper-division courses in area of primary expertise – either music history or music theory. Master's degree in Musicology, Music History, or Music Theory required, doctorate preferred. *Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs* [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter at cshowalter@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For full job description please visit www.southern.edu/jobs.* [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **full-time teaching faculty for the Chemistry Department**. Teaching responsibilities may be expected to include organic chemistry lectures and labs and chemistry for nursing and allied health majors. A master's or doctoral degree (Ph.D. is strongly preferred) in organic chemistry (or a closely related field) is required, with demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. *Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs* [2]

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist, **full-time nursing faculty member**. Teaching and/or clinical experience in medical-surgical nursing and pathophysiology preferred. Additional information can be found at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. *Send CV and references to Dr. Nicole Orian, nicole.orian@ucollege.edu* [2]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, NE seeks applicants for **Director of Records/**

Registrar. The Director will ensure the integrity, accuracy and security of academic and educational records of students and ensure compliance with regulatory agencies. *Contact Dr. Frankie Rose at frankie.rose@ucollege.edu or call 402-486-2501 for more information.* [2]

UNION COLLEGE seeks applicants for the position of **Swimming Pool, Custodial, and Facility Maintenance Manager**. This is a full-time, exempt position. This individual is responsible for all the functions of the pool during business and closed hours each day of the week. *Please see the full job description at <https://www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings> and submit requested materials to Ric Spaulding at ric.spaulding@ucollege.edu* [2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Administrative Assistant MDiv**. The Administrative Assistant Manages the functions of the Master of Divinity office. Provide both academic and policy advice to students enrolled in the program. Writes, develops, and maintain effective web, electronic, written, and verbal communication with students, prospective students, faculty, and university departments. *https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_7* [2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Occupational Therapy Program Director**, founding Program Director of the new doctoral program in occupational therapy (OTD). The Director will lead efforts in developing and supervising the program including leading the accreditation process. Primary responsibility includes developing an innovative program, including crafting the program's mission, vision, goals and strategic planning, administration, budget, faculty and staff recruitment, and assessment. The Director will provide professional leadership and support for teaching faculty, serve as a mentor and facilitator for faculty, and enable an environment that fosters creativity. *https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_9* [2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Library Dean**. The Dean of Libraries reports to the provost and shall consult with the provost regularly.

The dean is responsible for the James White Library, the Architecture Resource Center, the Music Materials Center, and the Center for Adventist Research as well as all personnel and activities within those facilities. With the assistance of the directors, the professional librarians and the staff, the dean shall perform the essential functions. *https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_3* [2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a **Faculty Marketing Professor**. Teach marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Have an earned doctorate in marketing and sufficient teaching experience in marketing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Be actively engaged in research, service, student advising, and supervising student projects. *https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5* [2]

FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC. is seeking an experienced leader to serve as **Director of Information Technology**. This full-time position collaborates with senior management, reporting to the CEO, and offers a competitive salary and benefits package, responsible for directing and managing all functions of the Information Technology department for school and business segments of Fletcher Academy, Inc. Candidate will supervise a staff of adult technicians and student trainees, taking an active role in the performance and security of systems company-wide. A Bachelor's or higher degree in Information Technology or an equivalent program of study, and relevant experience, including demonstrated leadership capability, is required. Excellent people skills are required, to include experience collaborating with a diverse, dynamic team and leading from a highly visible position, interacting with persons of varying knowledge of technology and with vendors. Candidate must be proficient in Windows and Apple iOS, the Google and Microsoft suite of applications, and mobile devices. Finally, the candidate will be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Send cover letter

and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO.
Email: gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com [2]

CAPTAIN GILMER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, a private Christian K4-8th grade school owned and operated by Fletcher Academy, Inc., is seeking a Principal, to begin July 1st, 2019. This full-time position is responsible for creating and implementing a vision for achieving and sustaining high levels of student achievement, and strategically implementing the school's Christ-centered mission through effective leadership of all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, student, parents, constituent churches, and the community. The Principal oversees all aspects of the instructional program, school environment and the operational / fiscal health of the school. This position offers a competitive salary and benefits package, and reports to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of Fletcher Academy, Inc. A Master's or higher degree in Education and prior administrative experience, to include demonstrated leadership capability, is required. The successful candidate will serve a large and diverse community of constituencies, to include experience collaborating with a dynamic team and leading from a highly visible position. Candidate must be comfortable with technology in the educational environment. Finally, the candidate will be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good standing. Send cover letter and resume to hr@fletcheracademy.com or pwilhelm@fa.education [2]

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) of SDA's Office of General Counsel is seeking a **law student** for an 8-10 week paid summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for 1Ls. Duties include legal research and other projects, emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be SDA church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicant's responsibility. Send resume, writing sample, and transcript to karnikd@gc.adventist.org [2-4]

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HUD facility for low income elderly located in Madison, TN, is seeking an administrator. All qualified individuals interested in more information on this topic email Myron Johnson at CVTinfo@tds.net [2]

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EGYPT BIBLE TOUR: December 12-22, 2019 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the land of the Pyramids, the Pharaohs, and the Exodus, including a Nile cruise and more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations only \$2,425 plus airfare. Contact Sharon Searson at Sharons@uccsda.org [2-4]

2019-20 ADVENTIST TOURS. Israel in Jesus' Steps June 2-10, 2019; New Testament Alive (Revelation's 7 Churches/Patmos/Greece) June 6-16, 2019; Bethlehem to Rome June 2-19, 2019; African Safari & Service July 14-26, 2019; Egypt to Israel Spring 2020; Thailand July 14-24, 2020. All tours are Adventist-led. \$1990+/person. For full info, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or Facebook.com/TabghaTours or call Cindy Nash at 423-298-2169. [2]

SAVE THE DATE - Uchee Pines Institute's 50th Anniversary, June 23-29, 2019. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. ucheepines.org or 877-UcheePines. [2-5]

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER: Reversing Disease Naturally with Lifestyle Medicine for almost 80 years. Receive natural treatments for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, stress, depression, anxiety, etc. Call today 800-634-9355 or visit us @ wildwoodhealth.org. Use promo-code ST0119 for your special deal! [2]

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Called for Youth Ministries

Otto Hirsch loved to be involved in youth and children ministries. He taught elementary school for 36 years. After retiring he got involved at the Indian Creek Youth Camp, where he worked until the age of 93 to assist with any jobs that needed to be done at the camp. He was an expert carpenter and together with his maintenance skills and love for teaching nature, he tirelessly gave back to the youth and the Camp that he so loved. Hirsch was proactive by contacting his local conference to be sure that the Indian Creek Youth Camp was remembered in his Last Will and Testament.

▶ To learn how you can support the passions God has put on your heart even after you are gone, contact your local conference Planned Giving and Trust Services professional.



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Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

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CAROLINA

CAROLINA EVANGELISM IMPACT - Feb. 7-10. Myrtle Beach, SC.

ROMANCE AT THE RANCH - Feb. 8-10. NPR.

HISPANIC ROMANCE AT THE RANCH - Feb. 15-17. NPR.

REGENERATE! CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE - Feb. 22-23. University City SDA church.

MPA SPRING BREAK - Feb. 28 - March 10.

ALIVE YOUTH RALLY - March 8-9. Spartanburg SDA Church.

PATHFINDER WORK BEE CAMPOUT - March 15-17. NPR.

MPA FATHER & SON/MOTHER & DAUGHTER WEEKEND - March 22-23.

COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT - March 22-24. NPR.

MPA MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 28-29.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

BLAZE MINISTRY TRAINING - Feb. 15-17. Pine Lake Retreat, 21725 CR 33, Groveland. Weekend will cover advanced and beginner preaching, Bible studies, literature evangelism, and community ministries. Cost: \$99 per Pathfinder/Adventurer including all materials, lodging, and meals; \$60 per chaperone. Fees due by Nov. 30 (no on-site registration). Sponsoring churches requested to sponsor 2/3 of each student's fee. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/blade-ministry-training-2019/

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 BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery. Feb. 3. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port Saint Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

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

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

Feb. 17. Homestead.

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

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

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

CENTRAL AREA ADVENTURER FUN DAY - March 24. South Brevard Church, 8465 Babcock St. SE, Melbourne. Registration begins 8 a.m., program at 9 a.m. Cost: \$10 per child by March 10, \$12 on-site. No charge for adults and children age 3 and under. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/central-area-adventurer-fun-day/

HOPE FOR HURTING HEARTS - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. A healing, educational retreat for those who've been sexually abused as children. Cost: \$150, all inclusive.

March 28-31. Teen Track. Details: floridaconference.com/event/hope-for-hurting-hearts-teens/

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

PATHFINDER TEEN EVENT - Feb. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

PRAYER CONFERENCE THIRSTY FOR YOU - Feb. 15-17. Presenter James Shires, president of the Oklahoma Conference, has a deep passion for our churches to be transformed into houses of prayer. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

ACF CONNECT CONFERENCE - Feb. 22-24. CONNECT 2019 is designed for college and university students to grow in their relationship with Jesus. The speaker is Darlye Innocent, MSW, Ph.D., a social scientist who works as a consultant to ministry leaders. Registration deadline is Feb. 11. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING (HEALTH AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES) WITH

EW DEMPSEY - Feb. 23, 3-6 p.m. Ooltewah, TN, Church.

HEALTH RALLY WITH EW DEMPSEY - March 2, 2-5 p.m. Douglas, GA.

FAITH AND FINANCE FOR FAMILIES SEMINAR - March 9, 2 p.m. A free seminar by Grateful Living to educate and inspire families to live, save, and give with the freedom that God intended. Sweetwater Company, Austell, GA.

REGENERATE (YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT FESTIVAL) - March 16. A high Sabbath featuring academy choirs, mission reports, a variety of music groups, expression session, and speaker Mark Witas, pastor of the Pacific Union College Church in California. The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA. Register for events on the Conference website - www.gcsda.com

GULF STATES

CROSS EXAMINATION YOUTH RALLY - March 16. Big Cove Christian Academy, Owens Cross Roads, AL. www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - March 29-31. Bass Memorial Academy. www.bmasda.org/alumni-friends. BMA Alumni Golf Tournament, visit www.bmasda.org for details.

ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND - March 29-31. Camp Alamisco. www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

ALAMISCO CAMP MEETING - HOPE HEALS - April 5-6. John Bradshaw of It Is Written will be the keynote speaker for this weekend event at Camp Alamisco. www.gcsda.org/events.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 11-14. Camp Alamisco. www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY DAYS - April 26-28. Bass Memorial Academy. www.gcsda.org/events.

BASS CAMP MEETING - HOPE HEALS - May 22-25. Mike Tucker will be the keynote speaker for this event at Bass Memorial Academy. www.gcsda.org/events.

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING - May 31-June 2. Bass Memorial Academy www.gcsda.org/events.

SUMMER CAMPS - June 2-July 12. Camp Alamisco. www.campalamisco.org/summer-camp.

TEEN INVITATIONAL: CANOEING - Sept. 8. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - Feb. 8-10. Indian Creek Camp.

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

HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD - Feb. 21 & April 25. Highland Academy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION - April 11. Conference Office.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 26-28. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE - Feb. 18. Thomas Davis, Ph.D., professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will give a talk titled "St. Paul in Cyprus: Out of the Comfort Zone," at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

PREVIEWSSOUTHERN - Feb. 18. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN, email visit@southern.edu, or visit southern.edu/preview.

SOUTHERN 6 TRAIL RACE - Feb. 24. Come join us for the 10th annual 6K run through wooded trails on the campus of Southern Adventist University. Proceeds from the event will go directly to the University's Outdoor Leadership inner-city environmental education program. To register, visit the Adventure Programs page at southern.edu/outdoor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 12, 13. Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor Classes/Graduating Years ending with 4s and 9s. For more information email: ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or check the school website: ea-gpa-alumni.com

ACADEMY DAYS AT OKLAHOMA ACADEMY - April 12-14. If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be the place for you; attend Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also, visit www.oklahomacademy.org.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION - June 7, 8. For alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

ADVENTIST ENGLISH ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE (AEA) - June 20-23. Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University will address the theme, "Diversity in Adventist English Education." How is the Adventist English teacher's work impacted by the current social, political, and religious context? Don't miss your chance to join the conversation! If you are interested in attending or presenting at the Conference, visit our website adventistenglishassociation.org and see the Call for Papers, and submit your proposal by Jan. 18 to adventistenglishassociation@gmail.com. Early bird registration closes March 1.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST LIBRARIANS

invite all Seventh-day Adventist librarians and friends of libraries to attend the 39th Annual Conference in Silver Spring, MD, June 24-27. The Conference will explore "Librarians Outside Libraries," with a special emphasis on what Adventist librarians are doing professionally outside their offices, such as collaboration, teaching, research, mentorship, and more. Papers, posters, and presentation proposals accepted at kvanarsdale@puc.edu by Feb. 15. For more information about the Conference, visit <https://www.asdal.org/conferences/>.

SUNSET

	FEB 1	FEB 8	FEB 15	FEB 22	MAR 1	MAR 8
ATLANTA, GA	6:08	6:15	6:22	6:28	6:34	6:40
CHARLESTON, SC	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:11	6:17	6:22
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:51	5:59	6:06	6:12	6:19	6:25
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29	6:36	6:42
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:16	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:42	5:48
JACKSON, MS	5:34	5:41	5:47	5:53	5:58	6:03
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:06	6:14	6:21	6:29	6:36	6:43
MEMPHIS, TN	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:49	5:56	6:02
MIAMI, FL	6:04	6:09	6:14	6:18	6:22	6:26
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:37	5:43	5:48
NASHVILLE, TN	5:14	5:21	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:48
ORLANDO, FL	6:04	6:10	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:30
TAMPA, FL	6:10	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:30	6:34
WILMINGTON, NC	5:42	5:49	5:55	6:02	6:08	6:14



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