

# T Southern TIDINGS

NOVEMBER 2019

## JORGE MAYER

LEADS FINAL REAPING CARAVAN

WHY, FATHER?

IMAGINE U

SOUTHERN DEAF  
FELLOWSHIP  
CAMP MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS

CORINTH  
MEMBER USES  
GYMNASTICS TO  
INSPIRE OTHERS

CHOSEN TO  
SERVE

# 2019 Evangelism and a New Era for Presidential Leadership



**Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.**  
*President of the Southern Union Conference*

When you know Christ and know that you know Him, and when you know as much of the message as you know, you are ready to witness. It would be unnatural *not* to witness. The book *Desire of Ages*, p. 347, tells us that our confession of God's faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but, that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience.

Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality.

This year has been an extraordinary opportunity to revisit our own personal testimonies. Firstly, we talk about our lives before we found Christ. In many cases, we were lonely, insecure, guilt-ridden, and aimless. Then we're ushered into sharing how we found Christ. This often came through evangelistic meetings, Bible studies, friendships, or maybe even tragedy. The most riveting dimension of our personal testimony is often what our lives are like since we found Christ. We can share the change that has come over us, the joys of our journey, and the blessings. What a great segue in sharing our faith to speak of the peace, hope for the future, and assurances in knowing that God controls my life and the world!

I am most proud to announce that your faithfulness in evangelism has increased our Union-wide membership to almost 302,000 as of the end of the second quarter. To God be the glory! I'm sincerely appreciative for the efforts of every member, employee, pastor, teacher, principal, departmental director, officer, and conference president. God is using you mightily this year. Keep up the great ministry you've received in the Lord.

Speaking of presidents, I am most honored to announce a transition of presidential leadership within the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. After 14 years of the phenomenal leadership of Elder Ed Wright, D.Min., Elder Gary Rustad has been elected as the new president. The current executive committee and the previous nominating committee from the 2017 constituency session met jointly on August 28, 2019. As a result of that process, punctuated by much prayer and faith in God, Gary Rustad was elected as the new president. President Rustad has worked in the Conference office since 2015. He most recently served as vice-president for administration/secretariat and general vice-president, where he worked with human resources, membership, and church organization. He also managed numerous church ministries departments, served as liaison for the Cohutta Springs Conference Center, coordinated Camp Meetings, and has overseen Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response.

Gary comes from a family of pastors. His father and grandfather both worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He's married to Denise, and they have three beautiful children, Ava, Elayna, and Heath.

He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University with a degree in theology, and Andrews University Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree.

His academic credentials, coupled with his rich pastoral experience and his deep-seated love for the people of God, positioned him to be the new leader of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

It is with pride and privilege that I present Gary Rustad, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, to the Southern Union family. 🙏



**Gary Rustad**  
*President of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference*



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**COVER PHOTO:** During reaping and training caravans, Jorge Mayer and Alejandro Bullón traveled from city to city to help church members and pastors with small groups and public evangelism.

**PHOTO CREDIT:** R. Steven Norman III

# JORGE MAYER

## *Leads Final Reaping Caravan*

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Jorge Mayer will retire from his position as Hispanic Ministries director in the Southern Union Conference on January 2, 2020, but the legacy and inspiration of this soldier for Christ will continue in the countless lives he has touched during his 40 years of ministry.

“My goal has been to encourage pastors to train their members on how to bring their friends, co-workers, and neighbors to Christ,” says Mayer. “I would like to see that continue.”

The Hispanic Ministries Department seeks to reach the Spanish-speaking population in the Southern Union Conference region. It works with constituent churches in searching for new methods, and resources and skills to better reach Latinos. The department is also focused on a discipleship program, which motivates the church to become actively involved in winning souls for Christ.

Last year, Hispanic Ministries



had 2,553 baptisms and 519 professions of faith. During the first quarter of this year, there have been 800 baptisms so far.

Working with pastors to train their members to do evangelism is one of several aspects of Mayer’s ministry that has made him an effective soul-winner for Christ. The most notable is probably his “reaping caravans.”

Instead of an evangelist spending weeks preaching in one location, under Mayer’s caravan model, the evangelist preaches in a different city, or church, each night.

“So, today it’s in Orlando, tomorrow it might be Tampa,” says Mayer, who spends months spiritually preparing the evangelists and the churches they will be visiting before the caravans start.

In early October, there were nine simultaneous caravans going on, with nine different pastors preaching throughout their conferences.

Steven Norman III, communication director for the Southern Union Conference, says Mayer has used caravan evangelism “to more





PHOTO BY: JORGE MAYER

Romel Perez (center), pastor, baptizes Eva and Roberto Diaz during a South Central Conference caravan.



PHOTO BY: JORGE MAYER

Alejandro Bullón, pastor, talks to the congregation prior to the baptism of a couple baptized by David Rilo, pastor, at the Sebring Spanish Church in the Florida Conference.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Jorge Mayer (center) greets a couple who made their decision for baptism during a meeting held by Roger Alvarez in Milan, Italy.

efficiently train hundreds of laymen to share the Good News of Jesus' love with their friends, as well as to do reaping meetings.

"When I have been with him on training caravans, I was deeply impressed to see so many people in each city learning how to lead their friends to Christ," says Norman. "When I photograph a reaping caravan, I often shoot through tears of joy at the sight of newly baptized men and women rejoicing in Christ."

In the battle to keep souls from the enemy, one might say Mayer is like a general who works to make sure his soldiers are as prepared as they can be to fight. It's no surprise his favorite passages of Scripture are found in Ephesians 6, and read in part: "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

One way of preparing pastors is through an evangelism-abroad concept, in which Mayer takes a team of ministers to another country to preach. The idea is that they will learn from other pastors, and vice versa.

"The concept is that they will learn how the other culture brings people to Christ, so that when they return to their pastoral districts, they can implement and be even more successful," says Mayer, who has taken pastors to Europe twice. In late October, he orchestrated nine pastoral reaping meetings in nine cities in Canada.

When it comes to drawing people to Christ, Mayer says anyone can be a soul-winner, and it doesn't require going to another country, but taking action close to home — in your own neighborhood.

He recalls a time in his ministry when he and his wife, Nibia, moved to a neighborhood in Atlanta. One day when they were walking in the neighborhood, they began to offer a general prayer for the people living on each street. At first, Mayer says, there weren't any Hispanic families in the neighborhood. But, over a period of time, several moved to the



PHOTO BY: JORGE MAYER

Wilfredo Villamizar, pastor at the Crossville, Alabama, Church in the South Central Conference, goes through the baptismal vows with the candidates.



PHOTO BY: JORGE MAYER

Caravan attendance at the Albertville, Alabama, Church in the South Central Conference.





PHOTO BY: JORGE MAYER

Alejandro Bullón, pastor, speaks at the Poinciana Spanish Church in Poinciana, Florida, during a caravan.

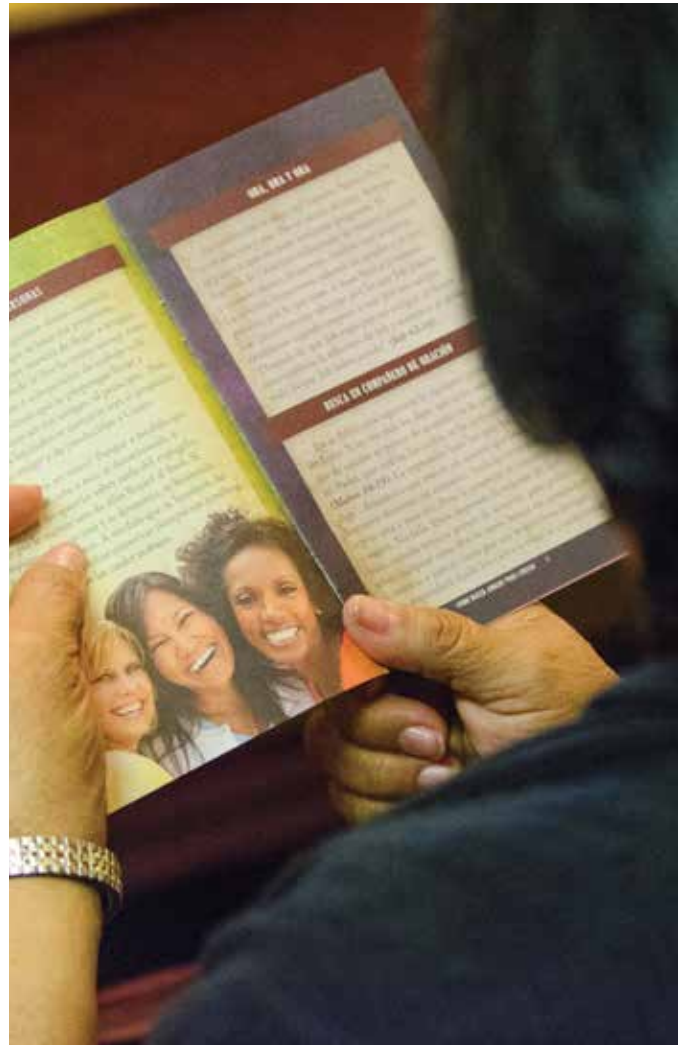


PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Thousands of members have learned how to lead their friends and relatives to Christ by using a simple training brochure "How to Make Friends and Bring them to Christ," which teaches them step by step.

area. Prayerfully, Mayer says he and his wife decided to visit those families, and two happened to be home the day they knocked on the door.

"We introduced ourselves, and said, 'this is a small gift from your neighbor,'" which was a Christian living book the couple wrote, says Mayer. The book is called *El hogar que yo soñé* (*The Home I Dreamed About*).

The couple developed a close friendship with one of the families. One day, the Mayers invited them to their home for lunch.

"After my prayer (to bless the food),

their eyes indicated they were touched," recalls Mayer.

The Mayers and the family began having small prayer group sessions in their homes. And, the Holy Spirit took over.

"The woman was baptized, her husband was baptized, and their two children were," says Mayer, "just for connecting, just for praying."

Mayer, 66, says he plans to spend more time with his family, particularly his 7½ grandchildren, when he retires. But, even though he will not be in an administrative position, Mayer says he will continue to proclaim his favorite verses

in Ephesians 6.

"In order for me to pass the challenges I will have and be successful at the end, when Jesus comes, I need to wear the armor of God — all the pieces — so Jesus can live in me ... and I can bring somebody to Christ."❶

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

# MALCOLM D. GORDON

*Former President of the Southern Union Passes*



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Malcolm and Hazel Gordon served the Southern Union territory for 13 years, from 1990 until 2003.

Malcolm D. Gordon, 85, born on May 10, 1934, passed to his rest on May 12, 2019, in Paramus, New Jersey. He knew early in his life that he wanted to be a minister, and the fulfillment of this desire encompassed 47 years of service working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After graduating from Cedar Lake

Academy, Malcolm attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He wisely sought someone to be a helpmate for him, and Malcolm and Hazel were married in June of 1954. Following his undergraduate degree, Malcolm also received a master's degree in theology in 1958.

While still in graduate school, he

became a ministerial assistant for the Michigan Conference, and later pastored a church in the Upper Peninsula. He also pastored churches in North Dakota before taking on departmental responsibilities, including conference evangelist, education director, and youth director. Accepting a call to Southern New England Conference, Gordon served as di-



rector of youth, ministerial, temperance, and religious liberty. He then served three years in the Carolina Conference as executive secretary and ministerial secretary.

Whether at home or in his work, Gordon lived by the motto, “What would Jesus do?” He adopted this maxim as an expression of his guiding principle, that propelled him into leadership as Carolina Conference president; Florida Conference president; and, ultimately, Southern Union Conference president, to which he was elected during General Conference Session in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 1990.

Malcolm Gordon was “characterized as approachable, a motivator, team leader, and proponent of positive thinking,” said George Powell, former communication director for the Southern Union. With the blessing of God, the Southern Union grew under his tenure of 13 years to become the largest union in the North American Division, both in tithe and membership.

After 47 years of dedicated service to their Church, the Gordons retired and settled in Apopka, Florida, where they continued to be ambassadors for the Lord wherever they were needed. They moved to New Jersey in February of 2014, to be with daughter Merrilee (George) Miller, daughter Melodee Oster, and three grandchildren.

Even though they moved north, they continued to hold their membership in the Southern Union at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Florida.

Through the years, Hazel not only stood by Malcolm’s side, but she had a burning desire for the women of the Church, and worked tirelessly for women’s ministries. The Gordons had celebrated 63 years of marriage when Hazel passed on October 9, 2017. Malcolm followed 3 1/2 years later, on May 12, 2019, just two days after his 85th birthday.

Reflecting on his experience with the Gordons, Richard Center, former treasurer for the Southern Union, says, “I enjoyed being able to work with Elder Gordon during the years he was president of the Southern Union Conference.

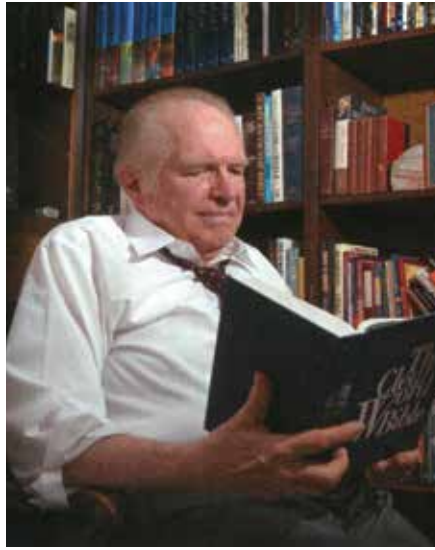


PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

He was a very kind and generous leader. He believed every phase of the Church’s outreach ministry was important, such as public evangelism, education, publishing, youth work, and health ministry.

“He was a modern-day Barnabas, one who provided encouragement and affirmation to both church members and workers.

“Elder Gordon and his wife, Hazel, made a remarkable team, with her important supporting role in women’s ministries. They both were a tremendous example of Christ-like love for their Church family.”

Another Church leader, Ralph Peay, remembers his four-decade relationship with Gordon.

“In the 1970s, Elder Gordon was the youth director in the Southern New England Conference; I was the senior youth director in the Northeastern Conference.

“Annually, all youth directors in the Atlantic Union Conference would go to Atlantic Union College to recruit student missionaries, and also staff counselors for our summer camps.

“After the chapel program and consultation with the prospects for student missionaries and camp staff, we would take time for dinner. Sometimes we would eat in the school dining room or go to a public restaurant.

“On one occasion, I remember very distinctly that Elder Gordon invited me

to his home for dinner. This was in the early 70s when the civil rights of all citizens were not fully appreciated and recognized by ‘all citizens.’ He and Hazel were excellent host and hostess as we enjoyed the ‘edible arrangements.’ I then wondered why he invited me to his home for dinner. I would later learn that his view of all humanity was consistent with the biblical view of the Creator of all humanity.

“A second defining moment that rose to prominence would transpire in the Southern Union. From 1988 to 1997, I served as president of South Atlantic Conference. Elder Gordon was president of the Florida Conference. In the 1980s and 1990s, the regional conferences in the Southern Union were baptizing large numbers annually. The South Atlantic Conference was averaging 1,000 or more accessions each year.

“It was the expressed thinking of some Caucasians administrators that African-Americans were easier to evangelize than others. I remember challenging that concept. It was my honest, sincere belief that the God who blessed in South Atlantic evangelism was available and accessible to the other conferences. The regional workers did not have a monopoly on the Holy Ghost.

“Elder Gordon quietly accepted the challenge, and the Florida Conference soon thereafter began baptizing more than the South Atlantic Conference. His belief in the availability and accessibility of the Divine was rewarded. A quick review of the statistics in the Southern Union in the late 1980s and the early 1990s will show this to be a fact. Elder Gordon’s leadership was subsequently recognized in this regard when he was elected president of the Southern Union.”

Malcolm Gordon had a great burden for his constituents. Many years ago, he penned the following words that are still relevant today: “When all of God’s people will be welcomed home by our Savior and the unnumbered multitude of angels, let’s determine, by the grace of God, that we will be a part of that welcoming ceremony!” ●

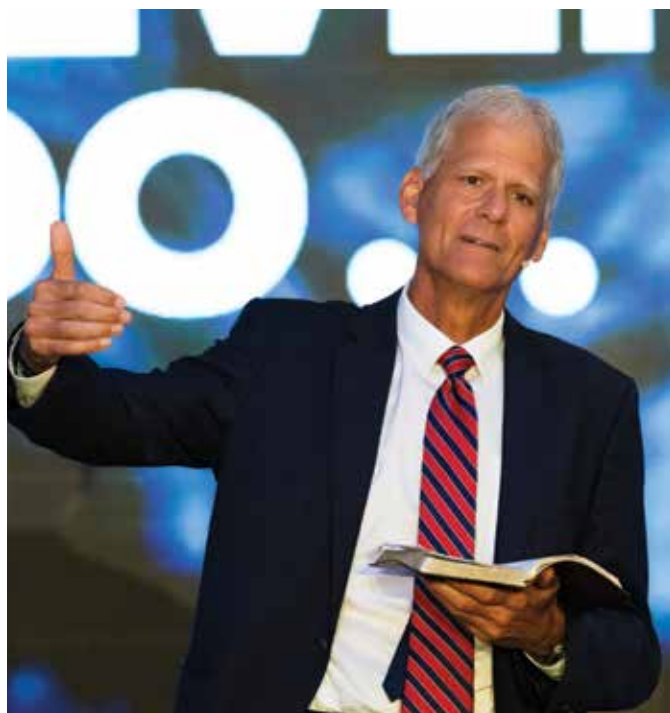
*AdventHealth Leaders, Church Officials  
Explore Faith-Based Health Care and its  
Impact on Communities at*  
**2019 CONFERENCE  
ON MISSION**

BY INGRID HERNÁNDEZ



Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, addresses attendees at the organization's 2019 Conference on Mission in Maitland, Florida.





Conference on Mission concluded with a Sabbath morning worship service and a sermon by Jimm Bunch, president/CEO for AdventHealth Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Lars Houmann, AdventHealth chief corporate relations officer, interviewed Alric Simmonds, M.D., chief medical officer for AdventHealth in east Orlando, Florida, about AdventHealth Global Mission Impact's relief efforts in the Bahamas.

At the 2019 Conference on Mission, more than 300 attendees from across the country gathered for the 29th annual Conference. Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders, community thought leaders, AdventHealth Board members, and executives and team members came together in Maitland, Florida. The three-day event centered on AdventHealth's mission of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ." This year, attendees were challenged to turn their attention forward and outward as they explored what makes faith-based health care relevant and distinct in their communities.

The new focus related to the Conference's 2019 theme, "Whatsoever You Do..." which is based on Christ's words in Matthew 25:35, 36 and 40, where He calls on His followers to show concern for the weak and the vulnerable — the "least of these."

"We had a different kind of mission Conference this year," said Ted Ham-

ilton, M.D., senior vice president and chief mission integration officer for AdventHealth. "We gathered not just to talk about mission, but to demonstrate it and to wrestle with the kinds of questions we may not necessarily have answers to."

Throughout the three days, guest speakers, panelists, and participants discussed the role that faith-based health care plays in society now and in the future. The keynote speaker, David Brooks, a well-known commentator and author of *The Second Mountain: The Quest for Moral Life*, contrasted the ideas of personal success and meaning, and highlighted moral character as the key to mission-driven leadership.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., AdventHealth Board chair and president of the Southern Union Conference, presented a devotion on modeling Jesus' ministry, which kickstarted a morning of back-to-back panel discussions. During the "Who Is Our Neighbor? What Do We Owe Our Neighbor" session, one of

the panelists, Zina Jacque, pastor of the Community Church in Barrington, Illinois, posed the idea of a "poof" test — a test that essentially asks whether anyone would notice if one day we were gone. The sobering thought was accompanied by conversations around what it means to "extend" Christ's healing ministry, and how it's not simply about expanding into new markets, but about crossing into new frontiers and doing what the organization has been missionally called to do.

In his response to the panel discussions, Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, shared four key takeaways with attendees:

1. We are the face of the Church in our community.
2. We must think about who we need as partners to address the unmet needs of our community.
3. We have to stand in the breach and be present when there appears to be no solutions.



During the Friday evening Vespers service, Randy Haffner (center), president/CEO for AdventHealth's multi-state division, and others showed examples of how mission can impact an individual, a team, a community, and the world.



David Banks (left), chief strategy officer; Tim Cook, AdventHealth Altamonte, Springs, Florida, CEO; and Jillyan McKinney, Littleton, Colorado, Adventist Hospital CEO, participate in the panel discussion "Implications for AdventHealth."

4. Something being too hard is not an excuse for not getting it done.

The 2019 Conference on Mission concluded with a Sabbath morning worship service featuring a mission spotlight on AdventHealth's Global Mission Impact program and its current Bahamas relief efforts, as well as a powerful sermon by

Jimm Bunch, president/CEO for AdventHealth in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

"I've been a part of AdventHealth for 30 years, and the entire time our mission statement has been 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ,'" Bunch said during his sermon. "It's an inspired, God-given mission statement. And, up until the last two days, I've paid the most

attention to the words 'Healing Ministry of Christ.' This Conference made me think of the first word, 'Extending.'" 📌

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**Ingrid Hernández** is AdventHealth's senior communications specialist for corporate communications.



# ROSCOE J. HOWARD III, D.MIN.

## *AdventHealth Vice President of Missions Passes*

Roscoe Joseph Howard III, D.Min., 64, born September 9, 1954, died January 21, 2019 in Apopka, Florida. He was full of faith and trust in Jesus. When Jesus gave Ethel Howard and Roscoe J. Howard Jr. the beautiful gift of a son, they called him Roscoe and counted themselves blessed to have him. He was a mix of mischief and pure joy from the start, with a special spirit of humor, love, and unflagging energy as well. God had big plans for his life from the very beginning.

Roscoe spent his early years on the wide-open prairies of Casper, Wyoming, where he was the youngest of four siblings and the only boy among three older sisters. There he learned about the love of Jesus and that Scripture is a spiritual staple. In Sabbath School he learned about the stories of Moses, David, and Daniel, and hid them in his young heart where God could water the spiritual seeds that would later bloom into unshakable faith and trust in Him. Roscoe moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at 6 years of age after his parents' divorce. It was during this time in his life, living in poverty, want, and need, that he would forge his sterling character and an unbreakable bond with his sisters. His faithful mother, Ethel, also spent many sleepless nights praying for God to save her son, raise him, and help him to be a blessing to the world. How God would come to answer those prayers later on!

When Ethel died in 1969, Roscoe moved to San Diego, California. One night he turned on the TV to find Billy Graham speaking on screen and seemingly pointing straight at him, saying, "Young man, where will you be at the time of God's judgment?" Feeling the Holy Spirit touch him that night, Roscoe gave his life to Jesus all over again and never looked back.

Roscoe had begun his education at an elementary school in a humble community in Harrisburg. He then attended Auburn Academy in Washington, followed



by Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, and then went on to spend a short stint at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama, where he met his wife and the love of his life, Osceola Wimbish. He then earned a master of divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and a doctorate of ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Using education and experience, God shaped Howard's life in a unique way to help him become the talented, multifaceted leader God would later use in many instrumental and diverse ways.

He began his call to ministry as the pastor of a two-church district in Oak Harbor, Washington. The Lord next directed him to accept a call to Emerald City Church in Seattle, Washington.

Before long, the North Pacific Union Conference called him to serve as the youth director and vice president of regional affairs. As he spent time serving on various committees around the Division and speaking on issues in an articulate, in-

tellectual, and well-thought-out manner, it didn't take long for recognition of his gifts to spill out beyond the borders of the North Pacific Union. The Mid-America Union Conference called him to serve as the executive secretary of its territory. As he continued to grow and demonstrate his administrative prowess, the North American Division asked him to serve as their executive secretary. After he had served in this capacity for several years, the Mid-America Union Executive Committee asked Howard to return and serve as union president, and he said, "Yes."

Howard served as president of the Mid-America Union Conference for a relatively short period of time before Adventist Health System (now AdventHealth), Altamonte Springs, Florida, asked him to serve as vice president of missions. He accepted their call in December 2010, and served with distinction, dignity, and creativity until he was struck with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), a progressive nervous system disease that weakens muscles and impacts physical function. Roscoe Howard took on the disease the same way he did every assignment he ever had — with courage, faithfulness, and an unshakable trust in God.

Throughout Howard's ministry and various assignments, he never lost sight of what was most important — his family. He was always able to keep them his top priority no matter what he was working on, and together they were able to stay a tight-knit unit throughout his ministry and life.

He fought a good fight, and he triumphantly finished his course. His family also promised to meet him around the tree of life. He is survived by his loving, devoted wife, Osceola; his daughter and "loving angel," Heather; his "faithful son," Seth; his three sisters, Twila, Taya, and Aryonna; and his father, Roscoe J. Howard Jr.; as well as a sweet host of nephews, nieces, family, and friends who will also miss him fiercely. 🕊

# WHY, FATHER?

BY MAVIS LAWRENCE

Why do you want me to do this, Father,” I asked Him. “I am a good person. Why do you want me to pray and share Your Word with these bad people?” Over the next few days, I prayed nonstop.

Heading into the prison for the first time, I was terrified, and honestly I cannot remember the first Bible study I conducted. What I do remember is coming home and falling to my knees to have a serious talk with the Lord. The Lord directed me to Romans 3:23 NKJV, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” thus reminding me that I am not better than any of His children.

“Her light  
was shining!”

*Frank Barton, Florida Conference chaplain  
and director of prison ministries*

I became interested in prison ministries 22 years ago when Frank Barton, Florida Conference chaplain and director of prison ministries, and his wife, Maxine, who is the assistant director, came to Tallahassee to speak and hold a prison ministries training session. I was extremely interested and began to inquire about what the requirements were for me to take part in the ministry.

As I began the orientation, I felt afraid and nervous, but I decided to push through. I reached out to Frank to discuss my apprehension, and he assured me that as long as I allowed the Lord to lead me, I would enjoy doing His work. During my journey, Frank has always taken the time to call and encourage me to continue God’s work, and to follow the plan He has for my life.

God has blessed me over the last 22 years by allowing me to show His love to



Mavis Lawrence is chosen Volunteer of 2019 by the Federal Correctional Institution of Tallahassee, Florida, for her prison ministries work.

the inmates, workers, and the chaplain of the prison. It was, however, a surprise to find myself honored at a celebration for all the volunteers. I was sitting there enjoying the program and listening to them talk about one of the volunteers, and highlight all the many things she had accomplished. Suddenly, they called my name and announced that I had been

chosen as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, and presented me with a plaque. I cannot say anything but, “Praise be to God.”

In closing, I would like to say may God continue to bless my assistant, Errol Samuel, my son, and my church family for their constant support. ❶



# IMAGINE U

BY GAIL MCKENZIE



PHOTO BY: KAREN HAMBERGER

Necessary eye exams were provided.



PHOTO BY: KAREN HAMBERGER

Needed dental procedures were performed.

Just imagine if you were homeless or among the 130 million who lacked any kind of dental care in the United States. Though we live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, many people struggle to pay for adequate dental and vision care. When Renee' Van Cleve approached Gail McKenzie about women's ministries sponsoring a clinic for those who needed dental and vision care, a seed was planted for a one-day event, *Imagine U*.

Excitement grew as God began to open doors. A partnership was contracted with AMEN, a group from California that would supply much of the equipment and registration for the event. Though there were challenges along the way, on July 21, 2019, *Imagine U* became a reality, with more than 100 volunteers coming from all over the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

*Imagine U* was able to serve 93 patients who received dental care; vision screening and free eye glasses; carotid, physical



PHOTO BY: KAREN HAMBERGER

Forty-five individuals were given haircuts.

therapy, and cholesterol screening; and medical counseling. Included in the day were a free meal and a reversing diabetes class presented by Stephen and Karen Wickham. A husband and wife team of hairstylists provided 45 individuals with free haircuts, and Gold Leaf Outreach

distributed free literature as patients waited.

Six pastors prayed, translated, and shared promises for encouragement. God was certainly at work in many ways. Alex Sozinov, pastor, originally from the Ukraine, was called on to translate for a 16-year-old Ukrainian boy who had been in the U.S. only six weeks, and spoke very little English. The family he was with are hoping to adopt him. Because of this encounter, Sozinov was able to invite them to the Franklin, Tennessee, Church, and they agreed to visit the following Sabbath. Both volunteers and guests asked when there would be another *Imagine U*. Many are looking forward to 2020. One volunteer commented as she was leaving after the long day of serving, "I wish I could do this every Sunday." Just imagine if she could! ●

**GAIL MCKENZIE** is the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference women's ministries director.

# SOUTHERN DEAF FELLOWSHIP

## *Camp Meeting Highlights*

BY JEFF JORDAN



The Southern Deaf Fellowship (SDF) Camp Meeting took a different approach this year and went with the theme “Is There a Doctor in the House?” The featured presenter, Schubert Palmer, M.D., an interventional cardiologist, is affiliated with Adventist Health White

Memorial in Los Angeles, California.

A total of 91 individuals attended the SDF Camp Meeting to hear the health messages on August 7-11, 2019, at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia. Included in that number were Palmer’s sisters, Jaycee Robinson

from Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Glenda Palmer-Reese, from Orlando, Florida, who is deaf.

A team of six health experts presented important health topics along with Palmer, and his wife, Yolanda, lifestyle educator; Ralph Peterson, M.D., Dr.P.H., and





Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting attendees met August 7-11, 2019, at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia.



Graham McGrath (left) from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Hayden Grundy from Ooltewah, Tennessee, were baptized during the Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting. Jeffrey Jordan (center) is the pastor of the Southern Deaf Fellowship Church in McDonald, Tennessee.



Ron Porterfield (second from left) and his wife, Magna Porterfield, Ph.D., of Tennessee; Ralph Peterson, M.D., DrPH., and his wife, Joy Peterson, DrPH., of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama; and Schubert Palmer, M.D., and his wife, Yolanda Palmer, lifestyle educator, were presenters during the SDF Camp Meeting.

his wife, Joy Peterson, Dr.P.H., of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama; and Ron Porterfield, and his wife, Magna Porterfield, Ph.D., of Tennessee.

Sabbath afternoon found the Camp Meeting attendees on the shore of the lake to witness a baptismal ceremony. Graham McGrath and Hayden Grundy gave their lives to Jesus. McGrath of Chattanooga, Tennessee, attended the SDF “What If?” evangelistic series. He was convicted of the new truth, and took individual Bible studies with Jeff Jordan, pastor of the Southern Deaf Fellowship Church in McDonald, Tennessee. Grundy, from Ooltewah, Tennessee, son of Marc

and Meagan Grundy, grew up in the Church, attended the “What If?” series, took a baptismal study lesson, and made a decision for Jesus.

In addition to the adult meetings, there were about 20 children and teens who attended. Led by SDF church members Anissa Michalek and Jaycee Robinson, the children’s programs had decorations that fit with the theme.

The SDF Camp Meeting would not happen without the American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting team with Melissa Jordan of the Southern Deaf Fellowship Church in McDonald; Mario Lett from the Augusta, Georgia, First Church;

and Harold Molina from Marietta, Georgia. If you would like to watch SDF Camp Meeting videos, they are online at <https://www.deafchurchonline.org/index.php/component/allvideoshare/category/latest/deaf-camp-2019>.

The annual Camp Meeting is very important because it is the only time the deaf from near and far can get together for spiritual food, fellowship, and fun activities. The dates for next year’s SDF Camp Meeting are August 5-9, 2020. 📌

**Jeff Jordan** is the pastor of the Southern Deaf Fellowship Church in McDonald, Tennessee.

# Corinth Member Uses Gymnastics to INSPIRE OTHERS

BY ANGELA BAERG



PHOTO BY: SCOTT SPICER

Gym-Masters work at the job site in Ladyville, Belize.



PHOTO BY: SCOTT SPICER

A student talks to Northrop right after a gymnastics show.

Gymnastics has cartwheeled through Annika Northrop's life for as long as she can remember. She started lessons at age 3 and began competing individually at age 6. At Highland Academy, gymnastics became a team sport for her, and at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, it also became a ministry. Northrop got her first taste of witnessing on a ShareHim trip to Kenya at age 13, where she timidly preached a sermon to more than 300 strangers. She loved it and wanted more.

When Northrop found out that she could combine witnessing with gymnastics in the Gym-Masters program at Southern, she was ecstatic. First, the team builds its members up through daily worships, which helps them stay focused on what is really important and feel like a big family. Second, they try to live out each year's theme through their own lives. This year's Gym-Masters' theme is "Grow." With every performance and with every younger team that they mentor, they encourage others to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," 2 Peter 3:18.

Northrop's favorite part of Gym-Masters is that the team takes mission trips together during Spring Break. She has been on three missions with the team, one to Puerto Rico, one to the Dominican Republic, and one to Belize. Different destinations involve different activities, ranging from gymnastics shows to church services and construction work. Belize was Northrop's favorite trip. The theme that year was "Dig Deep — Lay the Foundation," so it was





PHOTO BY: SCOTT SPICER

Annika Northrop (top) is surrounded by Ladyville Primary School students during a gymnastics show.

very fitting that during their 10 days in Belize they helped lay the foundation for a new school.

“We spent the majority of the time scorched by the sun, our backs bent and shovels in our hands. We soon realized that we had been saying the words ‘Dig Deep’ all year long without actually understanding them,” remembers Northrop. “In the act of laying a foundation, we began to truly ponder what our theme meant — literally, and in our own lives. The words came to life for us.”

The students weren’t scheduled to go

back to the job site on the last day, but Northrop and some of her friends wanted to help all that they could, and returned. The foreman was surprised and delighted. They performed two gymnastics shows that week for the children. The team didn’t have thick pads for landing protection, so they had to keep the shows simple. Still, Northrop has never seen a crowd go so wild or be so grateful.

“I hope I can always use gymnastics to touch the lives of others, whether I am performing myself or teaching,” says Northrop, now a senior English and ac-

counting double major. “Gymnastics has been such a big part of my life for so long that I honestly cannot picture my life without it. It has been a tremendous blessing to be able to use the talents that God gave me to bring inspiration, encouragement, and joy to others.”

**Angela Baerg** is a freelance writer working with Southern Adventist University.

# Tennessee Church Events Promote UNITY, HOPE, AMID NATIONAL DIVISIVENESS AND VIOLENCE

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Faith leaders from various churches and denominations in Tennessee's two largest cities came together to promote unity and instill hope.

Both events, which were a week apart in July, occurred amid escalating racial tension and violence across the nation.

"With where we are as a country, it is imperative that we come together as clergy, as different denominations," said Gregory Fontus, a member of Riverside Church's pastoral staff, and one of the main organizers of the *Interfaith Day of Prayer* his church hosted in Nashville, Tennessee.

Along with Seventh-day Adventists, other participating denominations were Baptist, Church of God in Christ, Lutheran, and United Methodists. After the worship service, there were prayer seminars, a churchwide fellowship meal, and outreach activities in the community.

Dawn Bennett, past vicar, Memorial Lutheran Church, said the Day of Prayer was spiritually enriching, and needed to perpetuate a mindset of unity.

"It was wonderful to be invited as a white woman to provide and offer prayer," said Bennet, referencing the predominantly black Riverside congregation. "I think it sends a public message that as believers in Christ, that we can come together as one body, and we can worship together, and we can find those mutual offerings of the Good News through the Gospel."

Fontus agreed. "It wasn't about us or them; we were all together celebrating Christ," he said. "I think that was so powerful and impactful."



PHOTO BY: MICHAEL HUBBARD

"Interfaith Day of Prayer" participants at Riverside Church in Nashville, Tennessee

A week earlier, Longview Heights Church in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted a Preach Out. Several pastors, accompanied by their choirs, took turns preaching from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., for what turned out to be a day of high unified praise.

In addition to receiving inspiring messages, Preach Out organizers said the event was an opportunity for members of the community to meet faith leaders they can connect with when problems arise, whether they be personal or communal.

"There are going to be some problems," said Alex Horton, Longview Heights pastor. "But, where do you go when you want to talk (about them)? I hope our church can be one of those areas."

One of the Preach Out speakers was Edward Stephens Jr., bishop of Golden Gate Cathedral. He is a strong believer that "transformation can take place in the community."

At the MLK50 Conference in Memphis last year, Stephens talked about the powerful influence faith leaders can have

when they work together to create change.

"The only way change takes place is if we as leaders, and I'm talking about pastors particularly, get to know each other," said Stephens, adding the connections can help better identify problems and solutions, which "affect families in our communities."

Joe I. Grider, D.Min., pastor, ministerial director, and one of the Preach Out organizers, agreed. He is friends with Stephens and has preached at his church, and vice versa. Grider said there can never be too many programs that bring different churches/denominations together, and he extols messages of hope and unity.

"With what's going on locally and across the country, those messages are needed more than ever," he said. ❶

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



# CHOSEN TO SERVE

BY KIMBERLY MANN



PHOTO BY: ANTHONY CHORNES II

Color guard holds the national flag.



PHOTO BY: ANTHONY CHORNES II

South Central Pathfinder participants march with their banner.

If you looked across the open field on Tuesday morning, August 13, 2019, you would see an empty grassy field with white lines marking seating areas for the evening's opening night program. Behind the field were streets bustling with RVs, buses, church vans, and cars transporting thousands of Pathfinders from across the world to Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Large gateways were erected, and rows upon rows of tents popped up across miles of open field. I imagine the campsite must have been the closest resemblance to the children of Israel's camp. As the South Central Conference Pathfinders arrived, the site began to fill with the sound of excited youth and the smell of spaghetti dinners.

South Central Pathfinders joined 56,000 other youth from across the world in celebrating their love for God at the Chosen Camporee. A Pathfinder club from Kenya was hosted as well, and we had a wonderful time fellowshiping with them. The experience of enjoying the flavorful food vendors from all over the country, watching the youth run excitedly from hangar to hangar ac-

quiring honors, and even listening to the airplanes take off with Pathfinders as passengers, were just a few highlights during the week. However, for many Pathfinders the real highlight of the week was pin trading — a fun exchange of specialty pins from across the world. It takes focus and keen negotiation skills to acquire pins, and many Pathfinders would return to their camps at the end of the day with new pins to show off to their clubs. There were highly coveted pins that could spin, light up, play music, and celebrate various cultures and regions of the world. Large groups of Pathfinders from all conferences and cultures would gather together, sometimes even right in the middle of the road, to watch a pin trade in action. I even watched my son trade his first pin and say with joy, "This is amazing! I'd like to keep coming back." I could tell the theme of the weekend and a love for Pathfinders was being etched in his heart.

Even more significant was how this Camporee brought ministry full circle. Twenty years ago, I sat in a hangar in Oshkosh at the 1999 "Discover the Pow-

er" Camporee, when a tornado headed for the campgrounds split in two and went around our camp. I remembered thanking God for His protection, and asking Him about my purpose in life. I couldn't have known that God would bring me back to Oshkosh 20 years later as a youth director, leading other youth to Christ. I couldn't have known at 17 years old what God was up to, but I'm so glad He was up to something good. It was a sobering moment that reminded me that the promises of God are true: He knows the plans He has for all youth — to help, guide, and direct them along the right path. God often brings our lives full circle so that we are able to see the pivotal moments in our spiritual journey. While Oshkosh serves as an amazing time of fun and comradery, I am a witness that lives are changed, and decisions are made for a life committed to God. 📌

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**Kimberly Mann** is South Central Conference associate youth director.

# Monroe Church Celebrates 20 Years of Ministry



PHOTO BY: DEANETTE MILLS



PHOTO BY: DEANETTE MILLS

The first Sabbath the members met at the Mills family's home.

After 20 years in ministry, the members of the Monroe, N.C., Church can look back and recognize that God has led them from the beginning. He had a plan.

It all began in 1999, in a place far away from Monroe, N.C. The General Conference leaders developed a plan they called "Total Employment," intended to persuade young graduates from Adventist colleges to move to places where there were no Adventist churches. The General Conference approached the Carolina Conference president, Kenneth Coonley, and asked if he would like to try this plan in the Carolinas. He said, "Absolutely! Why not start in Monroe, the largest city in the Carolinas with no Adventist church?"

Graduating seniors at Southern Adventist University were asked if they would like to move to Monroe in Union County, and four young couples responded. Although they visited, they never took the call. But, the Lord was ready with another solution!

Several Adventist families were already living in Union County, and were very interested in this new church-planting plan. When the graduates turned down the offer to be "tentmakers," one of the local members, Becky Mills (Carpenter), told her friends from Nashville, Tenn., Scott and Mindi Guptill, about the opportunity, and they decided to join the church plant. The Guptills persuaded their friends from Orlan-

do, Fla., Mark and Mary Jane Thomas, to come, too. A Bible worker, Cheryl Martin, brought some student literature evangelists to work in Charlotte, N.C., and Monroe that summer. Coonley invited Martin to join the church plant as a Bible worker, and she soon began Bible studies with several people in the area. About the same time, the group found out that, a few years earlier, \$40,000 had been donated to the Carolina Conference for work in Monroe. That money was now available to help plant their church.

During the summer and fall, dozens of organizational meetings were held by the 28 members of the original core group to plan the mission of this new church, and the first Sabbath service for the Monroe Church was held September 18, 1999.

The Lord was in charge of the whole mission, and He brought together a friendly, evangelistically-minded, and hard-working group of people. There were challenges to overcome, purchases to be made, compromises to be had, and plenty of jobs to be filled. They had no pastor for the first 3 1/2 years, so the elders had to divide up the Sabbath speaking responsibilities. But, the Lord provided everything that was needed, and there was a wonderful spirit of unity in the group.

All worship services were to be evangelistic and visitor-friendly. To this day, a vegetarian buffet has been served every Sabbath as a way to get to know their

guests and make friends with them. They soon became involved in outreach activities, and the church has become known in the community for their participation.

Coonley organized the Monroe group as a company in February of 2000, and in September 2001, the company officially became a church in the Carolina Conference.

Articles about this unique new church were printed in the *Adventist Review*, the *Southern Tidings*, the *ASI* magazine, and others. Several times the Three Angels Broadcasting Network presented the story on their network, telling the amazing way God had led in planting this church.

After several years of praying, searching, and raising funds, the Lord led them to a church building for sale in a very good area of Union County. More than 80 church members moved into the new facility in August of 2004.

Today, they have a beautiful, multi-cultural church family of more than 120 members with continuous growth. They have nothing to fear for the future, except as they forget how the Lord has led them in the past. Great things are expected to come because the Lord is still leading. He has given this church a big challenge, to evangelize Union County, and to share the message of the Gospel and the soon coming of Jesus. ☛

BY TOM MILLS



# “Going God’s Direction” is the 2019 Men’s Ministries Retreat Theme

The theme of this year’s men’s ministries retreat was “Going God’s Direction.” In past years, both men’s ministries retreats (English and Hispanic) would be held the same weekend at Nosoca Pines Ranch, but this year the Hispanic retreat was canceled due to evangelistic meetings. Even with only one retreat happening, there was a good turnout.

James Reid, chaplain and Bible teacher at Pine Tree Academy, delivered five powerful messages. Reid did not hold back as he shared what was placed on his heart to share. Each of the men in attendance held fast to his words, not even getting up to go out to the restroom as sometimes happens at meetings like this.

Tony LaPorte, Carolina Conference



The men lay hands on Dan Stewart, as James Reid prays for God’s healing, and for the glorification of God.

men’s ministries director, and his team had special prayer times for the men to pair up in two or three, and pray for one another and for the churches that they represented. There was even one moment

when all the men gathered in a huddle to lay hands on and pray for one of their own, Dan Stewart, a member at the Little Creek Adventist Fellowship Church, who had just received an unfavorable diagnosis, and will be undergoing treatment.

Proverbs 27:17 has become synonymous with men’s ministries; however, with the support that the men showed Stewart, this paraphrased text was demonstrated: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man strengthens his brother.”

If you missed this year’s gathering, you will not want to miss next year’s retreat. Check the Carolina Conference calendar for more information. 📖

BY COURTNEY HEROD

# Spartanburg Members Dedicate \$60K Playground

The children on the educational campus of the Spartanburg, S.C., Church didn’t have a playground for the 2018-19 school year as they waited for a new one. A playground committee selected equipment with input from the Eddlemon Adventist School (EAS) teachers. Both the church and school contributed more than \$20,000 toward the project, with the balance coming from individual donors.

Several weeks prior to school starting at EAS, the goal of raising \$60,000 was met, so Mosteller Design and Construction of Columbia, S.C., began installing the new structures. Sunday after Sunday, dozens of volunteers also got to work to help spread mulch and wood chips, trim bushes, repair and paint sheds, and freshen up the landscaping to help make the rest of the playground more appealing.



PHOTO BY: CANDICE JOHNSON

The playground was ready August 13, 2019, so the school family had a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The children were excited to run on the artificial green turf, try the swing sets, and explore the tower with slides and bars for climbing. These new play structures serve children from 2 years through eighth grade from Eddlemon Child Development Center (ECDC) and EAS.

The Spartanburg Church family walked over on Sabbath at 1:30 p.m., September 14, 2019, for a special playground dedi-

cation after potluck. EAS board chairman Ernie Boughman III led out by asking some of the EAS board members; John Watson; Mike Hope, principal; Candice Johnson; and Ross Knight, associate pastor to pray that the playground would be a place of safety, exercise, joy, and faith. The members praise God for the wonderful new playground provided by a supportive church and school! 📖

BY CANDICE JOHNSON

# New Administrative Team Selected for Forest Lake Academy

This school year of 2019-2020 has brought innovative changes to the administrative structure of Forest Lake Academy (FLA), Apopka, Fla. After much study and foresight in providing cutting edge Christian education for the young people, the various oversight committees and boards chose to begin the process of combining FLA and Forest Lake Education Center (FLEC) to provide the best education possible.

“We have started the process of creating a unified campus that will facilitate a plan to broaden the impact on our students, families, and community,” relates Allan Machado, Florida Conference president. “It is our hope that this will highlight collaboration, improve outcomes, and refine a seamless educational flow for all students.”

Chris Juhl was chosen as the new head of school. In this position, he will lead out with strategic initiatives and efforts to bring the two school divisions together in a seamless fashion, providing excellent education for pre-K to 12th-grade students. Juhl comes to this position from being the principal of FLEC after 34 years of denominational educational employment on the elementary, secondary, and college levels.

The new FLA administrative team for this school year includes the following:

- **Glen Baker, principal**, comes

to FLA from the principalship of Maplewood Academy. His educational background of 30 years includes 25 years as an administrator. “I have a passion for young people,” says Baker, and “I am committed to providing them with challenging and engaging educational opportunities within a framework of a strong spiritual environment.”

- **Susan Becker, vice principal**, will oversee humanities classes. She has taught for the past 13 years at FLA. She is active in many groups, and has helped develop the U.S. Study Tour.

“I am looking forward to continuing the mission of helping students learn and develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus,” says Becker.

- **Jaymie Pottinger, vice principal**, oversees math, IT, and athletic classes, and also handles student discipline. He has more than 14 years of professional experience.

“Pray with us as we look forward to the future of being a channel to show God’s grace and advance the work of the Kingdom through education,” says Frank Runnels, Florida Conference vice president for education. ①



Chris Juhl, head of school



Glen Baker, FLA principal



Susan Becker, vice president for humanities



Jaymie Pottinger, vice president for math, IT, athletics, and student discipline



# Fort Lauderdale Medical Missionaries Minister in Belize

**T**wenty-six medical missionaries from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church health ministries departed Miami, Fla., for the remote rainforest of Teakettle, Belize, on July 14, 2019. The group included two doctors, three nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, teachers, construction workers, and other professionals.

“We provided medical services to approximately 300 people for four days,” said Suzette Marseille, health ministries director. Services rendered included health screenings, medical assessments, and treatments. While health activities were taking place, the men did construction work at the church. The entire group gave support to an evangelistic program at the local Adventist church every evening.

Approximately 200 children participated in a Vacation Bible School sponsored



**Wearing t-shirts inscribed with the words “Fort Lauderdale Church Reaching the Community Through Health,” 26 missionaries traveled to Belize to provide medical services in July.**

by the group. “We had a graduation for all attendees,” said Marseille, “and they received a certificate and a package including a book bag.”

The missionaries also visited King’s Orphanage and distributed packages to each child residing at the facility. The gifts were provided by the medical group and parish-

ioners of Fort Lauderdale Church.

“I want to thank nurse Suzette Marseille; Lola Walker-Griffiths, D.N.P.; and the 24 other medical missionaries for displaying love in action,” said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor. ❶

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

# Alger and Josephine Oster Celebrate 70 Years of Marriage

**A**lger and Josephine Oster, warmly known as Al and Jo, celebrated their 70th anniversary on June 12, 2019. Both were born in Colorado, and went to Campion Academy in Loveland, Colo., where they met and married one year after graduation.

After working on a family farm for two years, Al became assistant manager at the broom factory at Campion Academy, and Jo was secretary for two principals and the registrar. A denominational call came from Newbury Park Academy in California, to manage the broom factory there, which they accepted and moved to in 1956 with their three preschool children. Jo became the academy nurse for 400 boarding students, with mentoring from the local Adventist doctor. She also was the secretary for the broom factory.

Seven years later a denominational call came from Atlantic Union College



**Josephine and Alger Oster**

in South Lancaster, Mass., to manage the broom factory there. After only being there a couple of months, the factory burned to the ground. Al temporarily found a way to keep production up while designing and building a new factory, which also housed a bindery. Sales grew, and for several years they ran three shifts to give ample oppor-

tunity for students to work to pay for their school fees.

They served faithfully from 1963 to 1994, and owned the factory for 20 years. During this time, Jo worked for the Atlantic Union Conference in Lancaster as executive secretary for the education department and three presidents. In 1972 she teamed up with her husband to manage the factory office.

The Osters retired to The Villages in Florida in 1994. They attended Lady Lake Church, serving as elder, head deacon, plant manager, assistant treasurer, head greeter, and on the decorating committee.

They have three children, Larry (Darlene) Oster of Washington, Terry (Kelly) Oster from Texas, and Kae Borrero who lives with her parents and assists them; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. ❶

BY KAE BORRERO

# “Think: Lead” Middle School Leadership Event Offered

Tabor Nudd, Collegedale Academy’s chaplain, had an idea for something called “Think: Lead” Middle School Leadership Conference. The goal was to start middle schoolers off on a good path, thinking intentionally about leadership to benefit everyone around them. Hundreds of Adventist middle schoolers gathered Thursday, September 5, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Collegedale, Tenn., Church. The event was hosted by Collegedale Academy’s middle school staff and volunteers in collaboration with the Collegedale Church, other constituent churches, and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Youth pastors from the local area came together to truly make this an impactful event.

“Traditionally, middle schoolers don’t really think about leadership that often,” says Nudd. “They’re still growing up. They don’t exactly ask themselves how they can be a leader. In reality, though, there are small ways that they do lead, whether it be by influence or choices that they make. We thought that it would be a great idea to come up with an event that would be beneficial for them, and to get the wheels turning.”

Nudd attended the Conference-wide principals meeting to promote the idea, and there he encouraged the opportunity for schools across Tennessee and Georgia to be a part of the event. This was met with praise. Fifteen schools joined the event, including Carman Elementary in Marietta, Ga.; Knoxville Adventist School in Knoxville, Tenn.; and Learning Tree Elementary in Dalton, Ga. Students from Valdosta Christian Academy even drove five hours from south Georgia to attend.

In total, more than 400 students came with their schools. This kind of attendance blew Nudd away, and reassured everyone that this event was a success.



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Tabor Nudd, Collegedale Academy chaplain, talks with a panel of eighth grade leaders during the “Think: Lead” Middle School Leadership Conference at the Collegedale, Tenn., Church.

At the event, David Ferguson, senior pastor of the Collegedale Church, demonstrated how “our influence can be our leadership.” He asked one student to figure out a task that had to be accomplished with simply the applause or mummering of the audience. The student successfully completed the task with the influence of the audience.

“To see over 400 young people learn to lead for God was an amazing experience,” said Geoff Starr from the McDonald Road, Tenn., Church.

Nudd shared, “When I met with some of the local youth pastors like Kircio Mota (Collegedale), Nate Dubs (Collegedale Community), and Geoff Starr to talk about this event, they were very supportive. It was definitely a team effort.”

When eighth-graders from each school were talking with Nudd in a discussion panel right before lunch, he asked how

they could be leaders now, and how they could make a difference. Students responded with positive answers, including “good attitude on court during sports” and “helping other kids make the right choices.”

Near the end of the day, Mota challenged the students to write one sentence on what stood out for them about the event, and then those who wanted to could share. Their examples included “to be a good example,” and “have courage and let your actions be your example.”

It is the continued prayer of all those who planned the event to have these middle school students start thinking about being spiritual leaders throughout their lives. ☛

BY ELIZABETH SINIGAGLIO,  
COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY JUNIOR



# Members Find Purpose in Strengths Training

God tells us in Psalm 139 that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. To help individuals discover their God-given talents, Jo Dubs, women's and family life ministries director, offered a "Living Your Strengths" Leadership Training Conference, August 23-25, 2019, at Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Ga.

Before the weekend, each participant purchased the book *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-given Talents and Inspire Your Community* by Albert L. Winseman, Donald O. Clifton, and Curt Liesveld. Each book includes a code to the online Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment where participants learned their top five strengths as described in the book.

Misty Brennan, a member of the Collegedale Community Church in Tennessee, said she was prompted by her pastor to attend to develop their volunteers. "Get the book! Take the test! Look for training opportunities in your area," encouraged Brennan of the strengths training. "The time to spend on yourself, better under-



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

About 50 people attended the first "Living Your Strengths" Leadership Training Conference at Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Ga., in August.

standing your God-given capabilities, is so liberating and important!"

"The weekend provided a learning structure through "TED"-type talks, small group discussions, journaling, and large group activities. I was amazed at how well everyone grasped the learning, how they felt empowered in understanding themselves and others more clearly, and their desire to have further training," said Dubs.

"The results were so accurate, and described me very well," said Daniel Medina, member of the East Ridge, Tenn., Church, of this top five strengths. "It was wonderful

to focus on the areas where we shine."

Tennessee's Spring City church member Ginger Petersen was excited to learn her strengths. She said the training would benefit her relationship with her husband and a future career change. "It has helped me better understand what church offices I would be better at, and what offices I feel more like I have valid reason to say no to because I'm really not the best fit."

"Two of my strengths are context and communication. I think because of this it was fascinating for me to learn and better understand the strengths of my family and coworkers," says Paulette Greene, a member of the Calhoun, Ga., Church.

"I was surprised at the transparency and vulnerability that I experienced by all who attended this conference," shared Stephanía Guthrie, a member of the Alpharetta, Ga., Church. "It completely changed my perspective, and allowed me to view my strengths as just that, strengths and not weaknesses. This is who God designed me to be." ■

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

# Mittleiders Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Ken and Barbara Mittleider celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 4, 2019.

After graduation from Walla Walla College in 1949, Ken and Barbara joined the Idaho Conference, where they pastored and held evangelistic meetings; then the Washington Conference, as full-time evangelists; and later the North Pacific Union, where Ken served as the ministerial director, and Barbara served as a secretary.

During the next 11 years, Ken served as president of the Wisconsin Conference and then as president of the Potomac Con-



SUBMITTED BY: JULIE MITTELEIDER

ference. In 1979 they accepted the call to mission service, where Ken was president of the Trans-Africa Division. In 1983 Ken became a vice-president of the General Conference (GC), and Barbara served as the GC travel coordinator.

In 1996, they retired, settling in Calhoun, Ga., where they are firm supporters of area churches. The sunset years are upon the Mittleiders, but they continue to serve the Lord in whatever way He wants. ■

BY DOUG MITTELEIDER

# Fernando Leite Ordained to Ministry

**F**ernando Leite was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sabbath, August 24, 2019, at the Cody Road Church in Mobile, Ala., with the Gulf States Conference.

Leite was born the youngest of seven siblings in the country of Portugal to parents Manuel and Ema Leite. During his early college years, he studied accounting and administration, but in 2003 he became a literature evangelist, leading him to a call in ministry.

From 2004 to 2007, Leite studied theology at the Adventist College of Sagunto in Sagunto (Valencia), Spain. During his third year he met Renee Karol Morris, a student studying Spanish. They decided that he should relocate from Europe to North America, and then reside in Huntsville, Ala., for Leite to continue his theology studies at Oakwood University. Leite and Morris were married on April 7, 2008. The newlyweds relocated to Keene, Tex., where he completed his theology degree at Southwestern Adventist University.

Leite was hired as an associate pastor of the Valley Central Spanish Church in McAllen, Tex., with the Texas Conference. A couple of years later, their son, Gabriel,



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Ordination prayer is offered for Fernando Leite (front left), with his wife, Renee.

was born in 2013. Texas Conference sent him to Berrien Springs, Mich., to work on his master of divinity degree at Andrews University. After completing his degree, he continued with the Texas Conference, working as the senior pastor of the Beaumont, Tex., Church until December 2017.

Since 2017 Leite has been working as the senior pastor of the Cody Road Church. During his free time, he enjoys soccer, taking his family to the beach, and holidays; but, most of all, he loves seeking to do the will of his heavenly Father.

Marcus Roland, local elder for the Beau-

mont Church, presented the challenge in ministry. As a layperson, he reminded the attendees that all are chosen, and each has a role to play in ministering for God. Irmatean McConico offered several special music selections, and Dave Livermore, Gulf States president, presented the ordination charge and prayer. Cary Fry, Gulf States vice president for pastoral development, and Martin Fancher, Gulf States Conference executive secretary, also presided. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Area Churches Gather in Mobile for EndItNow Rally

**R**obert Soto, a member of the Cody Road Church in Mobile, Ala., worked with 11 area Adventist churches and other organizations to host an enditnow rally in Mobile's downtown Bienville Square on Sabbath, August 24, 2019.

Capitalizing on the global impact of the enditnow campaign, Soto networked with area pastors and local leaders in groups such as the Mobile County District Attorney's Office, Penelope House, and the City of Mobile Police Department.

Pooling their resources, Soto organized a day in the park for the community to come

and enjoy a free lunch, children activities, live music, and more. Attendees were informed of the prevalent dangers and current issues related to human trafficking and domestic violence. Organizers also offered resources to those who may currently be in abusive situations, and for those who may know someone in a dangerous circumstance. Simply knowing that there is help available can go a long way for those in need. Lawrence Battiste, Mobile police chief, also spoke to the crowd, and visitors were invited to draw pictures and write notes of encouragement to the guests of Penelope House, a local shelter



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Attendees gather for a group photo at the enditnow rally in Mobile, Ala.



for victims of domestic violence.

The day concluded with an afternoon march through several city blocks of downtown Mobile with a police escort. The path of the march took the group through a local beer festival where marchers distribut-

ed GLOW tracts. Those watching from the street quickly joined with those marching as they shouted, "End It, Now!"

Local news reporters were there to take statements from Soto and others about enditnow, and the church's involvement

in helping the community. You can see a short video of the event and find links to the news reports at [gscsda.org/gsc-today/enditnowmobile](http://gscsda.org/gsc-today/enditnowmobile). ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Church Revival Results in Baptism of Mayor



Christopher Atkinson (right), offers prayer before the baptismal service at the Eufaula, Ala., Church.



Barry Waters (left), mayor of Fort Gaines, Ga.; Christopher Atkinson, pastor; and Ralph Carlton prepare for baptism.

Small churches can be revived. There was a special joy and excitement in the Eufaula, Ala., Church on Sabbath, June 22, 2019. Christopher Atkinson, pastor, and Don Korenko, elder, went over the final details for the baptisms of Barry Rivers, mayor of Fort Gaines, Ga., and Ralph Carlton, Rivers' Bible study partner. This baptism was particularly meaningful because it signaled the continued revival that God has germinated in this small congregation and the surrounding district.

The revival began when Atkinson and his wife, Claudine Atkinson, Ph.D., accepted a Macedonian call with prayer and fasting to join the east Alabama district of Phenix City, Eufaula, and Uchee Pines. In answering this call, they determined to follow God's design and plan for the ministry in this area.

In each church, they found faithful, praying members who loved the Lord and their churches, but who struggled with intentional planning and execution of meaningful and sustainable community outreach and evangelism. With the support of the members, the Atkinsons were inspired to begin the process of renewal. They trust-

ed the Lord as He showed how to institute and produce an evangelistic culture and vision; this was stimulated by consistent fasting and prayer, city-felt needs ministries, and fellowship. In the throes of the transition, they trusted God for a blessing and approached every obstacle knowing that God was leading. They met regularly with members and leaders, and crafted their short- and long-term goals in keeping with the local vision and mission, and then implemented workable and sustainable strategies to accomplish their goals under the mantra "Organize, Mobilize, Evangelize."

The Lord has graciously multiplied their feeble efforts. During this relatively short time, they have witnessed a transformation through the Holy Spirit. The district has had more than 100 baptisms, and their smallest congregation bought a \$2.8 million dollar church building for a fraction of the cost, while simultaneously increasing tithes by more than 90 percent in the same year.

This purchase took place while expanding and renovating the Phenix City Church, doubling its attendance, and preparing for building a new church and community de-

velopment center for the Uchee Pines community and congregation.

Atkinson noted that "although the church's faith has been encouraged by these indicators, our greatest evidence of revival is apparent in the maintenance of a year-round culture of evangelism and community involvement. Our small churches are privileged to serve our communities through ministries to city leaders, citywide days of prayer, teachers' health appreciation weeks for all public schools in our city, annual back-to-school bashes, citywide health expos, food and clothing distribution centers, weekly radio ministry, needs-oriented small groups ministries, and mass literature distribution.

"It's from this that we are rejoicing in God for the baptisms of Mayor Barry Waters and Mr. Ralph Carlton. Our churches are still in the process of revival, but, no longer declining, they're discipling; no longer cold, but bold; and no longer stagnant, but persistent in the preaching of God's three angel messages of Revelation 14:6-12." ❶

BY CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON

# Lighthouse Company Burns Mortgage

The Lighthouse Company in Lafayette, Tenn., celebrated the completion of its sanctuary addition with a ceremonial mortgage burning on Sabbath, August 17, 2019.

The members started framing the building themselves, until illness prevented some from working. They then borrowed \$80,000 to complete the project, and paid off the loan in 2 1/2 years. A \$23,000 bequest from the estate of Ivan Peacock, one of the founding members, completed the loan payment.

Wanting to expand Adventist work into neighboring Macon County, Highland Church members started work there in 1998. Early supporters were Chuck and Patti



Aaron McNulty (right), Kentucky-Tennessee Conference vice president for finance, stands with Mitchell Barfield (left) and Greg Kneedler, Lighthouse members.

Woods, Don and Heather Philpott, Ivan and Martha Peacock, and Carolyn Howden.

The conference room in a local motel

served as the first meeting place. During October and November of 2001, David Hartman, pastor of the Highland Church, and Chuck Woods, lay pastor, held evangelistic meetings in Lafayette.

They purchased a 5.3-acre lot for a permanent structure three miles from the town square in January of 2003, and met for the first time in a building of their own on April 3, 2004.

Their latest addition includes a sanctuary, mother's room, and Sabbath School room.

Lighthouse Company currently has a membership of 32. ☛

BY ALBERT DITTES

# Lexington Junior Academy Students Publish Book, *The Way to Jesus*

The fifth- to eighth-grade students of Lexington Junior Academy (LJA 2018-2019 school year) are now published authors! They prepared a news release about their book, *The Way to Jesus*, for the Lexington, Ky., Church's eNewsletter:

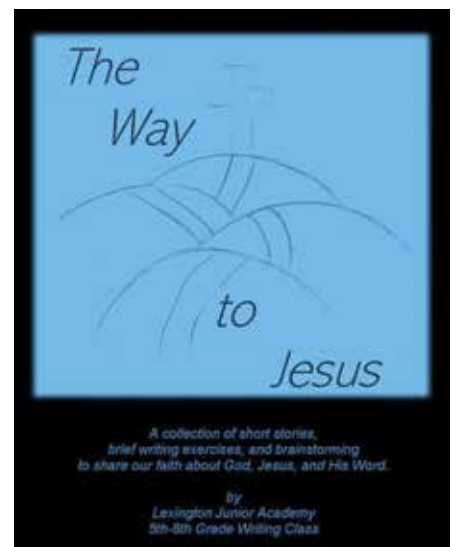
"The students in the upper grade class at Lexington Junior Academy have been learning how to write better. They have been writing stories about God, personal testimonies, and Bible heroes. The students then began writing a book. For this book, they wrote stories for each category of writing. The stories they wrote were about God helping people get through tough times. Some of the people written about were Bible heroes, God, and personal stories. The students of Lexington Junior Academy's 5th-8th grade writing



Lexington Junior Academy fifth- to eighth-grade writing class includes Lesley Martinez (left), Zahid Diaz, Samuel Dennis, Andres Vazquez, and Nora Stevens.

class know God will always be with each of us, and hope these stories help others to understand more about God." ☛

BY CINDY WILLEY



Book cover photo for *The Way to Jesus* book



# Gold Leaf Outreach Books Shared at Wilson County Fair



The Murfreesboro Church group includes Todd Van Cleve (left), GLO director; Diana Rippee; Brian Newmeyer; Robbyn Barber-Anderson; Irvin Barber, and Renee Van Cleve (not pictured).

Todd Van Cleve, Gold Leaf Outreach (GLO) director, and Rocky Davis, Kentucky-Tennessee publishing director, have been working diligently to build both infrastructure and branding for GLO. Every book distributed has a beautifully designed adhesive label inside with the GLO web address: <https://goldleafoutreach.org>. Interest cards collected with email addresses at events go into a database, along with the hundreds of interest cards collected at other GLO events. This year, hundreds of books on health, prophecy, and salvation were given out, including materials for teenagers and young children.

The Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church GLO team has been distributing books and literature at the Wilson County Fair (WCF) for five years. This year, 20 to 25 volunteers shared their talents in design and



Wilson County Fair booth

crafts in order to attract more people to their exhibit. This also made the exhibit a Best in Show. The exhibit received three additional awards: Participation Award; First Place Award; and a bronze plaque for Commercial Use of Best Theme. Last year, GLO also received a Best of Show ribbon, but the management and

judges at WCF were impressed this year when they saw all of the handmade crafts. "This epitomizes what the fair is all about..." they said. This is an exciting way for all churches to be involved with literature distribution. ①

BY ROCKY DAVIS

# Spiritual Education Goes Digital in Innovative Research Project

As AdventHealth University (AHU) aims to provide skilled, compassionate healthcare providers trained in whole-person care, the University continuously seeks ways to develop innovative methods to instill those qualities in its students. AHU created Caring Rounds, where students are assigned to shadow a chaplain at an AdventHealth hospital to strengthen students' understanding of the role faith plays in healing.

This direct contact has allowed students to engage on a personal level with patients, not just as professionals. The initiative has received positive feedback from students; however, with a limited number of available chaplains with busy schedules, not all of AHU's students have access to this valuable experience.

Currently, it's only a requirement in AHU's graduate programs and one undergraduate program, occupational therapy assistant (OTA). With continued demand for other programs to be included, Don Williams, Ph.D., at the time AHU's Office of Missions' director, began seeking ways to resolve the scheduling conflict.

Meanwhile, Dan Lim, Ph.D., vice president of educational technology and innovation, recently established AHU's Immersive Technologies Lab, where virtual reality (VR) and 360-degree video projects were being developed to supplement educational learning. With several projects underway, Lim was looking to collaborate with more departments to discover and research more ways his lab could implement VR/360 technology in the classroom.

Williams began working with Lim on an unorthodox approach to increasing student access to the benefits of chaplain rounding. Could students gain the same or nearly the same experience through virtual reality?

The project would require additional funding. Williams applied for the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) grant administered by the



**Don Williams, Ph.D., observes the filming of one of the VR chaplain simulation scenarios.**

Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). According to their website, "NetVUE is a nationwide network of colleges and universities formed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students."

The project was awarded \$60,000 to be dispensed over the course of three years, with Williams as the primary investigator and Lim as co-investigator. The project was designed and entered its production stage over the summer.

Three groups from undergraduate programs will participate in the study each year. One group will participate in the face-to-face chaplain shadowing the University is currently doing. A second group will only utilize the VR shadowing, while a third control group will participate in neither activity. All three groups will take a pre- and post-test, assessing their levels of empathy and caring before and after participating. The question the team wants to answer is, according to Williams, "Have we moved the needle on empathy?"

Other social experiments in empathy and compassion have been developed as virtual reality technology has grown in popularity. Activist news organization Ryot released 360-degree videos recreating real-life conflict zones and disaster areas, including Nepal and Syria.

The aim with these projects is to remove the distance, both literal and figurative,

viewers perceive between themselves and real-world events they're seeing as images on a screen or in a book. The theory is that by consuming their field of view with the virtually replicated scenario, the emotional connection is stronger, increasing the relatability between the viewer and the people and places being shown.

Can this modality have a measurable impact on a person's capacity for caring? This is the hypothesis Williams and Lim aim to test with their immersive VR empathy modeling project.

The first year, five scenarios will be shown to the VR research group. In each scenario, a hospital chaplain will play their role while an actor will play the part of the person receiving the chaplain's care. The VR user will play the role of silent observer. The scenarios will be staged and produced in collaboration with AHU's Simulation Center, providing the space and simulation equipment.

The second year of the project, the team will develop three new scenarios. In these scenarios, the VR user instead will be observing from the perspective of the hospital chaplain. In the third year, three new scenarios will be developed, and in these the VR user will now take the role of the patient. They will be seeing the chaplain and hearing their words, experiencing the receiving of care.

According to Lim, the first phase of production has been completed. The next step is to initiate the roll out of the initial five VR scenarios to the first cohort of students. The team hopes to start later this year.

The importance of faith in healing is interwoven with AHU's training of whole-person care. The emerging VR technology could revolutionize the way students are immersed in empathy training. As the institution grows, AHU will continue to make its mark in transformative education by innovating new methods of delivery. ■

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



# Escape Room Shares Spiritual Lessons at Oshkosh



Southern's museum-themed escape room at the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc., was the brainchild of master's student Eric Barber, who was assisted by his wife, Amber, and a team of volunteers.

Approximately 2,000 Pathfinders participated in Southern Adventist University's one-of-a-kind escape room during the 2019 Oshkosh International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc. The puzzle-based activity was the brainchild of Eric Barber, who is completing a master's degree with an emphasis in outdoor education at Southern. Barber enlisted Jake Strauss, '19, a fine arts major at the time, to design the escape room.

Matching the camporee's theme of David and Goliath, the room was set up as an archaeology museum. The objective was to find and return the five stones David picked to fight Goliath before the 15-minute timer ran out.

For one clue, Strauss placed the words of Psalm 95:6 on a table. It read "Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker," with the word "kneel" printed in big, bold letters.

"We watched a lot of people," Barber said. "They'd see 'kneel,' and every once in a while somebody would get it. They would actually kneel, and under the table they would see a clue to help them complete the puzzle."

"The puzzles were a perfect level for Pathfinder-aged kids," said Robert Ordoñez, associate professor in the School of Computing, who went through the escape room with his son. "They were challenging enough to be interesting but not overwhelming."

After each group finished, volunteers debriefed the participants, connecting the puzzles with spiritual lessons.

"We would ask, 'What should we do when we're facing challenges like the puzzles in the escape room?'" Barber said. "The Pathfinders would answer, 'We should kneel and pray!'"

"It was neat to see the theme throughout," Ordoñez said. "It was really nicely tied together, and overall, it was very well-designed." ●

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

# New Art Study Tour Explores Europe



Professor Giselle Hasel (center) shared the history behind many famous works of art as the students explored museums during the study tour.

Study tours bring academic topics to life as students gain new perspectives and skills. This summer, 11 students from Southern's School of Visual Art and Design spent more than five weeks touring Italy, Germany, and Austria while earning academic credit.

"The purpose of the trip was to expose the students to the cultural context and birthplace of so much of the art we study about in textbooks," said Giselle Hasel, associate professor of visual art and design. "For learning art history, trips like this make it tangible and unforgettable."

The students spent part of the time in

a classroom setting with local students at Bogenhofen Seminary in Austria, and the remainder touring the surrounding countries, visiting museums, and practicing their art techniques in the field.

"As we observed the art around us, especially that of the Venice Biennale — the most famous art exhibition in the world — we were continually made aware of the ideas and beliefs that the artists held," said Darcie Denton, junior fine arts major. "I learned to notice the details, even more than I already naturally do as an artist. Art is a powerful way of expressing beliefs, and as Christian artists we have the responsibility

of harnessing that power for good."

The tour culminated with a final exhibition displaying the work of both Southern's and Bogenhofen's students. Hasel hopes to plan more tours like this in the future.

"It was truly the trip of a lifetime," Denton said. "The lessons I learned, the beauty I saw, the friends I gained, and the ways I felt God on this trip, I wouldn't trade for the world." ●

BY TRISNEY BOCALA



# Journalism Instructor Receives Prestigious Peabody Award

This summer, an alum and adjunct instructor in Southern Adventist University's School of Journalism and Communication was awarded one of the most coveted honors in broadcast journalism: a Peabody. David Barasoain, '89, won the award for the podcast "Buried Truths," which he produces with a team that includes Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hank Klibanoff as the host. The podcast also received a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award for radio.

Launched last year, the first season of "Buried Truths" tells the story of Isaiah Nixon, an African American man killed in 1948 for exercising his right to vote.

"If you really boil it down, there is this man who was killed in front of his family, and nobody knew it, and nobody cared to know about it," Barasoain said. "This isn't just busywork for us. We're doing all of this for a reason. The Peabody mantra is 'stories that matter'; they chose to award us because it was an important story."

Barasoain began his career in radio as a student working at Southern's radio station, Classical 90.5 WSMC. After 10



PHOTO BY: GETTY IMAGES FOR PEABODY AWARDS

David Barasoain (right) received a Peabody for his work on the podcast "Buried Truth."

years at Adventist World Radio, Barasoain began working for WABE in Atlanta, where he is the director of radio production. He has taught as an adjunct

instructor at Southern since 2005. ❶

BY EMMA WINEGARDNER

# Three Students Baptized After Taking Summer Class

Sometimes one class can change the direction of a student's life; this summer, three Southern students made the decision for baptism as a result of taking a religion course. Taught by David Hartman, D.Min., associate professor of religion, the four-week Christian Beliefs course covered various aspects of the Adventist-Christian faith such as the narrative of Creation, the fall, and God's ultimate plan to restore all things. The class also provided understanding of the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as found in Scripture.

"In every doctrine, we looked at what it reveals about the character of God and how it addresses a human need and longing," Hartman said. "So, the biblical truths hit not just the head but also the heart. In all this, I want students to see God in a fresh new light and fall in love with Him."

With this goal, Hartman was particularly thrilled to have the privilege of baptizing three of his students at the conclusion of the summer term. Approximately 60 friends, classmates, faculty, and family members came together on Sabbath, August 24, 2019, to witness and support the

students' baptisms at nearby Harrison Bay State Park.

"After a prayer over all three, we exited the lake to cheers, tears, and hugs. I can't help but believe that all Heaven was celebrating as well," Hartman said. "This whole event reminded us that the true purpose of Adventist Christian education is for each student to be brought into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ." ❶

BY RACHEL BEAVER



**BAERG, FREBERIN (BERNIE) PARKER**, 83, born Oct. 31, 1935 in Salt Lake City, UT, died May 9, 2019 in Chattanooga, TN. He was the son of Henry and Evamae Baerg. He was just 17 months younger than his brother, Lynn. As a child, Bernie lived in Hawaii and California, where his father was treasurer. When Bernie was 12, his family moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his father served as treasurer of the South American Division. There, Bernie became fluent in Spanish, which served him well as he eventually became pastor of two bilingual churches in California. At the age of 15, Bernie returned to La Sierra to complete his education, and eventually served two years as assistant chaplain in the Army. At that time, he also met Betty Jo Gaitens, whom he married in June 1958 at the Glendale Church.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from La Sierra, he went on to obtain a Master of Arts degree in education from the Seminary. Bernie's 43 years of service to the Church began as a teacher at Sierra View Academy. From there, he became a pastor in Curacao and Aruba, Netherland Antilles.

In 2018, he was able to revisit the church where he had been pastor 50 years prior. Four members whom he baptized as teenagers were delighted to meet with him again. He moved on to Columbia, where he taught Bible at Columbia Adventist University and was also church pastor, eventually serving as president of the East Venezuelan Mission and later president of the Central Dominican Conference.

During this time, his family increased to six children. Returning to the United States in 1971, Bernie pastored several churches in the Michigan Conference. In 1981, he was called to the Northern California Conference and pastored the Sonoma Church, where he worked with the members in building a beautiful new church. He also pastored the Lincoln and Olivehurst churches. He used the phone number "1-800 PastorB" for many years for members to have easy access to him. Throughout his ministry, it was his daily practice to retreat at noon and spend an hour in prayer for each member of his congregation. Sadly, Betty Jo, his faithful wife, passed away in 1999. Eventually Bernie met and married his English 'lass', Jeannie, who stood faithfully by his side during his final years of ministry. Bernie retired in 2003. He was an avid reader, and he loved music, playing both the piano and the flute, which he continued to enjoy until his death. After retiring, Bernie and Jeannie spent winters in Tennessee and summers in cool England, exploring Europe with its historical interests.

During these years, Bernie endeared himself to the English congregation where he became much loved for his encouragement and his wise counsel. He loved to help the local pastor and congregation whenever possible. For 18 years, Bernie and Jeannie shared a wonderful, loving relationship. Bernie lived the life he preached; he was a true Christian gentleman, always having a warm smile and serving God and his fellow man faithfully all his life. He was truly a "man after God's own heart."

He is survived by his wife, Jeannie; three daughters: Perri (Steve), Annie (Igor), and Maeva (Darin); two sons: Steve (Sally) and Daniel (Julia); two stepsons: Wayne (Cheryl) and Garth (Janna); 19 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one brother, Lynn. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Jo; eldest daughter, Joyan; and great granddaughter, Maggie Sue. Bernie is resting peacefully after his labors in the Collegedale Cemetery waiting for the happy day when Jesus will wake him up, and he will be face to face with his Savior. A funeral service was held May 24, 2019 at the Collegedale Church with Pastor Jerry Arnold officiating. Interment followed in Collegedale Memorial Park.

**DUNN, AUDIE ALMEDA SMITH**, 103, born March 23, 1916, to the late Wesley Cody Smith and Fanny Mae White Smith in Jack County, TX, died June 18, 2019 in Columbus, NC. She and her sisters attended Madison College near Nashville, TN. While there she met Robert Dunn. They were married in a double wedding with Robert's brother, Raymond and Virginia, on Feb. 27, 1937.

She served as office secretary in the Pennsylvania Conference, The Quiet Hour, The Review and Herald, and as a teacher at a church school in Charlotte, NC. Audie and Robert retired at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC.

She is survived by one brother, Dr. Herman Lewis (Jack) Smith of California; son, James Robert Dunn, and his wife, Mary Janice of California; daughter, Polly Jean Dunn Baker, and her husband, Robert of Columbus, NC; son, Michael Edward Dunn, and his wife, Judy of California; son, Stephen Kent Dunn, and spouse Charles Larson of California; six grandchildren: Robert Derek Dunn of Massachusetts, David Todd Dunn of Texas, Mark Cody Dunn of California, Jeffrey Kip Viar of North Carolina, Joshua Truth Dunn of Utah, Nathanael Victor Dunn of California; and 11 great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert William Dunn; her father, Wesley Cody Smith; her mother, Fannie Mae Smith; her sisters: Sibyl Iris Smith Gallagher and Lenna Estalene Smith Justus; and her brother, Weldon Jesse Smith.





**ESTEP SR., WILLIAM (BILL) D.**, 77, born Jan. 7, 1942 in Broad Top City, PA, died June 29, 2019. He graduated from Saxton Liberty High School in Pennsylvania in 1959. He worked numerous jobs until he found his niche, working with computers.

Through the years, Bill was able to use his love of computers while being employed at Review & Herald Publishing, Hinsdale Sanitarium & Hospital, Kettering Medical Center, and Southern Adventist University, where he retired in 2004. His jobs included working with key punch cards and Kaypro computers, and computer programming and operations. Bill married the love of his life, Gloria Jean Boyd in 1962. They were blessed with three children, a son and two daughters. Bill enjoyed photography, classic cars, and the pretty things of nature. He loved to study the Bible, and was an active member of the Cedar Ridge Church in Georgetown, TN.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gloria; his son, W. Dale, Jr. (Abigayle) of Decatur, TN; two daughters: Cheryl (Tracy) Ashmore of Apison, TN, and Leslie (Tim) Edgecomb of Ooltewah, TN; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four step-sisters; two step-brothers; many nieces; nephews; and cousins. A memorial service was held July 21, 2019 at the McDonald Road Church in McDonald, TN.



**HUNT, MARVIN FRANKLIN**, 78, born April 20, 1941 in Xenia, OH, died July 22, 2019 at his home in Irmo, SC, after a brief illness. He was the son of the late William Franklin Hunt and Alice Marie Burnett Hunt. He served our country in the Army for four years in Germany.

He then earned degrees from Southern Adventist University and the University of South Carolina. After 30 years as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Marvin retired in 2003 but continued to serve in area churches. During his years in the ministry, he served in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Marvin was skilled in many areas: He was an accomplished author, storyteller, craftsman, certified electrician, mechanic, and repairman. He challenged himself with projects and was always ready to start a new one. Some of his hobbies and interests included writing, backpacking (he hiked more than 700 miles on the Appalachian Trail), motorcycles, clock repair and restoration, car restoration, bird watching, research, history, archaeology, foreign travel, woodworking, and more.

Marvin touched many lives—on the trail, in the neighborhood, within the family, and everywhere he went. He genuinely cared for all. He was preceded in death by his first wife and the mother of his children, Traudi Heidi Hunt; and two brothers: Elwood Hunt and Richard Hunt. He is survived by his caring, loving wife of 28 years, Judy, who was by his side at his death; his son, Tom (Amy Perkins) Hunt; one daughter, Kay H. (Tim) Murphy; one grandson, Timothy Murphy; one stepson, Matthew Crowe; one step-grandson, Yates Crowe; and two sisters: Beverly H. (George) Saliba and Eleanor H. (Lowell) Bastin. Services were held in Irmo, SC, with burial following in Orangeburg, SC.

**LIEBELT, BETTY L.**, 94, born Nov. 24, 1924 to Christian and Lydia Lehmann at the homestead about nine miles north of McClusky, ND, died unexpectedly on Aug. 25, 2019 at her home in Mulberry, FL. Betty was married to Albert Liebelt in McClusky on Feb. 3, 1943. They farmed for many years in the McClusky area, except for a short time during World War II when they went west with Albert's parents to work in the shipyards in Tacoma, WA. When health problems prevented Albert from farming, they moved to Hinsdale, IL, to work in the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital until they retired in June of 1984 and moved to Mulberry to be near their daughter, Judy, and her family.

In 1957 she was baptized into the Adventist Church, and was a member of the Lakeland, FL, Church, when she passed away. From the time she was baptized, she held offices in each church she attended. In later years, she was an unseen part of the Florida Conference children ministries team as she spent many hours cutting materials for workshops led by her daughter, Judy.

Her love for God, her family, and friends was exemplified by her daily habits of reading her Bible, devotional books, and sending cards and church bulletins to shut-ins. Her morning and evening prayers contained her thanks for the Lord's blessings and her fervent intercedings for her family.

She is survived by three sons: Vernon (Judy) of Kindred, ND, Duane (Elizabeth) of Sun River, OR, and Dana of Portage, IN; one daughter, Judy (Kendall) Smith of Mulberry; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Ida Lehmann of Ooltewah, TN; one brother-in-law, Wayne Juhl of Greenbush MN; many nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Albert, who passed away June 9, 2001; her parents: Christian and Lydia Lehmann; 10 brothers and sisters; two nieces; and one nephew.

The Celebration of Life service was conducted by Pastor Mark Swaisgood at the Lakeland First Church. Interment was at the Lakeland Memorial Gardens.





**SCOTT, MARGUERITE ELIZABETH MONROE**, 94, born April 22, 1925 to Joseph and Bessie Monroe in Akron, Ohio, died July 19, 2019, blessedly anticipating the call of the Savior and the joyful meeting on the other shore.

Her father, Joseph, was the senior pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, then the largest black church in northern Ohio. From a young age, Marguerite was involved in the church ministry through music and choir, and continued this throughout her life. As a young woman in her early 20s, Marguerite married James Edward Williams, a young man also in the choir. From this union was born, her only son, Edward. Following the call of the Lord, and amidst much criticism within the city, Marguerite joined the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Akron.

Early in the 1960s after her divorce from James, Marguerite married the late William Scott Jr.

Inspired by the ministry of her father and her love for the Lord, Marguerite (affectionately known as Rita) continued her work for the Master, as she and William Scott (aka Bill) assisted with the develop-

ment and start of numerous churches in the Ohio area.

Later after moving to Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, AL, they encountered some trying times. Both she and Bill worked in the laundry there for 60 cents per hour. Somehow, God brought them through. It was there that they joined forces with the Huntsville First Church in its early days. While there, they witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit as He transformed that small band of believers into one of the most dynamic churches in the Adventist denomination.

In 1964, the family joined the Riverside Chapel Church in Nashville, TN. This was one of the most rewarding, blessed periods for Marguerite and her family, as they joined a close, loving Riverside community.

Notably, after working at the Oakwood College Laundry for meager income, Marguerite graduated in the top of her nursing class at Riverside Hospital School of Nursing. The economic transformation and blessing that ensued from that education made an indelible impression on her son, Edward. He then went on to graduate from college with a degree in education.

Rita subsequently enhanced her outreach by adding nursing and medical ministry to a renewed vigor in Bible work and church building; this time focused in southern Ohio. They joined hands there with the Dale Wright Memorial Church in Germantown, Ohio. Afterwards, Ephesus, Hillcrest, and Springfield churches in the Dayton, Ohio, area, including Middleton and Cincinnati.

In recent years, she moved to Tennessee to be closer to family. There, she has been embraced by a wonderful church family at the Highland Academy Church.

Only in recent months did Rita slow down and was admitted to rehab, just slightly bothered by the suggestion that she give up her driving. Proving to her son, Edward, by driving around her yard, that she could still handle it. But then voluntarily stating, that her grandson, George, could go ahead and take over for a while.

God has chosen to bless Rita and her family, and has shown favor to her with His joy, grace, and long, fruitful life.

She is survived by her son, Edward; daughter-in-law, Carolyn; granddaughters: Marguerita Michelle Lee and Kelli Evon Williams-Malcolm (Royce); great-grandchildren: Jalecia Askew, Jayla Askew, George Askew, and Bentley Malcolm; and great-great-granddaughter, Sutton Merritt.

**STANLEY, CORA ANN**, 92, born April 25, 1927, died July 14, 2019 in Loudon, TN. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church for 50 years. Cora was a retired teacher, having taught second grade, Head Start, and reading. She started Adopt a Student at Southern Adventist University. She was also instrumental in getting McKee Baking Company to sponsor Avendale School. Her hobbies included reading, and she enjoyed taking many cruises with her husband.

Survivors include her three children: Richard E. (Coleen) Stanley, M.D., Kathy (Dale) Mather, and Ray (Lisa) Stanley; eight grandchildren: Chris (Freddie) Stanley, Haven (Clive) Gordon, Tiffany (Jared) Brooks, Trista Mather, Jonathan (Lisa) Mather, Richie (Nikki) Stanley, Justin Stanley, and Dria Stanley; 10 great-grandchildren: Charlie and Hayley Gordon, Ethan Stanley, Robert and Rylee Brooks, Pearce Mather, and Cora and Colson Mather; and special friends Ava Peek, Inelda Hefferlin, Polly Justice, and Charmaine Bainum. She was preceded in death by her parents: Edmond and Muriel Rohde; two sisters: Joyce and Naomi; one brother, Donald; and her husband, Richard C. Stanley. A graveside service was held July 28, 2019 at the Collegedale Memorial Park Chapel, burial followed in Collegedale Cemetery.



**ACUFF SR., DR. CALVIN CLIFFORD**, 91, born Sept. 8, 1927 in California, died Aug. 14, 2019 in Morganton, NC. He attended Loma Linda University where he earned his M.D. degree, and in 1958 he opened his medical office in Glen Alpine, NC, where he was well respected. In 1978 he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he earned the rank

of Lieutenant Colonel. He loved farming, and he was generous with his time, produce, and for many years worked with Habitat for Humanity. Calvin was a lifelong member of the Table Rock Church. In the early 1950s he helped build the church which is still active, and he held many other offices in the church. He's survived by his wife of nearly 69

years, Jo Ann Frye Acuff; six children: Susanne Marie (Ed) Maggart of Asheville, NC, Calvin C. (Lisa) Acuff Jr., and David Mark (Maxine) Acuff, both of Glen Alpine, NC, Lori Rene (Roger) Jarrett of Sumter, SC, April Joy (Hans) Enderle of Asheville, NC, and Gene Christopher (Patty) Acuff Atlanta, GA; 10 grandchildren: Jessica, Calvin III,



Carrie, David, Levi, Heather, Christopher, Charlotte, Joseph, and Lauren; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Fred Theron and Marie Acuff, he was preceded in death by four brothers: Fred E. Acuff, Ernest Morgan, Foster Morgan, and Jim Acuff; and one sister, Virginia Breen.

**BAEZ, (HOWIE) HARDING**, 80, born Feb. 23, 1939 in Laps, Puerto Rico, died May 12, 2019 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL. He was a son, brother, husband, airman, father, and grandfather, but most importantly, he was a servant of God and an influence on many lives for his Master and Creator. He is survived by one son, Randolph (Shena) of Indiatlantic, FL; two daughters: Karen Garcia of Longwood, and Elaine (Bob) Lupo of Winter Springs, FL; three brothers: Gamaliel Baez of Knoxville, TN, James (Esther) Baez of Apopka, and Miki (Mary Ellen) Baez of The Villages, FL; and five grandchildren. His wife, Maria Baez, predeceased him 10 years ago, and they were married for 48 years. The service was conducted by Pastor Steve Sherman at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. Interment was in Highland Cemetery in Apopka.

**BECK, LIZ**, 89, born April 2, 1929 in Mobile, AL, as the last of five children, died Oct. 30, 2018 at the home of her daughter, Connie Smart. Liz was not raised an Adventist, she went to New York City and studied dancing with Fred Astaire for a year, then came back to Atlanta, GA, and opened two of her own dance studios at age 19. Around 1959, she became acquainted with the Adventist message eventually joining the Church in 1962—the “best thing she ever did,” she would often say. After the death of her professional pilot husband, she moved to Andrews University at the age of 49, to continue her college education, working her entire way through. It was then that she started “Fireside Fellowship,” where college-age young people would gather almost every Sabbath afternoon to fellowship with other students, discuss real life issues, help one another, and go out to help in the community of which even “Harbor of Hope” can trace its roots. After graduating, she went to work as a real estate agent in the Berrien Springs, MI, area, first with McLaughlin and then with her daughter, Sharon, at Keller Williams & Pier Realty. Notwithstanding her great love for her family, her Fireside “kids” of 20-plus years, and real estate clients “family” of 30 years, were the passion of her life! Liz is survived by her daughter, Sharon, and her husband, Kenneth Straw; her daughter, Connie Smart; her granddaughters: Heidi Straw-Carmargo, and her husband, Luiz; and Kristi Straw, Ashley Smart, and Kellie Smart; and three great-grandchildren: Nicholas, Catherine, and Sebastian.

**BECKNER, FAYE**, 81, born 1938 in Louisville, KY, died Sept. 16, 2019. She grew up as the oldest of seven children. She lived in several cities throughout the United States before settling in the Hardin Valley area. Faye began a career as a teacher in Los Angeles, CA, where she taught first and second grade until her first child was born. She then embarked upon her second career as a full-time mother and homemaker. The family eventually settled in Jacksonville, FL, where she spent 18 years. Faye’s faith was an integral part of her being, and was an underpinning in her leadership of youth ministries to include Pathfinders, Vacation Bible School, Bible studies, as well as lending a beautiful voice to the church choir. Her passion for healthy living was frequently on display teaching vegetarian cooking schools. Her concern for others was not bound to the US. She participated in multiple ministries, traveling to Haiti, Honduras, and Kiev to assist the people—especially widows and orphans. She was generous with her time and money, and opened not only her heart, but her home to people in need—hosting two Vietnamese boat people among others. After her husband’s retirement in Lansing, NC, she began work with the North Carolina Department of Health, where she planned and implemented various types of smoking cessation outreach programs. Her passion for this subject caused her co-workers in other North Carolina counties to request she “slow down,” since, they joked, her achievements made them look bad. Upon marrying Horace Beckner, Faye moved to Knoxville, where she was very active in the Maryville Church. In her new home, she continued her enthusiasm for healthy living, coordinating Quit Smoking clinics, joined the church’s fundraising committee, was associate Sabbath School superintendent, and an elder. She also loved cooking copious amounts of food to share with guests at potlucks. Faye was loving, quickly to smile, and touched many lives through her wit, compassion, and infectious laughter. Throughout her life, she could never sit still. To say she was a thrill-seeker might be an understatement. She enjoyed skydiving, riding motorcycles, water and snow skiing, camping and backpacking, deep-sea fishing, beaches and sailing, scuba diving, quilting, and chronicling the life of her family through her photography. Faye is survived by her husband of 16 years, Horace Beckner; her children: Stephanie Haupt (Greg) Rewis of San Francisco, CA; Tracy Michele (Michael) Clarke of Tampa, FL; Stephen Anthony (Carrie) Haupt of Dayton, OH; four grandsons: Cameron and Hunter Sullivan, and Jason and Jeremy Knapp; one granddaughter, Emily Faye Haupt; former husband, Ronald Haupt; four sisters: Jane Gordon, Aline (Joe) Travis, Connie Cox, and Brenda Luster; two brothers: Allen (Paula) Cox II, and Walter Cox; many nieces; and nephews who loved her tremendously. She is preceded in death by her mother, Clara Mae Ballard; father,

Allen Carlisle Cox; and one sister, Phyllis Ann Cox (infant). Faye will always be missed by her family, but she will certainly never be forgotten.

**BENCE, KEYLA**, 68, born Aug. 15, 1950 in Cuba, died Feb. 4, 2019 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Spanish Church for 25 years. She was a housewife and did housecleaning. She is survived by her mother, Violeta Bence; one daughter, Sally (Hector) Soliz of Orlando, FL; two brothers: Hiraldo (Ailin) Bence of Orlando, and Pastor Carlos (Elizabeth) Bence of Orlando; one sister, Raquel (Pastor Abel) Paulin of Apopka; and two grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Abel Paulin at the Apopka Spanish Church. The interment was at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

**BUTCHER, CARLA**, 78, born Feb. 16, 1941, died July 1, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Hendersonville Church. She’s survived by her husband Dewayne Butcher.

**BUTLER, JOHN A.**, 90, born Nov. 14, 1928 in Newark, NJ; died March 26, 2019 in Sebring, FL. He was a life-long Adventist and a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church since 2016. He served in the U. S. Army in Korea from 1951 to 1953. He did advanced educational training at Loma Linda University and graduated in the third class from the school of dentistry in 1959. He was a practicing dentist for 32 years, the last 17 years as a dental educator at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, LA. He shared a special gift with his patients and students, making them feel extremely comfortable and special. He educated many men and women in dentistry who now carry on his legacy. John enjoyed traveling, photography, wood-working, and visiting Big Bend National Park in south Texas. He was an avid reader. He was a deeply devoted father and husband, but most of all, John loved God and served faithfully as an Adventist. John will be sorely missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Harriet; three sons: Russ (Denise) of Winter Park, FL, Roger of Sebring, FL, and David (Luminita) of Tilton, OR; one daughter, Diane (Don) Cooper of Sebring; and four grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor George W. Brown at the Avon Park Church.

**FLORES, LEONOR A.**, 106, born July 1, 1912 in Habana, Cuba, died June 25, 2019, in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. She previously had been a member of the Apopka Spanish Church in Winter Springs Spanish, Sheeler Spanish, Forest City Spanish, and Miami Spanish church-es. She was known as “Mrs. Sabbath School” as she was the Sabbath School leader at each church she attend-ed. She would start out the Sabbath School service on time regardless of attendance, and after a few months, the

church would be full. She also headed the building fund committee, and held all church leadership positions except for pastor, deacon, and music director. She is survived by her son, Wallis (Eolia) Sibila of Bow-ie, MD; two daughters: Ruth Sales of Apopka, and Miriam Sibila of Apopka; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Barbara McCoy at the Highland Memory Garden Chapel in Apopka. Interment was at the Highland Memory Garden in Apopka.

**FURGUS, VENUS**, 87, born July 3, 1932 in Grenada, West Indies, died Aug. 20, 2019 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for one year. She worked as a registered nurse for hospice. She is survived by her three sons: Ronald (Bernadette) Furgus, Nathaniel (Vernell) Furgus, and Nigel (Shilpa) Furgus, all of Orlando; two sisters: Norma Musser, and Freida Alexander, both of Orlando; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 40-plus years, Perrence Furgus. The service was conducted by Pastor Steve Sherman in Orlando.

**GESELL, CORLISS V.**, 90, born Aug. 11, 1918 in Jersey City, NJ, died June 26, 2019 in Lecanto, FL. She was a member of the Homosassa Church for 15 years. She is survived by her husband of 71 years, Donald F. Gesell; one son, Douglas Gesell of Mendham, NJ; one daughter, Denise Krugh of Waldo, FL; one brother, Robert Martin of Morristown, NJ; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. The service was conducted by William Earhart at the Inverness Chapel of Hooper Funeral Home. Interment was at the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Floral City.

**HARRISON, BEN**, 84, born Feb. 26, 1935 to the late John Clarence Harrison and Minnie Brockman Harrison in Mifflin, AL, died June 19, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. At the age of two, Ben's family moved to Danville, IL. At the age of 16, while living with a sister in Joliet, IL, he met his future wife, Noreen Bolton. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1958 and stationed in Germany. Upon returning home he began working at Folger Adams Lock and Key until 1972 when he moved his family to Hendersonville. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church for more than 46 years. He worked as an electrician with Circle F Electric until 1984 when he took a position as electrical inspector with Henderson County until his retirement. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Noreen Bolton Harrison of Hendersonville; his son, Michael (Mickey) Harrison (Jennifer) of Pisgah Forest, NC; his daughter, Lori Smith (Richard) of Penrose, NC; three granddaughters: Kayla Harrison Gaddy (Corey), Christina Smith Pedigo (Matthew), and Caroline Harrison. He was preceded in death by

his parents: John Clarence Harrison and Minnie Brockman Harrison; and 15 brothers and sisters.

**JENSEN, ROLAND EVALD**, 83, born 1935, died May 26, 2018 in Graceville, FL. He was a member of the Bonifay, FL, Church. Roland served in the U.S. Army, and later became an EMT. He retired as a technologist from Florida Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joanne Jensen; two children: Jennifer Winekoff of Enterprise, AL, and Joey Jensen of Woodland, WA; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers: Richard Jensen of Washougal, WA, and George Grosboll of LaGrange, IL.

**JENSEN, JOANNE METZGER**, 81, born 1938, died June 26, 2019 in Graceville, FL. She was a member of the Bonifay, FL, Church. Joanne was always the life of the party, and created many cherished memories with family and friends. She is survived by two children: Jennifer Winekoff of Enterprise, AL, and Joey Jensen of Woodland, WA; and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Roland Jensen.

**PARKYN JR., WILLIAM "BILL" TREVOR**, 85, born June 12, 1934 in Lake County, IL, to the late William Trevor Parkyn Sr. and Charlotte Lightfield Parkyn, died July 2, 2019. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and he worked for the Florida State Prison System and state Mental Health System. He was a member of the Franklin, NC, Church, and the Franklin Garden Club. He loved watching and feeding birds of all types in his yard. He loved to bowl and he was a member of a local bowling league. He was also talented with the art of needle point pictures of scenes that brought him great joy. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jane Parkyn; three stepchildren: Charles Cerny, Matthew Cerny, and Bobbi Jane Huerta; two sisters: Lynn Parkyn and Dianne Parkyn; two brothers: Jack Parkyn and Charles Parkyn; 10 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and his beloved dog, Cissy. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Parkyn; and brothers: Ross Parkyn and Daniel Parkyn. A celebration of life service was held July 13, 2019, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Pastors Glenn Marshall and David Beam officiating.

**RODRIGUEZ, DAMARIS**, 54, born July 5, 1965 in Cuba, died Aug. 20, 2019 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Spanish Church for 20 years. She was self-employed as a housewife. She is survived by Robin, her husband of 33 years; one son, Robyn Rodriguez of Avon Park; one daughter, Damaris (Romit) Bernardino of Sebring; two brothers: Salvador de la Cruz of Avon Park, and Ernesto de la Cruz of Avon Park; two sisters: Deborah (Joaquin) Machado and Virgen de la Cruz, both of Avon Park; and three

grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Alejandro Morgado at the Avon Park Church. Interment was at the Memorial Garden Cemetery in Sebring.

**SKORETZ, RUDOLPH**, 88, born July 18, 1931 in Buchanan, Saskatchewan, Canada, died Aug. 9, 2019 at his home in Collegedale, TN, surrounded by family. Pastor Conrad Samograd held Bible studies in the home of Wasyl and Katrine Skoretz, Rudolph's parents. Responding to the call of the Holy Spirit, Rudolph, his parents, and his younger brother, Frank, were baptized on July 16, 1947. Rudolph, commonly called Rudy, was 15-years-old. Rudy's interest in the Bible expressed itself as he enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy junior and senior courses. Rudy was encouraged to attend Canadian Union College, where he decided to study ministry. While at Canadian Union College, he met Estelle Gabrys, whom he married in 1953. After a brief time out of college, he returned and graduated with a degree in theology in 1958. After graduation, he pastored in the Alberta Conference for two years before going to Andrews University. He graduated from Andrews University with a Master of Art degree in theology in 1961. Rudy returned to Canada, where he pastored in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and in churches in Ontario and British Columbia. He went on to pastor the church in Tempe, AZ, and was later called to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to serve as a full-time evangelist. Rudy also did evangelism in Ukraine, India, Africa, and Central America. He was a gifted speaker and loved his work. He will be remembered as a kind man who chose his words well. He loved people and "never met a stranger." Nearing retirement age, Rudy pastored churches in Jonesboro, Statesboro, Rossville, and Lookout Mountain in Georgia. Rudy spent his life as a pastor and an evangelist and retired in 2008 after 48 years of service. Rudolph is survived by his wife of 66 years, Estelle; two daughters: Melody White and Carlene Beckner; one son, Dallas; seven grandchildren: Amanda Gilreath, Dallas II, Kevin White, Kyle White, and Alex, Austin, and Katherine Beckner; two great grandchildren: Lena and Arya Skoretz; two sisters: Nellie and Hilda; and six brothers: Dan, Mike, Tom, Frank, Bernard, and Edward. A memorial service was held Aug. 25, 2019 at the Collegedale Church with interment in Collegedale Memorial Park.

**SLIKKERS, VIRGINIA M.**, 96, born July 15, 1922 in East Detroit, MI, died Dec. 13, 2018 in Zellwood, FL. She was a lifelong member of the Adventist Church, and was a member for more than 60 years of the Holland, MI, Church, and a member at the Apopka, FL, Church when she passed. She deeply loved her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and she prayed for them regularly. She is survived by her two sons: Michael



(Donna) Slikkers of Holland, and Randall (Elaine) Slikkers of Holland; one daughter, Patricia (John) Pawson of Zellwood; one brother-in-law, Leon Slikkers of Holland; two sisters-in-law: Barbara Bartz of Florida, and Jean Brummett of Idaho; six grandchildren: Michelle Slikkers Hubbel, Meredith Slikkers, Jonathan (Tobi) Pawson, Christopher (Tiffany) Pawson, Ingrid (Erik) Brown, and Erica Slikkers; and nine great-grandchildren: Kate, Emma, Nelson, and Colin Hubbell, Sean Ryan, Meaghan, and Ian Pawson, and Emma and Jenna Brown. In 2005, she was preceded in death by Gerald, her husband of 62 years. A private celebration of her life was held by the family with grandson, Pastor Jonathan Pawson, officiating, followed by interment in Pilgrim Home Cemetery in Holland.

**TAYLOR, ANGELA**, 57, born July 24, 1961, died July 15, 2019 in North Lauderdale, FL. She was a member of Sunrise Church in Lauderhill, FL, for six years. She is survived by one daughter, Kadean. The service was conducted by Pastor Gordon at the Lauderhill Church, and interment was in West Palm Beach, FL.

**THOMPSON, KIRTUS LEROY**, 27, born May 1, 1992, died May 18, 2019. He was devoted to his family, friends, and his work at Two Men and a Truck of Chattanooga, where he had been promoted to a fleet manager. He was not the kind of person to call in sick. When duty called, he was there. He was loved by his family and a familiar sight at family events. Kirtus loved children and looked forward to being a father one day. When a family member was in need, he would be first on the scene. He had the enviable habit of being early in all things. He was seldom known to be late, no matter the occasion. Quiet and introspective, he was not one to jabber mindlessly, but had a sense of humor. Kirtus was fun loving and enjoyed making friends and family laugh. When a friend was in need, he was there to provide support. He was baptized in the Collegedale Church in 2013, and attended schools in Hixson, Collegedale, and Portland, TN. He is survived by his mother, Tiffany Saw-yer, and her husband, H.K.; one sister, Ashley (Billy) Sutton; two nephews: Landon and Benjamin; grandparents: Dick and Joan Thompson; two aunts: Shellie Thompson and Brandee (Beto) Gill; one uncle, Marc (Sharon) Thompson; and seven cousins: Cody, Taylor, Mattie, Mercedes, Logan, Caleb, and Garrett. A memorial service was held May 24, 2019 at the Chattnooga Funeral Home East Brainerd Chapel with Pastor Coby Goins officiating.

**TYSON, ELSIE LILLIAN KATCHER**, 102, born Aug. 24, 1916 in Newark, NJ, to immigrant parents, Lena and Paul Katcher, died Jan. 2, 2019. She was the last of six children, five daughters, and one son. Although her parents' life was modest, El-

sie saw the American dream come true for her and her family. Home life centered in the kitchen. The shiny black stove provided for warmth and cooking, and the kitchen table brought them together for meals, homework, reading the newspaper, and family worship. Elsie attended Madison College in Madison, TN, and Washington Missionary College (WMC) in Takoma Park, MD. She met Robert Tyson while they were students at WMC. Upon her graduation in 1944, they were married in the Newark English Seventh-day Adventist Church, and settled in Virginia.

Bob and Elsie spent their entire working years in the service of the Adventist Church—Bob as pastor, youth leader, and educational director; and Elsie as an elementary teacher and conference supervisor. Working with young people was their great joy, and they had a profound influence on many. They retired to Bob's family property in Greenville, NC, in the mid-1980s. Those were good years "down on the farm," with many opportunities to host events for their families. In Sept. 2003, they moved to Fletcher Park Inn, and enjoyed real retirement living. Bob passed away Dec. 2009. In Nov. 2018, Elsie was moved to Universal Health Care in Fletcher, NC. She loved her family, was a woman of great faith, and was known and loved as a master teacher.

**VALDES, LIDIA**, 98, born Aug. 10, 1920 in Cuba, died July 31, 2019 in Hialeah, FL. She was an Adventist for 26 years and a member of the Revive Church in Hialeah. She is survived by one daughter, Lidia Valdivia of Hialeah; one brother, Felipe Valdes of Cuba; two sisters: Cira González of Hialeah, and Norma Valdes of Cuba; and three grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Manuel A. Gómez at the San Jose Funeral Home in Hialeah. Interment was in the Miami Memorial Park Cemetery.

**VEAZEY, ARTHUR EUGENE**, 87, born Dec. 29, 1931 to Wilbur Eugene Veazey and Nellie Mae Martin in Birmingham, AL, died Jan. 8, 2019. He attended Southern College in Ooltewah, TN, where he met and married Phyllis Price. After a two year stint in the Army, he was discharged in San Antonio, TX, they moved to St. Petersburg, FL, where Gene began a career in the baking business that would extend for 60 years. He was a sales representative and later president of the Bishop Baking Company in Cleveland, TN, which was later acquired by the Keebler Company which is now known as Flowers Baking Company. Even in retirement, Gene continued to work part-time for The Mother Murphy Flavor Company. Gene was a devoted Seventh-day Adventist, and was a long member of the Bowen Hills Church. He was involved in the community by serving on the Airport Board of Chattanooga for 15 years, and also

on other boards including the Boys Club of Cleveland. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 65 years, Phyllis Veazey; two sons: Gary E. (Kathy) Veazey, Doug (Rachel) Veazey; grandchildren: Michael Veazey, Ben Veazey, Martin (Ashley) Veazey, and Katherine (Phillip) Flinn; and five great-grandchildren. He was interred at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Sue Owens; and his daughter, Denise Veazey-Wille.

**WATKINS, RICHARD**, 85, born June 6, 1934 to the late Ed and Nada Watkins in Fletcher, NC, died Sept. 10, 2019 in Fletcher. He joined the U.S. Navy at 16, and celebrated his 17th birthday in Korea on a ship. He joined the U.S. Army, served for 18 months to 2 years. Richard and April Wiles got married in 1955 in Georgia, and were married for 64 years. They moved to Fletcher to live in his parents' home on Hutch Mountain Road. He worked as a night watchman for Fletcher Academy, as an auto mechanic, and built furniture for a company. He worked for Cranston as a textile printer for 33½ years before retiring. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, April Watkins of Hendersonville, NC; five children: Rick Watkins of Berrien Springs, MI; Curt Watkins of Chesnee, SC; Pam (Steve) Ponder of Zephyr Hill, FL; Melissa Finley of Henderson, NV; and Tim (Karen) Watkins of Hendersonville; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and his brother, Arnold Watkins of Mill Spring, NC. He was preceded in death by his son, Derek, in 1996.

**ZEIGLER, HOWARD BURTON "BUDDY,"** 76, born July 28, 1942 in Madison, TN, died May 5, 2019. He worked for Sovex Natural Foods, later becoming McKee Foods, for 35 years as their sanitation supervisor and various other positions as needed. After his retirement in 2006, he enjoyed traveling to Gatlinburg, TN, every chance he got and watching The Voice, American Idol, and America's Got Talent. He enjoyed anything that had to do with music, and other hobbies included cake decorating. In his younger years, he loved to sing and play the organ. His favorite sports were NASCAR and Tennessee football, and watching his granddaughters play summer softball. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Walls Zeigler; daughter, Debbie Zeigler (Billy) Burnette; four granddaughters: Kayla (Brandon) Murray, Emily Burnette, Jessica Burnette, and Stephanie Burnette; two great-grandchildren: Aiden and Reagan Murray; and several special friends, including Mary and Wade Young and Pat and Gloria Williams. Howard was preceded in death by his parents: James Zeigler and Freda Davis Zeigler; and his grandparents: Howard W. Zeigler and Emily Zeigler. A funeral service was held May 8, 2019 at the McDonald Road Church with Pastor Don Gettys officiating. Burial followed at Collegedale Memorial Park Cemetery.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ADVERTISING

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## PROPERTY AVAILABLE

### SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

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

### FLORIDA LIVING RETIREMENT

independent living is owned by the Florida Conference and is right here in the Central Florida area. Sunny beaches, golf courses, the best medical care and shopping are all close by. Renovations and upgrades are constant in our units. The 13.5 acres of property are well maintained and give you the open, country style of living. Call Nancy today: 407-862-2646. You will be glad you did! [11-3]

### ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT

at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Spacious apartments available now. Ask about our limited rental units and villa homes. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet when you tour. Call Lisa at 1-800-249-2882 or 828-209-6935 or visit [www.fletcherparkinn.com](http://www.fletcherparkinn.com) [11-7]

### COLLEGEDALE AREA HOMES/LAND

**FOR SALE:** Collegedale 10+ acres, offering stocked fishing pond, creek, bridge, barn & pole barn with 3300 square foot home, secluded back in the woods surrounded by beautiful nature and wildlife. \$750,000. Pikeville Dream Homesite awaits! 5 acres of mountain top views \$140,000, plus a non-view wooded lot nearby for family to build: 10 acres \$50,000. Visit [DixonTeam.com](http://DixonTeam.com) Keller Williams office 423-664-1800, call the Dixon Team for info at 423-702-2000. [11]

### COUNTRY LIVING

- Spring, huge creek, inspiring views, beautiful place to put a home and garden. Two tracts: 20 acres for \$65,000 or 25 acres for \$55,000. Waynesboro, TN. *Ilde Cruz Remax Pros*, 931-332-4636. [11]

### COUNTRY LIVING & SDA NEIGHBORS!

1 acre, 1600+ square foot 3 bed, 2 bath home built 2007. Basement, outbuildings, hardwood forest and fenced garden spot. Waynesboro, TN, \$119,000 or 7 acres and a 2 bed, 1 bath home for \$50,000. *Ilde Cruz Remax Pros*, 931-332-4636. [11]

### OVER 1 MILE OF WATER FRONTAGE,

miles of roads, buildings, wells, greenhouse with mature tropical fruits, blueberry grove, cross-fenced pastures and hardwood forest. 217 acres, Clifton, TN. \$995,000. *Ilde Cruz Remax Pros*, 931-332-4636 or [countryproperty@gmail.com](mailto:countryproperty@gmail.com). [11]

### FOR RENT

- New mini-home in rural setting atop Cagle Mountain in Dunlap, TN. \$500/month. All utilities and mowing included. Furnished. Nearest neighbor is retired pastor & wife. Ideal for single person or couple. Come look! Call 423-949-9695. [11]

### SDA REALTOR FOR TN & GA

- Specializing in selling and buying homes in Collegedale, Ooltewah, Chattanooga, TN; North GA and surrounding areas. Call Ms KC Cyr - Keller Williams Realty at 571-271-8386, [KCHomes101@gmail.com](mailto:KCHomes101@gmail.com). Service provided in English and Korean. [11]

### SDA REALTOR IN FLORIDA

- Searching to buy or sell in the Orlando area or anywhere in the U.S? I look forward to helping you! Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500 (call/text). Service provided in English & Spanish. [11-1]

### RURAL, FERTILE LAND

for sale by owner. Strong, year-round springs, mature timber, superb building and garden sites. Easy, paved road access

to this 60.91 acre homestead of rolling land near Murphy, NC. To be sold intact, price negotiable. Call 828-837-6779, 828-557-2254. [11, 12]

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidate for **teaching faculty in School of Physics and Engineering**. For a full job description and qualifications visit our website: [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [11]

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks qualified candidate for **Dean of Graduate Studies**. The Dean of Graduate Studies assumes a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provides academic, administrative, and strategic direction to Graduate Studies. For a full job description and qualifications visit our website: [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [11]

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

is seeking a qualified candidate for **Alarm Technician in Plant Services**. For more information and a complete list of responsibilities and qualifications visit us at [www.southern.edu/jobs](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) [11]

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

is seeking a qualified candidate for **Teaching Faculty in the English Department**. Responsibilities include teaching first-year writing and literature, creative writing, professional writing, and/or TESOL. A top candidate will hold a Ph.D. in English, have a record of successful teaching, and provide a statement of how he or she will present course content in harmony with the Seventh-day Adventist worldview. For a thorough list of responsibilities and qualifications please visit [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu) [11]

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks candidate for **Public Services Librarian**. The Public Services Librarian provides principal information literacy instruction and serves as a reference librarian as part of the research coaching team. They coordinate Campus Research Day, provide library tours, and contribute to managing the expert systems of the library. Qualified candidates will have a graduate degree in Library/Information Science from an ALA-accredited program (or international equivalent). Experience with public services and information literacy instruction, preferably 3 years; working knowledge of current reference



and database applications, as well as knowledge of various library expert systems. *For a full list of responsibilities and qualifications: [www.southern.edu/jobs](http://www.southern.edu/jobs)* [11]

**UNION COLLEGE** invites applicants for an **Accounting teaching faculty position**. Qualified applicants will be committed members of the SDA church and have a master's/doctorate degree or significant experience and willingness to pursue a master's degree. *Find more information at [www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings](http://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings) or contact Lisa Forbes at [lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu](mailto:lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu)* [11]

**LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST** needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary, friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. *Email resume to [dkch7@yahoo.com](mailto:dkch7@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-625-3585.* [11, 12]

**CHILD IMPACT INTERNATIONAL** is seeking a **General Manager**. Applicants must have management skills including experience in marketing, fundraising, planning, effective communication, & church events; a passion for education & orphans/underprivileged children; the ability to lead a small but growing ministry based in Collegedale TN. Applicant works closely with CEO in strategic planning & operations. Domestic & International travel required. Application deadline is January 31st, 2020. *For more details: [support@childimpact.org](mailto:support@childimpact.org)* [11, 12]

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SDA** has an opening for an **Associate Director of Software Development**. This position is full-time and is located at the GC headquarters in MD. BA/BS required, Masters preferred. Five or more years of experience in senior level computer responsibilities, including supervisory experience is required. Must be SDA church member. *Send resumes to Ruthie Stavenhagen at [StavenhagenR@gc.adventist.org](mailto:StavenhagenR@gc.adventist.org)* [11]

**FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC.** seeks experienced **Director of Information Technology**, responsible for all IT functions enterprise-wide. At least a Bachelor's in relevant field, plus technical and leadership experience

required. Must be comfortable leading a team from a highly visible position, a member of the SDA church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Position is salaried exempt with full benefits package. *Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO, at [gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com](mailto:gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com)* [11]

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

**HEALTH EXPO PANELS** - First generation Wildwood panels with PVC stands. *For more information email [friendlythunder705@gmail.com](mailto:friendlythunder705@gmail.com) or call 423-552-3875.* [11]

**WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER:** Christmas is coming earlier this year. Come to our lifestyle center in December and receive a gift: \$100 voucher to spend in our stores or extras. *Call us today at 800-634-9355 or visit [wildwoodhealth.com](http://wildwoodhealth.com).* Terms and conditions apply. [11]

## MISCELLANEOUS

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist)* [11, 12]

**AUTHORS OF COOKBOOKS, HEALTH BOOKS, CHILDREN'S CHAPTER AND PICTURE BOOKS**, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. *Find our new titles at your local ABC or [www.TeachServices.com](http://www.TeachServices.com), used SDA books at [www.LNFBooks.com](http://www.LNFBooks.com)* [11-4]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.southern.edu/graduate-studies)* [11-5]

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in biology; cinema, religion, and worldview; education (including special education); and social work. Flexible completion times and

in-person, hybrid, and fully-online formats may be available. Financial aid may be available. *For more information call 509-527-2290 or visit [wallawalla.edu/grad-studies](http://wallawalla.edu/grad-studies)* [11-6]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** Department of Sustainable Agriculture offers you a \$5,000 Scholarship! Feed the world with a degree in agribusiness. Change the world with a degree in international agriculture development. Beautify the world with a degree in landscape design. *For more information: <https://www.andrews.edu/agriculture>, [agriculture@andrews.edu](mailto:agriculture@andrews.edu), 269-471-6006.* [11-1]

**SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED?** Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For information, application and current catalog, send \$30 to: SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [11-2]

**JOIN TIMOTHY R. JENNINGS MD**, January 17-19, 2020, in Texas for the life-changing Power of Love seminar. Revitalize your heart, faith, and witness for these last days! *Learn more and secure your spot now at [events.comeandreason.com](http://events.comeandreason.com)* [11, 12]

**FARMERS & GARDENERS** (AdAgrA's) 6th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference (Jan. 14 - 18) High Springs, Florida. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. *Registration and info: [www.adventistag.org](http://www.adventistag.org)* [11, 12]

**WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER:** We can help you to keep your New Year's resolution. Come to our lifestyle center in January and receive 10% off on any of our lifestyle programs. *Call us today at 800-634-9355 or visit [wildwoodhealth.com](http://wildwoodhealth.com).* Terms and conditions apply. [11]

**WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER:** For 77 years teaching natural ways of healing. Come to our lifestyle center in February and receive a free upgrade to a private room (value of \$275). *Call us today at 800-634-9355 or visit [wildwoodhealth.com](http://wildwoodhealth.com).* Terms and conditions. [11]

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A planned gift through a will or bequest can provide vital support to enlarge the family of God as we prepare for the coming of Christ, not as a babe, but as a King in all His glory. Contact any of us below, and we will be glad to assist you in planning a gift to honor our coming King.

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Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

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### Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

### Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

### Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

### South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

### South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

### Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

### Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



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## CAROLINA

**LAY PASTOR TRAINING** - Nov. 1-3. NPR.  
**YOUTH RALLY** - Nov. 1, 2. MPA.  
**PASTORS'/SPOUSES' RETREAT** - Nov. 8-10. NPR.  
**PATHFINDER COUNCIL** - Jan. 3, 4. NPR.  
**PRAYER LINE MINI RETREAT** - Jan. 17-19. NPR.  
**VBS WORKSHOP** - Jan. 26. Carolina Conference Office.

## FLORIDA

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE** - floridaconference.com/events  
**A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com  
**FLORIDA ADVENTIST 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.  
 Nov. 3. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)  
 Nov. 17. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.  
 Nov. 24. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.  
 Dec 8. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 Dec. 15. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**PATHFINDER TEEN CHALLENGE** - Nov. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**MARRIAGE RETREAT II—SPICE IT UP** - Nov. 1-3. Speakers: David and Beverly Sedlacek. A refreshing, spiritual, fun, and romantic time of learning for you and your spouse. These fill fast. WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA.  
**HOMELAND LAY EVANGELISM TRAINING** - Nov. 2, 3. An intense training Sabbath from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with Ralph Ringer, Southern Union Director of Church Growth/Evangelism Training/Jewish Ministries. Register by Oct. 21. \$25 fee include catered Sabbath lunch and supper. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.  
**FULLY TRANSFORMED PRAYER MINISTRIES EVENT WITH PAVEL GOIA** - Nov. 9. Goia is the editor of Ministry Magazine. This special Sabbath is focused on renewal ideas for the local church. There is no registration fee, but everyone is asked to bring food for a potluck. Calhoun, GA, Church.  
**HISPANIC WOMEN WARRIORS OF PRAYER CONVENTION** - Nov. 15-17. The keynote speaker is Liz Enid Polanco, with special music by Maribel Soto and Evelyn Nieves. Children under 18 are not allowed at this event. The cost is \$175 per person and that includes a hotel room shared with three other women, three **Sabbath meals, and brunch on Sunday. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.**  
**SOUTH GEORGIA CAMP MEETING** - Nov. 15, 16. The guest speaker will be David Hartman, faculty in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, and former pastor and administrator for the Adventist Church. Come enjoy a day of fellowship with lunch and

dinner provided. Macon Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.

**MINISTRIES TRAINING EVENT** - Nov. 16, 2:30-8 p.m. A free training event for pastors, teachers, elders, church ministry leaders, and Sabbath School leaders; beginners to adult. A Midterm report will follow at 4 p.m. and supper at 6 p.m.  
**CONSTITUENT MIDTERM REPORT** - Nov. 16, 4 p.m. Hear reports on what is happening in your Conference and ask the administrators questions. This event is for you! Stay for supper at 6 p.m., Macon Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA. Register for events on the Conference website, www.gccsda.com.

## GULF STATES

**EPIC ENCOUNTER** - Nov. 1-3. Camp Alamisco. Guest presentations by Engage Ministries from Southern. Meals and accommodations available. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events  
**POSSIBILITIES MINISTRY** - Nov. 2. Community Church, Meridian, MS. How can we best reach and teach those with Aspergers, ADHD, or are on the Autism Spectrum? Come and learn from Larry R. Evans of the General Conference. www.gscsda.org/events.  
**ELDERS' AND DEACONS' RETREAT** - Dec. 13-15. Camp Alamisco. Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services for the North American Division, presents "Burst the Bubble: Finding Your Passion for Community Outreach." www.gscsda.org/events.  
**TEEN INVITATIONAL: CAVING** - Jan. 31. Tumbling Rock Cave, Fackler, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

## KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

**COUPLE'S GETAWAY** - Nov. 9. Paradise Ranch.  
**HIGHLAND ACADEMY** - Nov. 14.

Highland Academy.  
**ELDERS' CERTIFICATION TRAINING** - Nov. 15-17. Indian Creek Camp.  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - Dec. 3. Conference Office.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** - Nov. 10. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale, TN, Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).  
**ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE** - Nov. 19. Felix Höflmayer, Ph.D., a research group leader at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, will present an archaeology lecture at 7 p.m. in the Lynn Wood Hall Chapel on Southern's campus. For more information, call 423-236-2030.  
**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** - Dec. 3. Southern invites the community to usher in the holiday season with a special evening of music and warm, tasty treats, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in front of Wright Hall. The highlight of the evening will be a concert by Irish folk band, Danú, at 7 p.m. in the Iles P.E. Center; a \$5 admission will be charged at the door.  
**CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT** - Dec. 7. Under the direction of Ken Parsons, Laurie Cooper, and Richard Henson, Southern's Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Ring-tones, and Steel Drum Ensemble will present their annual Christmas concert at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center. Admission is free. For more information, visit [southern.edu/musicevents](http://southern.edu/musicevents) or contact 423-236-2880.  
**SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT** - Dec. 14. Southern's School of Music will host its annu-

al Christmas concert featuring the Symphony Orchestra and Choral Ensembles at 4 p.m. at the Collegedale Church. The event, which will feature many holiday favorites for the whole family, is free and may also be viewed at [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**


**FIRST LITHONIA AND LITHONIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** - Nov. 29, 30. Stonecrest, GA (formerly Lithonia). All are invited to this special weekend beginning Friday at 7 p.m. Sabbath activities include Sabbath School, Divine Worship, lunch, and an afternoon and evening program. Come and "Reflect and Rejoice" in God's

goodness over the past 30 years. For details: 404-547-4280.

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

## SUNSET

	NOV 1	NOV 8	NOV 15	NOV 22	NOV 29	DEC 6
ATLANTA, GA	6:45	5:39	5:34	5:31	5:29	5:28
CHARLESTON, SC	6:28	5:22	5:18	5:15	5:13	5:13
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:28	5:22	5:17	5:13	5:11	5:11
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:45	5:39	5:34	5:30	5:28	5:38
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:52	4:46	4:41	4:37	4:35	4:35
JACKSON, MS	6:10	5:04	5:00	4:57	4:55	4:55
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:43	5:36	5:30	5:26	5:23	5:22
MEMPHIS, TN	6:05	4:59	4:54	4:50	4:48	4:48
MIAMI, FL	6:39	5:34	5:31	5:29	5:29	5:29
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:54	4:49	4:44	4:41	4:39	4:39
NASHVILLE, TN	5:50	4:44	4:39	4:35	4:32	4:32
ORLANDO, FL	6:40	5:35	5:31	5:29	5:28	5:28
TAMPA, FL	6:45	5:40	5:37	5:34	5:34	5:34
WILMINGTON, NC	6:18	5:12	5:07	5:04	5:02	5:01





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