

# T Southern TIDINGS

AUGUST 2020

*Southern Adventist University  
Professors Engage in*

## LIFELONG LEARNING



PASTORAL  
MINISTRY COMES  
FULL CIRCLE

COVID-19  
DECIMATES: HOW  
ONE CHURCH  
RESPONDED

ALAMISCO  
CREATES FAMILY  
ENVIRONMENT TO  
OPERATE CAMP

THE POWER  
OF DIVERSITY,  
PEACEFUL  
PROTEST

# Life's Most Viable Option



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

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent,” John 17:3.

Envision our troubled, COVID-19-infected, multi-culturally biased world as an overpopulated planet whose inhabitants are attempting to get something out of life. A rich, neurotic few have more than enough to sustain a comfortable physical life but are frantically involved in a constant search for more pleasure. Compare these to the masses who are trying desperately to keep their lives sustained and are barely succeeding. What is the answer to “this is life” in a world that has only a limited stockpile of food on hand? Jesus gives the answer: “Is not life more than food?” Mathew 6:25.

Now notice the first five words of our text: “And this is life eternal.” The word “eternal” makes the difference. Sin has dealt treacherously with our minds. We are energetically engrossed with life as we have it now. The reality of a future eternal life is further away for most people than scheduled passenger flights to planet Jupiter. Satan is busily engaged in disqualifying people for heavenly citizenship, not by overcoming them with gross sin, but by keeping their minds curiously preoccupied with nice, interesting, but relatively unimportant, things. Life can, in a certain sense, be vivacious and interesting, but life per se is pointless unless we see it through the telescope of eternity. Thus, the real issue today is not which way the stock market is going or what nation is winning the war, but whether or not you and I have eternal life.

But what is eternal life? “That they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ” is the answer. Experiential knowledge of the Godhead is life. There is no other life to know about. Life without the qualifying word “eternal” is not life! It is death. Life does not exist apart from the Trinity, and when one is merged with the Trinity, they have eternal life. Millions may think they are living, but they are as the self-indulgent widow who, Paul said, “is dead while she lives,” I Timothy 5:6.

The actions of Christ’s followers reveal a depth of life about which the world knows nothing. Do not allow Satan to rob you of life eternal by keeping you busy with good but unimportant things. Live now and forever with Jesus by making eternal life your first objective. “The Lord be magnified,” Psalm 40:16.

Finally, as the many years of eternal life unfold for those who choose Jesus over the cares of this life, richer and more glorious revelations of God and Christ will evolve. As knowledge progresses, love, reverence, and happiness will increase. The best this world has to offer can never compare to eternal life. Experiential, living knowledge leads to life eternal. This is a saving knowledge that is centered upon the “true God” in contrast to the broad menu of distractions of this life. I urge you to embrace life’s most viable option. – RCS ①



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**COVER PHOTO:** Southern Adventist University professor Keith Snyder, Ph.D., has spent 11 summers digging up dinosaur fossils in the Wyoming grasslands. Alva James-Johnson is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University.





The team regularly finds interesting fossils like this small T-Rex tooth.

Deep friendships develop over the course of a dig as professors, such as Keith Snyder (second from right), and students unearth and process dinosaur fossils.

# *Southern Adventist University* *Professors Engage in* LIFELONG LEARNING

BY TINA FRIST SMITH

For 11 summers, Keith Snyder, Ph.D., chair of the Biology Department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, has traveled to the grasslands of eastern Wyoming to dig up bones — dinosaur fossils, to be exact. What began as a father-son adventure to visit the Dino Dig — organized by sister institution Southwestern Adventist University — transitioned to Snyder's active participation, including leading teams, fundraising, and museum development. Students from Southern often join him on digs, and a few have become leaders at the site.

"I enjoy looking and searching for fossils, finding how pieces fit together and sorting out puzzles," Snyder said. The team works in the Lance Formation bonebed to locate, record, and identify each bone before excavating and stabilizing it for transport to Southwestern's lab in Keene, Texas, for additional preservation and study. High-precision GPS equipment records the location of each bone and measures with accuracy down to less than a centimeter.

The Dinosaur Excavation Research project has uncovered about 30,000 bones over 20 years, including some extremely unique findings. On one dig, Snyder and his son, Ivan, uncovered the toe bone of a young T-rex that had adult T-rex bite marks. Based on this discovery, Snyder and Southern professor David Nelsen, Ph.D., were among the co-authors of a scientific paper on tyrannosaur cannibalism published in 2018.

The first major paper addressing broad findings from Lance recently was published in the peer-reviewed online journal Plos One. With Snyder as lead author, the work opens the door for wider interpretation of what happened to the dinosaurs than traditional evolutionary theory. More information about the dig can be found at [dinosaurproject.swau.edu](http://dinosaurproject.swau.edu).

"Dr. Snyder has been a great friend to our dinosaur research project," said Art Chadwick, Ph.D., program director and biology professor at Southwestern. "An excellent scientist and scholar, he has worked tirelessly through 2 1/2 years, including a sabbatical, to summarize 20 years of research on dinosaurs. In the field, Keith is a great explorer who has made many singular discoveries."

## Meeting Needs and Mentoring

Snyder is just one example of how Southern professors contribute to their fields and the community, outside of the classroom. For a group of nursing professors, this involves providing free healthcare to those without health insurance in nearby Tennessee and Georgia counties.

Fifteen years ago, Holly Gadd, Ph.D., family nurse practitioner and dean of Southern's School of Nursing, began working with Volunteers in Medicine Chattanooga Inc., which provides care in a faith-based environment to those who have nowhere else to turn. Initially, Gadd served on the planning committee and volunteered as one of the medical providers.

In 2011, Gadd recognized that more

consistency was needed in the clinic's nurse practitioner role in order to provide continuity for patients. She proposed that a group from Southern take over this important position, and her idea was accepted.



Judy Dedeker, D.N.P., is one of the Southern nursing professors who give their time to the nonprofit organization Volunteers in Medicine for Chattanooga.

"My vision was to provide a practice site for nurse practitioner faculty from Southern, to keep them up to date while serving the community," Gadd said. "This is also a site for us to supervise students"



clinical practice, and be role models and mentors.”

Other faculty volunteers from the School of Nursing include Southern alumni Judy Dedeker, D.N.P.; Christine Moniyung, Ph.D.; Cindy Rima, D.N.P.; and Lilly Tryon, D.N.P. Additionally, registered dietician and associate professor Beth Snyder provides monthly nutrition coaching for patients.

Moniyung describes the opportunity as “a remarkable platform to reach out to God’s children, allowing me and my colleagues to practice evidence-based primary care and Christian faith at the same time.” Snyder adds that it keeps her in touch with current medical needs as “most patients are open and honest about their struggles, willing to learn to improve their health, and grateful for the hope rekindled in their lives.”

“Our service is only possible because Holly was willing to listen and respond to inspiration,” Rima said. “She is our driving force with an incredible heart of service and ministry that blesses all of us.”

### Writing to Reach the World

For most of her career, Alva James-Johnson, assistant professor in Southern’s School of Journalism and Communica-

tion, wrote full time for various newspapers across the country. Since leaving the newsroom to teach, she seeks out freelance writing projects to sharpen her skills and stay current, including work for the *Southern Tidings*.

“I want to model to my students what it means to be a journalist and truth-seeker in today’s rapidly changing society,” James-Johnson said. “I enjoy reporting and writing stories, especially those with a strong human element, and I am particularly interested in trends, demographics, and complex issues that provoke thought and dialogue.”

Spectrum Magazine approached James-Johnson this spring about reporting on topics relating to COVID-19. She welcomed the opportunity to continue honing her



The passion that professor Alva James-Johnson has for quality journalism comes across in both her teaching and writing.



Clockwise from left: John Bradshaw, Michael Hasel, and Frank Hasel held weekly televised discussions about the Adult Sabbath School lesson, which the Hasels had co-authored.

investigative journalism skills while also exposing a couple of her students to in-depth reporting. The small team explored how various North American Division conferences responded to federal government pandemic-relief funding. In a second article, James-Johnson looked into how the disease has impacted Adventist churches in the Atlantic Union Conference, where the death toll from the disease has been significant.

Another Southern author making a difference is School of Religion professor Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D. He teamed up with his cousin, Frank M. Hasel, Ph.D., associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, to co-author this year's second quarter Adult Bible Study Guide on the topic "How to Interpret Scripture." The project also included writing the Teacher's Edition for the guide,

along with a companion book providing substantial additional resources on the topic and translated into multiple languages.

"Frank is a systematic theologian and has written extensively on this issue over the years," Michael Hasel explained. "My specialty is in Old Testament, biblical languages, and archaeology. After each of us wrote a section, we would swap manuscripts for critique and feedback. It was a tremendous learning process for both of us and enriched our understanding and friendship."

As much of the world went into lockdown this spring, millions of church members were unable to study the Sabbath School lesson together in person. The Hasels reached out to John Bradshaw, speaker and director of It Is Written, to propose producing a weekly televised dialogue of the study,

and learned that his team had discussed the same idea. Throughout April, May, and June, It Is Written TV aired the Hasels' Sabbath School lesson dialogues each Friday, Sabbath, and Sunday.

"Both research and writing encourage learning and expose us to the cutting edge of wider discussions and thinking in our world," Michael Hasel said. "That cannot happen without pushing ourselves beyond ourselves. In taking on these projects outside of the classroom, we exemplify to our students a culture of lifelong learning, and our faith grows as we share it." ❶

**Tina Frist Smith** graduated in 1989 from Southern Adventist University, where she currently serves as project manager for Marketing and University Relations.

## FLOURISHING TOGETHER

Collaboration and hands-on experience prove to be powerful learning tools. In January 2019, Natalia López-Thismón, Southern alum and associate professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, attended the North American Division's ministries convention. There, the Division's Adventist Women Leaders (AWL) discussed a need for providing education and resources to women in ministry. As an AWL committee member, López-Thismón suggested a podcast. The group loved the idea and asked her to make it happen.

With a full teaching load, López-Thismón knew she would need a co-producer, and invited Natalie Boonstra, a junior public relations major at Southern, to work with her.

"I thought Natalie would be perfect for this because of the things she's passionate about," López-Thismón said. "I prayed about it, gave her a call, and everything clicked. Frankly, if it hadn't been for Natalie, none of this would



**Professor Natalia López-Thismón (left) and junior public relations major Natalie Boonstra created and host the women's leadership podcast Flourish by AWL.**

have happened."

Together, the pair created the podcast Flourish by AWL, which can be found on most popular podcast platforms. Season 1 began airing in October 2019, and they are currently recording the second season. Episodes consist of 20- to 30-minute interviews with women who are thought leaders within their fields, such as Southern's assistant chaplain, Anna Bennett. Future themes will include self-care, calling, motivation, and communication styles in the workplace.

"We focus on subjects that give practical tips to women in leadership to help

them grow stronger personally, spiritually, and at work," Boonstra said. "Specifically, we discuss how to implement ways to become better leaders and agents of change."

López-Thismón enjoys mentoring Boonstra.

"Each academic department on our campus is unique, and each person contributes something different," she said. "This type of extracurricular project allows me to foster a deeper connection with a student and stay abreast of trends and technology; plus, it keeps me on my toes. Learning never ends, even for a professor."

# CHURCH REVITALIZATION

## *Happens During COVID-19 Pandemic*

BY RALPH RINGER

A world pandemic gets everyone's attention. God uses what Satan means to destroy people, to save them, and revitalize the church. There was a common saying on the battlefield in World War II: "There are no atheists in fox holes." The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world, our world, our lives, health, families, friends, churches, jobs, finances, lifestyles, governments, and lives as we know them. It has overwhelmingly impacted us, and we realize it is beyond human control, and look to God for intervention and deliverance.

People who would never look at the Bible are now interested in it. They are interested in what God says about the pandemic, plagues, and the end of the world. They wonder if God really cares what is happening to them. People who never prayed are now praying, or trying to pray, to ask God to help them in the pandemic. People who had little or no interest in the Church are now interested. Those who have drifted away or lost interest in the Church are now interested again. People who never read the Bible or who have neglected it are now reading it.

The COVID-19 pandemic has opened the doors of opportunities we did not have prior to this pandemic. At the very time our churches are closed, more people are interested in coming to our services. At the very time we are sequestered in our homes, more people are interested in having Bible studies and learning about God.

How do we revive our churches and reach those who are now open to receive Jesus when many, if not most, of our ways of working are not available right now? Is



PHOTO BY: FELIX MOORER

Food pantry in Montgomery, Alabama

God pressing us to use tools and methods we haven't used before or haven't used as much or not as effectively as we could?

We started this Year of Church Revitalization for the Southern Union with four ReGenerate Conferences, and were planning six more when the COVID-19 pandemic stopped us in our tracks. It forced us to adjust how we can be revived and bring revival to our churches.

Let's see how pastors and churches are making these adjustments, as well as how

they're dovetailing these into what they have been doing.

Clifton McMillan Sr., pastor of Maranatha Church in Montgomery, Alabama, increased their feeding program from about 100 to about 600 because of the increased need. They have used Facebook Live and Zoom for their services. "Our church services have expanded to more people using these platforms. We have people from several states and some even from Africa watching," said McMillan.





PHOTO BY: DARELL WADE

**Jason Carlson, pastor at the Floral Crest Church in Bryant, Alabama, utilizes the playground equipment to preach during their drive-in church service.**

Tina Munson, director of the Beth Shalom Community & Learning Center (a Jewish-Adventist congregation) in Cornelia, Georgia, are using Zoom for their services. Munson shared they are having more attendance than they had in their live services before the pandemic. She shared not only are local people participating in their Zoom meetings, there are also many from other areas of Georgia and other states. She was pleased that those on Zoom could interact during the services and Bible studies. She added they are going to use Zoom even after their live services resumes, so they can continue to broaden their outreach.

Jason Carlson, pastor of the Floral Crest Church in Bryant, Alabama, which is a country church on Sand Mountain, said they are having drive-in church services. They are using a low power radio to transmit to the radios of the cars in the parking lot of the school. He said they are having greater attendance than normal church services. This is a good way for all the members and guests to come together to worship, and yet stay safe during the pandemic. There are several people from the community who have attended, some for the first time, and one woman has asked for Bible studies. This is also good for involving those who are not active in using media like Zoom or Facebook.

Alex Sozinov, pastor of the Madison Boulevard and Franklin, Tennessee, churches is doing Zoom Sabbath School and an online sermon each Sabbath, as well

as Zoom Prayer Meeting. They are also doing It Is Written mail ministry, and are learning to do Hope Awakens ministry. In Franklin, they also have an outside Sabbath School on the church property for those who wanted a live Sabbath School.

Marvin Mclean, pastor of Shiloh Church in North Charleston, South Carolina, has committed to making 2020 another Year of Evangelism. COVID-19 disrupted many of their plans, but they are still committed to lifting up Jesus in spite of the pandemic.

Jesus showed love and compassion as He preached the Gospel. They followed Jesus' example and minister to the needs of their community by distributing food. The church partnered with Soul Train's Eatery Catering, the Low Country Food Bank and its partners to provide hot meals, dry food, and produce. They distribute more than 600 boxes and bags of food, and more than 1,000 hot meals each Sabbath during worship time with the help of the church members, community volunteers, and the North Charleston Police Department. Through this ministry, God has opened doors of opportunities to evangelize. 🕊

**Ralph Ringer** is the director of church growth, evangelism training, and Jewish ministries at the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, and the director of Jewish ministries for the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland.

## DIGITAL WAYS CHURCH MEMBERS CAN DISTRIBUTE THE MESSAGES AND SHARE THEIR FAITH

1. Forward emails.
2. Text invitations with an info link, or send invitations via Messenger apps.
3. Share content from your church's profiles or a ministry you follow and add a personal message.
4. Live-stream events, sermons, Bible study groups, etc., from your social media profiles.
5. Hit "Like," "Love," or "Wow," on ministry Facebook posts to increase organic reach.
6. Post to community groups or apps like Next Door about upcoming events.
7. Find digital ways to connect with neighbors and community; then share your faith with them.

Revitalized churches have several common characteristics: growing attendance, sharing the Gospel in their community, ministering with compassion to community needs, spending more time with God (prayer and Bible study), and increasing giving. Churches in the Southern Union are being revitalized.

Will you and your church choose to be revitalized? Will you spend more time in prayer and Bible study? Will you choose to impact your community with the Gospel and compassion? Will you use your time, talents, and means to reach people in this time of opportunity?

# *Southern Union Education Department* HELPS SCHOOLS DURING TIME OF CRISIS

BY ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON

Long before COVID-19 shut down schools across the nation, the Department of Education in the Southern Union Conference provided digital library and information resources to schools within its eight-state jurisdiction.

However, the need for such services became even more apparent as teachers, students, and parents made the rapid transition to distance learning due to the life-threatening pandemic.

“When the crisis hit, we were prepared,” said Andrea Henry-Smith, associate director of education for library/information resources at the Union headquarters, referring to the mad rush for online educational materials that occurred last spring. “We weren’t scrambling for resources, because teachers and students already had the products available to them.”

The electronic library — hosted by the eResource management system, MackinVia — began in 2015 when the Union’s Department of Education restructured the Southern Union Library program, then known as the Adventist Network of General Education Libraries (ANGEL). Administrators changed the name to Southern Union Library and Information Resources (SU-LIR), and launched a program that would include both hard copy and digital books, as well as an automated library system to accommodate each school. The new set-up allowed schools to pool resources for better pricing when providing library and information resources.



**Student participates in Madison Campus Elementary School’s distance education classes from home.**

“A lot of our private schools don’t have access to state electronic libraries like the public schools do, so we needed a consortium to be able to curate books and databases for research,” Henry-Smith explained. “We serve as a support to in-house library media centers for both our elementary and secondary schools. Most of our schools don’t have full-time certified librarians, and so this program is de-

signed to augment what they have.”

The automated library system allows students to search for resources 24/7 from any device or location. Families with students enrolled in pre-K to 12 schools within the Union automatically become eligible when they pay registration fees, which include a library and/or technology fee usually ranging from about \$35 to \$40, according to Henry-Smith. Each





This Madison Campus Elementary School student receives help from his father.



Student accesses Madison Campus Elementary School's digital library (MackinVIA platform) from home.

teacher and student receives a personal login to access the site, which includes eBooks, research databases, audiobooks, videos, and links.

Henry-Smith said the website, which has been underutilized by teachers, students, and parents, can be especially helpful as parents play a more integral role in their children's learning during distance learning and the summer months.

"It means that your children can be protected while searching databases," she said, "whereas, when they go on Google to do a search, they can come across all kinds of things. Through our digital program, it's grade-level appropriate and safe."

The Union began the 2019-20 school year with 154 schools and 10,696 students, according to information provided by Henry-Smith. The territory is composed of the Carolina, Florida, Georgia-Cumberland, Gulf States, Kentucky-Tennessee, South Atlantic, South Central, and Southeastern conferences.

Cynthia Murray is the principal and one of two teachers at Mount Olivet SDA School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She

said the school found the electronic library particularly helpful as the COVID-19 crisis unfolded. Prior to that, most families were not using the digital resources, but that changed when schools transitioned to distance learning.

"I think now, because of the situation that we're in, with the students doing reports and not being physically able to get to a library, they are taking more advantage of it," she said.

The school has a library on-site for students who like to read hard copy books, but the electronic library expands their reading options, she explained.

"For me, I like to have both," she said. "A picture book with pages to turn is amazing, but (it's also important) for them to be able to have eBooks this summer to avoid summer slide. We can create a reading program for them to check out books and read when libraries are still not open.

"For us, it's incredible," she added, reflecting on the digital resources. "I think we just need to connect with the parents and train them a little more on how to use it and how it can be beneficial to their kids."

Murray said she appreciates the enthusiasm of Henry-Smith and her team.

"They have been so willing to train and help us, especially during the school closures and coronavirus," she said. "I just applaud them for being so passionate about the electronic library."

Henry-Smith said she hopes more teachers, students, and parents take advantage of digital library and information resources, which are just a click away at MackinVia.com.

"There are things that are available, and you want to make sure that your students are getting what they paid for," she said. "Access your resources. Utilize what's available." 📖

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**Alva James-Johnson** is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University who writes freelance articles for various publications. Prior to her current position, she worked as a full-time reporter for daily newspapers across the country.

# “THE FASTING I HAVE CHOSEN”



Aroldo Velázquez (right) delivers blankets to the homeless.

In late 2017, Aroldo Velázquez, a member of the Memphis Central Church in Tennessee, helped deliver food to the homeless on the eve of Thanksgiving along with church members. As he delivered the food and watched the great need, he thought: “What happens to these people when it’s not Thanksgiving? Where and what do they eat?”

Statistics say there are more than 1,800 people in Memphis who don’t have a roof to sleep under, and a large number do so inside their cars as they have lost their homes. Handing out food only on special occasions made Aroldo feel bad, as this doesn’t solve the problem of hunger. Thus, three years ago, he and his family decided to start a family ministry of

feeding people in need. Aroldo, and his wife, Fabiola, are not rich, but they set out to give everything they could. This plan wasn’t so straightforward. It was hard to decide how to organize a practical menu, easy to transport and serve, economical, and at the same time healthy.

Aroldo, who had never dabbled in the kitchen, created a fairly original burrito recipe: he spread mayonnaise on the tortillas, added beans and eggs, wrapped them in aluminum foil so he could heat them, and then serve them hot and wrapped. This way they wouldn’t need cutlery or plates. This menu was very successful among diners.

They started out carrying two dozen burritos. The amount soon rose to 75,

and then to 120. This was the beginning of a three-year story during which, every Saturday, whether it rains, snows, or thunders, Aroldo, Fabiola, and sons Jason and Yazid go out to make this love work. Jason loves this job and not only gives out burritos, but prepares a devotional to share with the hopeless people, while Yazid distributes literature in English and Spanish.

In that environment, they found a man who was lying on the ground overcome by alcohol and drugs. They helped him, and the man became a faithful assistant for one year. Unfortunately, the man fell back into the web of vices, and again Aroldo and his family continued alone. At that time, a church brother joined the



team. He worked with great enthusiasm. However, the church brother soon became ill with cancer and died.

Armando de León, pastor, seeing the faithfulness of Aroldo's family in his ministry, spoke with the Conference, which decided to donate \$330. Visiting the site of the outreach work, and observing the needs that exist in the marginal community group, Steve Ross, director of the Community Service Department, donated 700 blankets. This is how many people changed their coat of plastic bags and cardboard for the gift made with love last winter.

Among some of Aroldo's experiences, he shared that in order to feed a greater number of people, he always gave one burrito per person. One day a man asked for three. When Aroldo tried to explain that the burritos had to be enough for all the people present, the man told him that he had two children who had not eaten for three days. Aroldo decided never again to question someone's request. On very hot days he feels uneasy. He sometimes goes to the area accompanied by Cruz Ruiz, who, together with his family, have begun to collaborate in this ministry when they can, to bring water or fresh drinks. The need of these people is never erased from Aroldo's mind.

I heard this story during a phone conversation with Aroldo. I knew that he also ministers in prisons, and I wrote about it, so I decided to call him to hear about this ministry. One of the things that most caught my attention when listening to this man of God, is how many times his voice broke when he spoke of the suffering he sees in the streets. Aroldo repeats numerous times how good God is to his family, and how much he blesses him in doing this ministry. The happiness of seeing his children highly involved, and seeing that these people gratefully receive the love that is brought to them is a blessing that makes his cup overflow.

Aroldo made it clear that he does not seek fame from sharing his outreach ministry. He didn't call me; I heard about his ministry through de León, his pastor.



Fabiola Velázquez delivers food to a homeless man.

"What I want is to encourage others to do the same," Aroldo said humbly. He shared this experience with members at his former church in Guatemala. A friend was excited about his ministry. Helped by a group of people at the beginning of the novel coronavirus pandemic, she prepared food with \$1,000 that the church in Memphis sent to help. The neighborhood they went to is a deprived place in the mountains, which can only be accessed by foot. There, a large number of people benefited from the food. The woman worked until her last day, as she was plagued by an incurable disease and died a few weeks ago. She enjoyed the blessing of giving love until her last breath.

At the beginning of the pandemic period, Aroldo had to decide whether to put his family at risk and continue with the outreach ministry. As they thought about it, the verse from Matthew 16:25 echoed in their minds: "For everyone who wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

With masks, gloves, and the confidence that their lives are in the hands of God, the ministry now continues with the help of the CADENGO tortilla factory, which donates 120 tortillas per week.

Love your neighbor is a mandate. The entire Bible expresses in different ways that true religion is mercy and love of neighbor that come from the knowledge of God and His love for us.

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" Isaiah 58:6-7 NIV. ●

**Maríel Lombardi** is the SURF customer service and accounts manager at the Southern Union in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

# *Pastoral Ministry* COMES FULL CIRCLE

BY KAREY MESSINA



PHOTO BY: MIRIAM CASSELL

Graduation day at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, in August 2019, saw two pastors and friends receive degrees: Kevin Messina (left), master of divinity; and Brian Cassell, doctorate of ministry.

Pastor Brian Cassell could not have known what the outcome would be when he began Bible studies with Kevin Messina in the spring of 2012. Messina had recently begun attending the church in Port Charlotte, Florida, where Cassell was the senior pastor.

The hours of study were life changing for Messina. As a result of friendship and study the two men shared, Messina was baptized by Cassell on March 9, 2013, in the Gulf of Mexico. On the

following day, Cassell united Messina in marriage with the love of his life, Karey.

Fast forward to August of 2019 at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, the two friends shared another special connection—they graduated in the same ceremony. Cassell received the doctorate of ministry degree and Messina received the master of divinity degree.

“I would like to give credit to my Savior Lord Jesus Christ,” says Messina, “certain loved ones along the way, and

the kindness and godly life shown to me by Pastor Brian Cassell.”

Cassell and Messina are now part of the ministerial team of the Florida Conference. Cassell serves as senior pastor of Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida. He is joined in ministry by his wife, Miriam, and his son, Brandon. Messina serves as pastor of the Ocala, Florida, Church. He is joined in ministry by his wife, Karey, and children: Evia, Weston, and Leo. ❶



# COVID-19 Decimates: HOW ONE CHURCH RESPONDED

BY JORDAN SOLIDAY



Patmos Chapel members respond to COVID-19 with their drive-in church. Every Sabbath, Patmos has hosted several hundred cars and fed hundreds through the in-car food bank.



James Doggette Sr., senior pastor at Patmos Chapel in Orlando, Florida, and his ministry team share God's Word.

Just hours before launch, the inaugural worship service in Patmos Chapel's newly purchased building was cancelled. No one could have planned on coronavirus spreading across the globe in a matter of weeks, disrupting organizations, institutions, and churches.

"God, what are you doing?" James Doggette Sr., senior pastor of Patmos Chapel Church, asked. It just didn't make sense. Then Doggette received a strange text from his son, James Doggette Jr., who is also a pastor. "There's this church in Daytona, Florida, that doesn't worship in a building. They're outside. They worship in cars. It's like a drive-in theater," James Jr. said.

Doggette wasted no time as he and his son rose early the next morning to road trip to the drive-in church service in Daytona. A few days later, on Sabbath, March 21, 2020, Doggette and his co-pastor, Rupert Bushner, launched Patmos Chapel's first ever drive-in worship service.

People in comfy clothes parked their cars and tuned to 88.7 FM to listen to the pastoral and worship teams lead out. They honked their horns in applause, creatively inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was raw, emotional, and powerful. Since that Sabbath, not only has Patmos Chapel hosted several hundred cars at their drive-in worship, but also fed more than a thousand families in the area through their in-

car food bank.

The coronavirus is a pandemic, a terror that will change the world forever, but something unforeseen is emerging. The Church is changing too; and, it may never be the same.

"I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, the voice of many waters, and the voice of much thunder, saying ... 'The Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us be glad and give honor to Him. For the marriage of the Lamb is come. His wife — the Church — has made herself ready'" [emphasis added], Revelation 19:6, 7. ●

**Jordan Soliday** is a church member at Patmos Chapel.

# FOOD PANTRY FEEDS MANY FAMILIES *During COVID-19*

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON



SUBMITTED BY: THE CALHOUN CHURCH

The members of the Calhoun, Georgia, Church have operated God's Pantry for the past 28 years. They also recently built a brand new facility for the God's Pantry ministry.

Life giving food pantries can be found in about 27 churches throughout the Conference. Typically operated by church volunteers, they provide food to those in need and are part of Adventist Community Services, which recently provided the Georgia-Cumberland Conference with a \$25,000 grant from the North American Division (NAD), with food pantries each receiving \$925.

"Food assistance is one of the important ministries at over two dozen of our

churches," says Chester Clark, III, vice president for administration/secretariat. "Whether a large or small operation, in every location our members are being the hands and feet of Jesus and helping struggling families with food, a most basic necessity for all of us."

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy (compassion) for them, ministered to their needs,

and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me,'" (Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, chapter 9). "I can think of nothing we do better than feed both body and soul as Jesus did," said John Weston, director of the Hope Community Center/Community Service at the Wimbish Road Church in Macon, Georgia.

Offering a food pantry for more than 20 years, the Wimbish Road Church members felt that, with many losing jobs due to COVID-19, "this would be a time that



we should open our food pantry in a way we have never done before.” Since March they have provided a drive-thru emergency food bag distribution, giving away 100 food bags in addition to their usual monthly 30-40. The drive-thru is open Mondays and Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., and anyone in need can drive by and pick up food. They also set up a dedicated Community Service hotline.

One of the Wimbish Road Church members works as a family counselor and asked if she could give away food bags to the families at her job. She recently provided 13 families with food. “It was heart warming to know that we could help in a way that makes a difference in their lives,” added Weston.

At the Atlanta Southside Church in Jonesboro, Georgia, Una Ricketts feels fortunate to have worked with the food pantry for a year. They distribute food every second and fourth Sunday, and provide food to 35-55 families. They give away items such as canned vegetables, soup, pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice, yogurt, milk, turkey sausage, chicken, hamburger, peanut butter, and sports drinks.

Lyndon Barham, Atlanta Southside first elder, said they have operated their food pantry for eight years, adding that it was a prayerful decision to keep the pantry open during COVID-19. They are glad they did, to meet the needs of their community.

On the east side of Atlanta, the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church food pantry has been serving their community on Tuesdays from 3 to 8 p.m. since 2010. Now with COVID-19, the numbers they serve has increased by approximately 30 percent. They also receive calls daily from social workers seeking food.

To ensure security, “We are now operating a drive-thru pantry,” said Violet A. Philips, food pantry director, who misses the human interaction. “Our volunteers do not just dispense food, we build relationships. We get to know our customers. We visit them when they are sick, and we call to check in from time to time.”

Glenda Thomas serves as the director of the food pantry, God’s Pantry, for the Calhoun, Georgia, Church, that was founded 28 years ago. She says COVID-19 has impacted how they serve clients. Clients now must remain in their cars until someone



SUBMITTED BY: RICHARD MCNEIL

**Grandview Church, Austell, Georgia, members partnered with a neighbor church to minister during COVID-19. They established their Food Pantry in 2009, and in 2010 they partnered with the Atlanta Community Food Bank.**

obtains their information and brings out their grocery carts of food.

She shares an experience when two women were recently visiting God’s Pantry just as it was closing. They gave the women their food, which happened to include two decorated cakes recently received from a local grocery store. How wonderful that it was one of the women’s birthday the day before and the next day happened to be the second woman’s birthday. The cakes overwhelmed them; neither had received a birthday cake in a long time.

Thomas says she is blessed: “They are more appreciative now than they have ever been. The stories I hear as I am checking people in are priceless. My biggest hope is that we are planting seeds in this mostly forgotten segment of Gordon County.”

At the Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry in Coalfield, Tennessee, the managers, board, and volunteers watched God work miracles on a regular basis. Leaders Teresa Baer and Danny Treece feel like the ministry has grown far beyond what they imagined, and that resources seem to appear as they step out in faith to answer the hunger problem in their community.

They began in 2016 serving about seven families, and grew to serving about 300 families for three counties in 2019. They did reduce their service area to two counties in 2020, and are currently feeding about 150 families.

“The community has embraced our Church as it never has in the past,” Baer said. “We have volunteers from the commu-

nity representing varied religious denominations supporting the food pantry. There is a feeling of ‘we are all in this together’ that is shared by the food pantry managers, volunteers, and pantry members.”

Reopening their food pantry May 6, 2020, the Jasper, Georgia, Church is operated by Jane IntVeldt. She said a woman and her daughter who had previously attended church and their church school, have learned about the health message and want to come back to church. IntVeldt says Matthew 25 inspires her, as Jesus said, “If you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me.” It is a much needed, non-threatening outreach.

The Robert DeForest Community Service Center Food Pantry in Ringgold, Georgia, weekly serves from 17 to 38 households surrounding the Battlefield Community Church in Ringgold, Georgia. Justin Childers, pastor, shared the story about a man that came to their food pantry last year. He told an elder that he had asked three pastors from another denomination to come and pray with his wife, yet no one came. When Childers heard the story, he went to their home and prayed for the man’s wife. Since that time a friendship has developed with Childers visiting each week, and the wife is taking It is Written Bible studies. Childers recently delivered food pantry items to them during COVID-19. ●

**Tamara Wolcott Watson** is the communication director at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

# *Alamisco Creates* FAMILY ENVIRONMENT TO OPERATE CAMP

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



PHOTO BY: GRANT PINLAC

The outdoor chapel allows for campers to socially distance.

The difficulties of COVID-19 go without saying, and the constant changes to our everyday life have been exhausting. A particularly troubled group is teenagers. While quarantining is needed to reduce the pandemic's spread, it also brought negative consequences to teens, particularly those already dealing with anxiety or depression. Like all of us, teens need interaction with their peers. Additionally, we obtain a level of



The new camp format still allowed for other activities like archery and RC crawler trucks.

comfort when we know what's coming next. Answers to questions like what school will look like, when will we go on vacation next, and more remain a gray area. We all need a little more consistency and familiarity in our life.

When considering what summer camp would look like for Gulf States, leadership didn't want to miss an opportunity to have one more summer with these campers, because it may be the last for many

PHOTO BY: GRANT PINLAC





PHOTO BY: GRANT PINLAC

Kneeboarding proved to be a favorite activity for the watersports campers.

as they move on to work and college, and their last chance to experience the love of Jesus tangibly and intentionally. Yet, how could the campers be kept safe in a pandemic? Todd Ward, camp ranger and interim camp director, stated that “we won’t attempt to operate the camp unless we can be sure that we’re doing everything we can to keep everyone safe.”

After much thought, prayer, and discussion with others, Ward developed a plan. There would be three specialty groups or pods that operated as a family. The groups would consist of about 10 people and would dine together, do activities together, and sleep in the same cabins, each gender of a group to its own cabin. Each of the three groups would participate in activities that wouldn’t overlap the other. Equestrian campers would primarily participate in activities involving horses, and watersports campers would stay on another part of the campground learning new skills. The only time all three groups would come together in one place would be for worship, where campers could be properly socially distanced.

The summer camp staff was brought in, and programming for the week was laid out. Additional activities for inclem-



PHOTO BY: GRANT PINLAC

Campers wear masks while going through the food line where they are served all food items.

ent weather, safety protocol training, capital improvements to the camp, and much more were planned for and executed by camp staff. They worked hard for several weeks in advance of the first camper’s arrival. Camp nurses volunteered for the summer camps and updated the protocols on dealing with fevers and other potential COVID-19 symptoms, should they arise. Collectively, the entire camp team, youth department, and volunteers made a concerted effort to make summer camp a reality. Through this effort, the staff provided consistency and a well-planned week to remedy teen anxiety.

While in some cases, it can be challenging to know how effective a ministry is, or whether or not a single week of summer camp is truly enough, it doesn’t take long to see the joy that summer camp brings to the campers and staff. Photos from the Camp Alamisco Face-



PHOTO BY: GRANT PINLAC

The new camp format allowed for more time with the horses than campers have had previously.

book page show person after person experiencing something positive, despite existing in a world that often seems only to offer negativity. See their joy at [facebook.com/campalamisco](https://facebook.com/campalamisco). 📌

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

# *The Power of Diversity,* PEACEFUL PROTEST

BY DENIQUA D. JOSEPH



PHOTO BY: DENIQUA D. JOSEPH

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., leads a group of peaceful protestors through the Huntsville, Alabama, community.

Christopher McCorvey, Eric Reason, Michael Lorenzo Dean, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd: These are just some of the Black people who have lost their lives to police brutality in 2020 alone.

For more than 400 years, Black people have been fighting for their lives; fighting for basic human rights; fighting against racism, prejudice, and police brutality in the United States.

Currently, numerous cities around the world are being bombarded with mass protests as a response to the senseless death of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have gathered in the streets to demand justice, not only for George Floyd, but for the many others who have lost their lives throughout the years to the unwarranted acts of police officers and renegade vigilantes.

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Breath of Life speaker/director, was invited to deliver the keynote address on June 1, 2020, at a peaceful protest under the theme “Together We March,” held in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. The peaceful protest was organized by Brendan Lewis, a student at Oakwood University. Lewis sought to let his voice be heard peacefully, along with many others, in the streets of Huntsville and around the world.





PHOTO BY: DENIQUA D. JOSEPH

A protester expresses her views regarding the death of George Floyd.

During his speech, Byrd called for Huntsville residents to protest peacefully. He also urged listeners who are privileged to take a stand and speak out against racism, injustice, and police brutality.

Marching around the downtown courthouse, Byrd, along with nearly 2,000 protesters, marched in solidarity chanting, “NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!” “BLACK LIVES MATTER!” “I CAN’T BREATHE!” and “SAY HIS NAME!” (a reference to George Floyd). These and other phrases rallied the crowd to promote justice peacefully.

This demonstration displayed the diversity of Huntsville and the widespread commitment to equality. Organizers noted that the event drew people from a myriad of ethnicities, cultures, and walks of life.

Jessica Marcotte and Kerry Mari were among the protesters. When asked why they participated, they said they believe killing people because of their skin color is wrong.

“There are high, intense emotions right now, and even though I have white

skin, I have godchildren, nieces, and nephews who don’t match my skin tone, and it shouldn’t be a differentiating factor,” Mari said. “I’m angry that it is, so if I have a voice that people are going to listen to, I’m going to use it.”

Marcotte also voiced that her family has not always been the people they should’ve been when it came to issues on racism, and she has chosen to distance herself from them for that reason. “I don’t want to be family with someone who stands by their ancestors treating others incorrectly,” she said.

They also made 50 black masks with words written in white, “I can’t breathe,” to donate to protestors who had no masks. These are the voices Byrd called for, the voices many individuals across the United States are calling for, privileged people, to stand up for what is right.

At the end of the protest, Byrd was not only impressed with the number of people who showed up to honor George Floyd, but was also thankful that the protest remained peaceful.

“I praise God for what transpired to-

day. What took place was for all people — Black people, White people, Red people, and Yellow people — with one message: ‘Black Lives Matter.’ No justice, no peace,” he said. “With this solidarity, I know that God heard us, but I’m also hoping that our municipal leaders heard us. It’s important that our municipal leaders, the mayor, and the city council hear us, but not just our leaders here in Huntsville, but also across the nation — Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Minneapolis.”

John 13:34 states, “A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” This diverse protest is a reminder that we are stronger together, and when we love each other, the power of love heals, unites, and restores. 🕊

#### **Deniqua D. Joseph,**

*is a communications intern for the Breath of Life Ministries in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a 2020 graduate of Oakwood University.*

# AdventHealth Partners to Broadcast BIBLICAL WELLNESS PRINCIPLES

BY INGRID HERNÁNDEZ

On any given day of the week, on two different occasions a day, the Asheville, North Carolina, radio station 106.9 The Light FM takes a short pause in its program to air a segment on healthy habits for whole living. With one of the largest FM coverage areas in the country, a potential 5 million listeners are tuning in.

The segment is called AdventHealth Wellness Minute, and it's based on CREATION Life, AdventHealth's faith-based, whole-person care program featuring eight key principles of wellness: Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition.

AdventHealth is a national system composed of nearly 50 hospitals in nine states, but the content for AdventHealth Wellness Minutes doesn't come from very far. The nearby AdventHealth Hendersonville facility, about a half-hour outside of Asheville, manages the segment.

According to Victoria Dunkle, AdventHealth Hendersonville communications and PR director, the segment exists to provide encouragement and health and wellness information, establish AdventHealth Hendersonville as the region's faith-based hospital, and highlight the organization's mission.

Scott Miller, AdventHealth Hendersonville hospital's chief operating officer, said this mission is what makes AdventHealth special.

"As a faith-based health care organization, AdventHealth provides the same level of care and quality as other health care providers in our region. What sets AdventHealth apart is our mission to extend Christ's healing ministry to those entrusted to our care," he said. "This whole-person approach addresses not only the physical



needs of each patient, but the emotional and spiritual needs as well. The fulfillment of this sacred work is our differentiator and what we are committed to offering every person, every time."

106.9 The Light FM was founded by renowned evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, in 1962. It's currently operated by Blue Ridge Broadcasting. AdventHealth's relationship with the station began as a "Business Ministry Partnership" with the AdventHealth Wellness Minute serving as a Business Ministry Partner program.

The Light FM encourages families and individuals with hope-filled music and biblical teaching. With AdventHealth's mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ, the relationship was a natural fit.

"By utilizing the platforms entrusted to both organizations, we are able to support listeners with practical and helpful health information while encouraging spiritual maturity simultaneously," said The Light FM's afternoon host, Jon Wood. "This creates a unique opportunity to care for the whole person in a way that few partnerships have."

One unique aspect of the partnership is a texting service that allows listeners to text "health" to the station's phone number to receive an immediate response with a link to more information about AdventHealth. Making this resource available 24/7 enhances access for anyone seeking additional help.

"On-demand, Christ-centered content that serves our listener will always be a powerful resource in advancing the healing ministry of Christ," Wood said.

The Light FM's broadcast reaches from eastern Tennessee all the way into eastern North Carolina, and into parts of Georgia and South Carolina. It streams worldwide.

Listeners can tune in online at TheLightFM.org, via The Light FM app or using voice-controlled devices such as Google Home or the Amazon Echo or Tap.

To learn more about AdventHealth Wellness Minutes, visit TheLightFM.org/Health. 📻

**Ingrid Hernández** is the stakeholder communications manager at AdventHealth.



# AdventHealth Sebring Unveils \$17.5M Heart and Vascular Center Expansion



AdventHealth cut the ribbon on a \$17.5 million, state-of-the-art expansion at the Heart and Vascular Center at AdventHealth Sebring. The 24,000-square-foot facility will provide the latest in cardiovascular surgical care for Hardee, Highlands, and surrounding counties. The Heart and Vascular Center at AdventHealth Sebring will have 24 private lakefront rooms dedicated to heart and vascular patients, and a fourth additional catheterization lab equipped with the latest in Philips technology to assist patients in achieving the best possible outcomes following their exceptional heart care.

“AdventHealth Sebring is the only hospital in the Heartland region with access to high-quality clinical excellence for the heart,” said Randy Surber, president and

CEO of AdventHealth Sebring, AdventHealth Lake Placid and AdventHealth Wauchula. “We are honored to provide our community with a heart and vascular program that is rated in the top 1% nationally, allowing us to recruit some of the top cardiologists to provide the best heart care right here in our community.”

The AdventHealth network of care features the only certified heart and vascular center and Primary Stroke Care Center in the Heartland region. Since the original opening of the Heart and Vascular Center in 2009, AdventHealth Sebring has performed more than 4,300 successful angioplasties.

“We are so excited to provide dedicated heart care to our community through the expansion of the Heart and Vascular Center at AdventHealth Sebring,” said Thomas

Shimshak, M.D. “This facility and the fourth catheterization lab will provide our specially trained physicians and nurses the latest in cardiovascular technology to focus our unmatched heart care on the many people in our community with cardiovascular disease.”

AdventHealth Sebring recently received a Leapfrog grade “A” in patient safety for the fifth consecutive year. This is the highest score awarded by the prestigious Leapfrog Group which rates hospitals across the country on patient safety criteria. In fall of 2019, AdventHealth Sebring was also awarded Top General Hospital. 📍

BY ASHLEY JEFFERY

# “Joy in the Weeds” Podcast Encourages

*“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,” Psalm 30:11 NIV.*

Joy is a mystery. People often argue about the definition, confusing it with other emotions such as happiness. Joy is one of the spiritual gifts listed in Galatians 5:22-23. In fact, it is second on the list, but it’s often regarded as something that’s nice when one has it, but not something expected or sought after.

This is part of the message of the “Joy in the Weeds” podcast co-hosted by real-life friends Beth Grissom, prayer and women’s ministries director for the Carolina Conference, and Kim Cove, a licensed marriage and family therapist. They point out to their listeners that, as a fruit of the Spirit, joy is a beautiful testimony of what a life filled with the Holy Spirit can bring about. Joy isn’t dependent on circumstances being perfect. In fact, joy shines the brightest when it is experienced during the struggles and challenges — the weeds — of life. The Lord’s joy gives strength (Nehemiah 8:10) and He wants to clothe all with joy (Psalm 30:11). Joy can take people to a place where they can heal and



PHOTO BY: KIM COVE



PHOTO BY: BETH GRISSOM

grow, and it’s available even when they are tangled up in the weeds!

Grissom and Cove know that ignoring the weeds and pretending they aren’t there mires one in unhealthy habits and prevents growing and flourishing. Openly facing the weeds and dealing with them while clinging to the joy God gives is their message. Together they bring a wealth of personal and professional wisdom to the table.

The women have conversations about

the weeds of life and finding joy while in them. They don’t shy away from tough topics and invite guests who share what finding joy has looked like in the midst of coping with their own weeds.

This podcast is for anyone who has ever had weeds in their life or are currently toiling in the weeds. God wants each person to experience the true and abiding joy that can come only as a gift from Him. 🙏

BY BETH GRISSOM

# 13-year-old Starts Non-profit Pet Rescue

Emory Ivie’s love for rescuing animals began in the middle of a rainstorm about two years ago at 11 years old, when she noticed a skinny stray cat alone on the side of the road. Ivie and her family took the little animal home, and Ivie nursed her back to health and helped her find a new home in their Gastonia community.

Now, age 13, Ivie partners with Whispering Hope Animal Farm, a non-profit Pet Rescue Partners that helps surrendered animals who will be put down if not claimed find new homes. She facilitates the adoption process on [petrescuepartners.com](http://petrescuepartners.com), the website she designed herself. Anyone can sign



PHOTO BY: PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

up to be matched with an animal who needs a new home, or to re-home their current pets. So far, she has helped more than 30 animals find loving homes.

“There are so many animals, with not enough good homes to go to,” said Emory Ivie. “It’s really rewarding to see them go to a good home that will treat them well and love them like family.”

Ivie’s heart and passion for Pet Rescue Partners is to help animals that might have otherwise been neglected or abused, and help people give the best treatment to their pets. She draws from her personal experiences rescuing animals, like the instance of



training a dog who had lived its life entirely in a closet to be receptive of affection and be comfortable with its travel and sleeping crate. She designed a page on her website called “Pet Problems” to create a space for people to submit questions like, “When is the best time to spay/neuter my cat?” and “What animals are suitable for children?” to help people be confident pet owners.

Pet Rescue Partners is fully funded by Ivie. She raises money for food, vet visits, and other necessities by selling original artwork of people’s pets. She also designs and

prints out advertisements and collaborates with local grocery stores and small businesses to get the word out. Ivie’s family is extremely supportive of her drive to help animals in her community, and proud of her independence at her young age.

“Emory is extremely responsible. She’s always coming up with creative ways to raise money. I’m incredibly proud of her,” said Logan Ivie, her mother. “Since she was little, she’s always wanted to help. I now carry a cat crate in the back of my car just in case we want to stop. We try to let her take

in animals and be independent with running pet rescue partners as much as we can.”

Ivie aims to continue into pet rescue as a full-time career later in life. She hopes to attend veterinary school and focus on caring for animals affected by abuse, starvation, and neglect.

“I feel so ‘glow-y’ inside when a pet finds a new home,” said Ivie. “I love it so much.” 🐾

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

## Churches Flourish With Creative Outreach in Time of COVID-19

In order to observe social distancing requirements, Carolina churches are getting creative with their community outreach programs amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Focusing in on the essential resources of food and medicine, some programs are delivering boxes to people’s front steps, and others are creating drive-through lines for pick-up. These services ensure that those who rely on the local church’s outreach programs will not be neglected during the pandemic.

Lorna Dever, co-founder of Share Thy Bread from the Tryon, N.C., Church, partners with the Manna food bank and 10 volunteers every other week to deliver food to more than 200 people. For those who are able, they can drive up to the church and pick up boxes of non-perishable food that will sustain them over two weeks. For those who are more high-risk, or unable to drive, volunteers will deliver to their homes. Dever also personally delivers boxes of food to the front steps of the local senior center, despite physical challenges with a pinched nerve in her lower back.

“People come out and wave to me, and I feel their friendship, although we have to observe social distancing,” said Dever. “I have a passion for this ministry, although I rely on a walker.”

The Charlotte, N.C., Spanish Church serves boxes of food to about 500 people to their cars every week. People in the community know to come out on “community service day,” and line up as early as three hours before the vol-



PHOTO BY: LORNA DEVER

unteers begin coming out and delivering.

“We had an experience that describes why we continue to do this even with restrictions,” said Julio Flores, church pastor. “The volunteer walked up to the SUV and overheard a little girl ask her mother if the box of food meant they could eat that week. That touched the volunteer to tears. We know we are serving people who are really in need.”

In addition to the 4,000 people served with food every week, The High Point Church offers over-the-counter medicine such as cough drops, vitamins, and cold medicine, and occasionally helps fill prescriptions. Jo Williams, community service director of Triad Food Pantry of the Adventist church, estimates that about 85% of people helped by this medicine ministry are senior citizens.

“We give people backpacks filled with fresh foods and essential items for nutrition, like milk, grapes, potatoes, etc.,” said Williams. “People can get what they need right

to their cars. I’m very proud of our volunteers, they come from 26 churches, and we are feeding people all over the triad. My job is to feed as many of God’s people as I can, and I’m thankful He gives me, a person in a wheelchair with respiratory problems, the opportunity to do so.”

In the midst of a public health crisis, many outreach programs are stepping up and meeting the physical needs of their communities.

“Jesus’ compassion is extended directly person by person. The community services director before me would always say community service is front lines,” said David Graham, Carolina conference community services director. “If you can help people, they may come seeking the gospel.”

The pandemic is creating new ways for churches to implement outreach, and best serve their local in-need populations. 🐾

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

# Fort Lauderdale Church Pantry Serves 300% More People Than Usual Amid COVID-19

The food pantry of the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church typically gives food and vegetables to an average of 1,000 people monthly. However, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pantry is experiencing a 300% increase in the number of people served.

For example, for the entire month of March 2020, a total of 1,021 people were recipients; however, for the first three weeks of May 2020, more than 4,030 people were recipients. People began the queuing process as early as 6 a.m. for the drive-thru pantry, which officially starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 1:30 p.m. or until the food runs out.

"I have never seen lines so long. Our church is on the corner of SW 9th Avenue and Davie Boulevard, but the cars in the queue extended beyond SW 4th Avenue," said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., church pastor.

"I am planning to be here every Tuesday to lend a helping hand," said the Honorable Phoebe Francois, a Broward County judge, as she helped serve food to the community.

Roy Roberts, Fort Lauderdale Adventist Church food pantry statistician, reports 164,265 pounds of food given out from January to May 12, 2020. Fort Lauderdale Church receives its supplies from Feeding South Florida (FSF), Project Lifeline, and Farm Shares. Bread and pastries come from Publix. Meanwhile, WSVN Channel 7, which covers Fort Lauderdale, in a news segment recently showed volunteers from the church distributing food.

"I want to salute Sheila Flynn, community services director; Vernon Spence, her assistant; and her dynamic team for their herculean efforts in being first responders in providing food for the needy



PHOTO BY: TREVOR GRIFFITHS

Broward County Judge Phoebe Francois (center) gave a helping hand at the Fort Lauderdale Church Food Pantry. She is shown with Roy Roberts (left), food pantry statistician, and Jeffrey Thompson, pastor.



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON

A busy day at the Fort Lauderdale Church food pantry

and unemployed people every week," said Thompson, church pastor.

The food pantry of the Fort Lauderdale Church received a 2019 Partner Agency of the Year Award for Broward County from the Feeding South Florida organi-

zation on July 10, 2019, during a special ceremony at the Signature Grand Hotel in Davie, Fla. ❶

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON



# Children and Family Ministries Offers Virtual VBS Statewide, Beyond

Florida Conference Children and Family ministries was committed to serving the community by bringing a fun, interactive Vacation Bible School (VBS) to them. This goal became more difficult in the wake of COVID-19. After much planning, the Florida Conference VBS team, under the direction of Judy Smith, presented a custom, virtual VBS program designed for churches and families during COVID-19 and the post-COVID-19 shutdown. The program was produced via Facebook Live, and using the Open Church format, for five nights in July.

Children love heroes. This summer, instead of talking about superheroes from the comics or movies, this new VBS program from the Adventist Church, Heroes VBS Live, taught them about heroes from the Bible. They learned about Miriam, Samuel, and Rhoda, who made a big difference even though they were kids.

The different characteristics of real heroes were discussed every day. The children were taught that Jesus is with them each day and will help them become heroes by doing little things that make a big difference. Students learned to be brave for Jesus, devoted to Jesus, caring for others, bold in sharing, and generous with others as they each day explored the key verse for the week:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

Small churches especially benefited from adopting this program, as all the leg work, planning, and supplies were already organized. There was also a substantial saving in production costs of the VBS, as the program was free. Schools



PHOTO BY: JUDY SMITH

Theme artwork for the Florida Conference Heroes Virtual Vacation Bible School

and churches used it as part of their curriculum, and parents used it as a special treat for evening worship.

Children from all across the state of Florida and beyond its boundaries participated in this online VBS. Perhaps

not until Heaven will the true results of this venture to such a wide audience be known. ❶

# Answering the Long Call

James Fernando first dreamed of being a medical missionary in high school. At the age of 16, he set himself on this path, and God deliberately kept him there. When he met Rachel O'Hare, who was on track to join the physician assistant program at Union College, he was smitten. The two married and wondered where God wanted them to serve.

At the end of his residency program, Fernando had not heard God speak to him for 11 years, since high school. Within 12 hours of approaching Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University, with the question, "Where are we needed?" Hart responded, "Guyana and Sierra Leone."

With faith reaffirmed, they choose Sierra Leone. Later they learned it has a greater than 50% Muslim population and the worst maternal perinatal mortality rate in the world. A civil war 30 years ago, and Ebola 10 years ago damaged the country that is one of the world's poorest.

They arrived in Sierra Leone with eight suitcases. Their 40-bed hospital is situated on the only paved road in the city. Necessity had the Fernando's learn quickly how to shop using a different language in a crowded pedestrian market where they were the obvious oddity of the day.

At the hospital, they quickly learned the available medicines at the pharmacy because there are so few. The struggles of working with the perpetually impoverished population and staff were immediately obvious. Less than half of their staff had electricity in their homes. Other hurdles include poorly trained nurses, no medical records, and the side effects and persistent presence of witch doctors. They often treat the complications from witch doctors, including superinfections that result from an open fracture treated with leaves and dirt. The belief in witch doctors is so strong, that they have been recognized and condoned by the government and their own hospital staff seeking treatments.

One man brought in a child who had



SUBMITTED BY: JAMES FERNANDO

**James and Rachel Fernando serve as medical missionaries to Sierra Leone, Africa. They recently shared their story at the Cleveland Fellowship Church in Tennessee.**

been seizing continually for two days. They tried to obtain a history but the man didn't know anything because the child had been dumped into his bag at the market. The mother was nowhere to be found.

When a child presents with any kind of developmental delay or seizures, they are classified as a "demon baby" in Sierra Leone. The belief in spirits is so real that, if a woman goes into a body of water in the dark, they believe she is impregnated by the water spirits and gives birth to a "demon baby." Traditional treatment is to take the child far into the jungle, lay it on a big white sheet, and surround it with a ring of flour sprinkled on the sheet. A large stick is then placed over the abdomen of the baby, and everyone goes into the jungle out of visual range. "Healing" doesn't happen while you watch. It is said that the child turns into a snake, which eats all the flour, and goes back into the jungle in its original demon form.

The hospital, like the country for which it provides care, is perpetually in a precarious financial position. Committed to care for all who cross their threshold, payment often never comes. There are basically

two types of people who seek care. The first are the majority, with malaria, hypertension, diabetes, burns, and broken bones. These occur every day, and each case is complicated by abject poverty.

The second are the prominent people. They have means, are politically connected, often claim "ownership," believing themselves entitled, and often don't pay.

As the new coronavirus came to Sierra Leone, the government took it seriously. They closed the borders. The embassy sent the Fernandos an email saying there was one more charter flight to the U.S. from Sierra Leone. If they didn't take it, they should be prepared to stay for an "indefinite period," even up to a year.

After an emotional struggle, they decided to take annual leave early and went home to be with family in Tennessee.

The government is now using their hospital as a COVID-19 treatment center. There is much more to the story of James and Rachel Fernando. Read their blog at [farflungfernandos.blogspot.com](http://farflungfernandos.blogspot.com). See where their long call will take them. 📍

BY JAMES FERNANDO



# Collegedale Members Present Virtual Vacation Bible School

These are strange times we live in, but even so, we find ways to adapt and overcome. That's exactly what the Vacation Bible School (VBS) team did at the Collegedale, Tenn., Church.

Plans had been underway since before Christmas for this summer's Knights of the North Castle VBS. Tim and Selena Trott had already spent hours working on props and backgrounds when COVID-19 stopped the world and everyone hunkered down to see what the future held.

The Collegedale Church and VBS team realized the importance of their kids, and began working on offering a virtual VBS, one that not only the church family could participate in, but one that anyone around the world could tune in to. The theme changed to Super Heroes of the Bible, and the Knights of the North Castle VBS will be used next year.

Children could participate from home as they sang songs and learned life lessons from the Bible super hero of the night and the puppet skits and songs. A grocery list for the edible crafts was provided the week before VBS, and kids watched as the crafts were demonstrated from the VBS kitchen. Each evening they met a different Bible super hero, including the following:

- Joseph, with his God given Super Power of Forgiveness
- Esther, with her God given Super Power of Courage
- Daniel, with his God given Super Power of Integrity
- Mary, with her God given Super Power of Trust
- And Jesus, who is the originator of ALL the Super Powers, with the focus on His Super Power of Love.

The main scripture text for the week was 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV, "For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

This focus reminded everyone that God is with them always, just like He was with



Carole Verrill (center), the children's ministries pastor for the Collegedale Church in Collegedale, Tenn., helps lead song service during virtual Vacation Bible School.



Children from across the Chattanooga, Tenn., area enjoyed the virtual Vacation Bible School. These two even gave it a thumbs up.

the Bible super heroes, through the good times and the difficult times.

The highlights of the week for the VBS team were seeing the video clips and pictures that were sent in by so many of the children and families watching and participating in the Super Heroes virtual VBS program. God sure made sweet, delicious lemonade out of the lemons and blessed this church family and community with a VBS ministry week that shone for Him.

If you would like to watch the Super Heroes VBS, it is available at <https://lives-tream.com/collegedalesdachurch/ad2>.

Following are some responses from VBS:

Cason, age 10: "It's a nice way to come together to worship God even though we can't be together at this time."

Delia, age 8: "I love the songs, especially when we sing ones I learned at VBS other years."

Silas, age 5: "It's great! I love all of it."

Rylie, age 9: "Even though I miss being with my friends at VBS, I'm still having fun with online VBS. My favorite thing is the craft time. It's fun to eat them!"

Aliya, praise team: "When I get up on the stage, I don't get up there for myself; I get up there for the kids. I get up there for the smiles, but mostly I get up there to see the true God-loving children that are there. When you're up on that stage, you are waiting for that moment when you see the joy and happiness shining off those kids' faces. You long to see that moment when a kid realizes that their God is truly awesome. And this year ... we don't get that. It's hard to sing when you can't see the kids. But, I try to remember that they are still there, still shining, still smiling, still loving their awesome God." 🙏

BY CAROLE VERRILL AND SHERRIE WILLIAMS

SUBMITTED BY: SHERRIE WILLIAMS

# Gulf States Conference Hires New Youth Director

Gulf States welcomed the latest addition to its team on July 15, 2020. Josue Sanchez recently graduated from Andrews University and was living in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area. His ministry experience includes time as a youth pastor in the Florida Conference, and as a youth specialist for a juvenile center in Michigan. There, he mentored and monitored at-risk youth, ages 11-18, who had been arrested, and helped them manage feelings, actions, and impulse control in healthier ways. Sanchez reached out to Cary Fry, vice president for pastoral development for Gulf States, to inquire about pastoral district openings. When Fry realized his passion and experience in youth ministry, Fry told Sanchez on their phone call that there might be a better fit in the Conference for him than district pastoring, as Conference youth director.

Sanchez was elated with the news of the opportunity, and made plans to interview remotely. Following the successful interview, Sanchez visited both the office and Camp Alamisco. Sanchez was able to meet the summer camp youth staff, and quickly formed a bond with them. Later, upon hearing that Sanchez was officially offered the position, the camp staff erupted in applause during a lunch break at the camp. He was eager to get right to work and join the team for summer camp at Camp Alamisco.

Sanchez brings another vital component to the youth director position; he is fluent in English and Spanish. Gulf States has a large percentage of active Hispanic youth. His ability to speak both languages will help minister to all churches and youth groups in the territory.

Sanchez and his wife, Steffy, are expecting their first child in August. They are looking forward to showing young people that God is with them no matter



Steffy and Josue Sanchez are excited to welcome their new baby and join Gulf States in youth ministry.

what, in hard times and in good, and that He wants to be their constant companion and most dependable friend. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



# Crisis Changes Hearts and Lives for Christ



Michael Duman, left, and Rick Blythe, second from right, baptize two of the five family members.



Paul and Deborah Pledger (left, back), Debbie and Johnny Parker, and Caydence Pledger (front) celebrated their baptism on June 13, 2020.

There is a need to be praising the Lord in this pandemic crisis! While life has slowed down, families have been brought closer together. It seems that people are searching for answers in life. They have more time for Bible studies, and are finding Jesus!

The Piedmont, Ala., Church has been live-streaming their church services. Michael Duman, pastor, and Rick Blythe, retired pastor, have been presenting intentional, heart-searching messages, and are reaching success in many people. The continued efforts of the church have led to baptisms.

Five people from one family were baptized on June 13, 2020. Paul Pledger, wife Deborah, 9-year-old granddaughter Caydence, mother Debbie, and stepdad Johnny. It wasn't just the sermons the led to this joyous occasion; it was also a credit to a concerted effort in prayer. Deborah Pledger was baptized 28 years ago and had prayed daily for her husband. When her husband decided to be baptized, she wanted to share the experience with him and be rebaptized, totally committing their lives and marriage to God. Her life is a testimony to never stop praying for your loved ones.

Deborah Pledger wasn't alone in praying, though. Longtime family friend Michael Abraham often visited and prayed for the family. And, on the day of the baptism, Abraham made a surprise visit from Florida to witness the joyful occasion and give the sermon. As for what led the rest of the family, faith was also involved. Caydence Pledger inspired her dad to be baptized because of her consistent desire to be baptized since she was 6. She reads her Bible regularly and shares her faith with others by handing out literature to classmates, and even to her teacher. ①

BY LINDA FREEMAN

# Madison Campus Church Holds Drive-In Church Service



Julie Vega, Madison Campus Church caring connections pastor, welcomes everyone to the service.



Ken Wetmore (left), Madison Campus Church senior pastor, and David Murphy discuss fishing techniques during the sermon.

The weather could not have been more perfect. Bright, warm sunshine, a cool breeze, a clear blue sky, and a very excited pastoral staff greeted each member and guest as they arrived for the Sabbath morning worship service. This was the first Sabbath worship service in a while (3 months and 7 days, but who's counting?), and the first ever of its kind. The Madison Campus Church (MCC) family met together — separately — Sabbath, June 13, 2020, for the first time since March 7, 2020, and for the first drive-in church service in the history of MCC.

Although the MCC worship service had been made available virtually during this time, the joy and excitement on the faces of those in attendance clearly ex-

pressed how much the church family members had missed one another. The entire pastoral staff led in worship before Ken Wetmore, MCC senior pastor, concluded with the final sermon in the series, “End of the World for Dummies,” based on Matthew 24 and 25. The title of the sermon was “Go Fishing,” and included several highlights:

- An interview with one of MCC’s very own deacons and fishing experts, David Murphy.
- A brief overview of the parables of the talents and of the goats and sheep (Matthew 25).
- A recap of God’s call to His disciples (Luke 5:1-11).
- A reminder that God has invested His gifts in each and every person,

and expects them to nurture and grow those gifts in His service to those around us.

- A challenge to members to share the hope, love, and peace that is only found in Jesus with a hurting world.
- And, all from the back of a fishing boat!

The MCC family is prayerfully hopeful that this is the beginning of a “new normal” in which they continue to look forward to more family reunions each and every Sabbath. With even greater anticipation, they look forward to the ultimate Sabbath reunion with the Lord and Savior and the entire family of believers! 📌

BY ABNER FUENTES



# Virtual CHIP a Success

The Memphis-Raleigh, Tenn., Church hosted its second Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). The class began in the church fellowship hall with food samples each night. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the class went virtual. The participants continued to give the class their best effort, with excellent participation all the way to the end.

While traditional lab testing before and during the program validate the progress of participants, that was not practical for this session. However, simple lifestyle changes made big differences in the participants in the areas of sleep, food planning and preparations, weight loss, exercise, regu-



CHIP graduates

larity, water drinking, and their overall outlook and ability to achieve lifestyle goals.

A few of the participants were repeating CHIP for a second or third time.

These were not only bolstered by the review, but also felt they learned some new things that were encouraging. Despite the lack of face-to-face contact, the group bonded well with the lively conversations, insights, sharing, and even a group exercise time. Some have said they are ready to take it again.

CHIP is truly a complete health improvement program which educates in nutrition, exercise, relationships, stress, rest, forgiveness, and much more. Even without the food samples, the class was a great success, and the church praises God. 🙏

BY LESLIE CAZA

# Adventist Leaders Meet at Islamic Center of Nashville

An advertisement which previously misportrayed the Seventh-day Adventist Church and received national media attention was published in the Nashville Tennessean newspaper June 21, 2020. The ad by a splinter group predicted a terrorist nuclear attack in Nashville on July 18, 2020, and mentioned Islam as the perpetrators. It also used the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the writings of Ellen G. White. The ad, published by “Future for America,” caused great concern for Seventh-day Adventists, in particular the Nashville area Adventist churches. The North American Division (NAD) immediately issued a statement denouncing the views presented in the ad, and a copy of the response was sent to the Nashville Tennessean. Additionally, Gabriela Phillips, Adventist Muslim relations coordinator for the NAD, contacted one of the Islamic mosque leaders in Nashville.

Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference president, asked Nelson



Nelson Mercado (left), Imam Ossama Bahloul, and Gabriela Phillips

Mercado, pastor of the Nashville First Church, to participate in the meeting with Phillips and the leader of the mosque on Friday, June 26, 2020, at the Islamic Center of Nashville. Phillips and Mercado met with Imam Ossama Bahloul, resident scholar at the Islamic Center of Nashville, and two of the mosque leaders. Phillips thanked them for hosting the meeting and apologized on

behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church concerning the ad. She explained that it was published by a splinter group which was not associated with the Adventist Church. Further, Phillips and Mercado expressed to the Imam that Adventists believe and practice the equality of all races, and do not condone demonizing or threatening any faith group.

Imam Bahloul and his team were very thankful that Phillips and Mercado had reached out to them. They explained that the Islamic community was angry and hurt about the ad because it seems that everything is blamed on Islam. However, they understood these things sometimes happen because they have splinter groups in Islam as well.

Mercado asked if they would be willing to meet and share a meal so they could begin building bridges between their faith communities. They agreed to get together after the COVID-19 crisis has ended. 🙏

BY NELSON MERCADO

# Gladys Marshall Williams Honored by Community



Reginald Robinson, pastor, pose with the late Gladys Williams.

When Reginald Robinson, pastor, and his wife, Cynthia, arrived at the Vicksburg/Port Gibson, Miss., district, they had the pleasure of meeting Gladys M. Williams, a member of the Morning Star Church in Vicksburg, Miss. They soon discovered that she was a wealth of love, knowledge, and a love for cooking that she shared with them.

One day she invited them to accompany her to her personal ministry of love through her cooking. With the help of other church members, every second and fourth Monday, you would find Williams at the Salvation Army, cooking and serving full meals; sandwiches and chips were not an option for her. For the last 18 years, Williams served there faithfully, “I am thankful that God allowed me, as her pastor, to be a part of her ministry,” said Robinson.

A couple of weeks after she fell asleep



Reginald and Cynthia Robinson attended the memorial service for Gladys Williams at the Salvation Army in Vicksburg, Miss.

in Jesus, Robinson received a call from the Salvation Army requesting his and his wife’s presence at a memorial service for Williams. But, this was not an ordinary service. They wanted to remember her by giving out 200 plates of fully

cooked food in her memory. It was truly a blessing to see the community honoring someone who touched so many with the gift that God gave her. 🕯

BY REGINALD ROBINSON, PASTOR



# AHU's MHA Program Develops Christ-centered Healthcare Leaders

Ask yourself, “Why do you want the degree?” This is the question posed by Lars Houmann, FACHE, CEO emeritus of the Florida Division of AdventHealth (AH). He continues, “Is it because you want some letters after your name ... or is it because there’s something in your heart that makes you want to serve better, serve more?”

Houmann’s question is directed at prospective students of AdventHealth University’s (AHU) master of healthcare administration (M.H.A.) program. The program was designed to be deeply integrated with the leadership at AH, its sponsoring organization. Houmann was instrumental in establishing the program and a driving force in its continued success.

For faith-based institutions like AHU and AH, building a strong foundation of mission in the organization’s culture starts with Christ-centered leadership. AHU’s M.H.A. program is built around a model of the servant leader. Servant leadership is a philosophy built around the idea that the person sees leadership as an opportunity to serve others rather than views leadership as power or a rank to obtain. Servant leaders share power and measure success through growth over output. Benita David, D.B.A., AHU healthcare administration chair, said, “The idea ... is at the heart of everything we teach our students. Healthcare administrators ... have to remember they’re serving the needs of real people.”

AHU M.H.A. alumnus Casio Jones, commented on “how much Jesus was woven in through the curriculum.” When he described his experience in the program, he said, “Being a leader, it’s your responsibility to not just guide [employees] to be the best they can ... but help them with their relationship with Christ. I think that’s what sets [it] apart from other organizations. This ... is what healthcare should look like. You cannot



Benita David (standing, center) is the chair of AHU’s healthcare administration program, and has been integral in the success of the on-campus M.H.A. degree since 2012.

have healthcare without having the true leader involved.”

The M.H.A. program was founded in 2012, and enrolled its first students in 2013. For the program to be considered for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education CAHME, it needed to graduate two cohorts of students. Just this past May, the program received initial accreditation status from CAHME — a significant milestone for the program.

David said, “Receiving the maximum initial accreditation from CAHME has been the culmination of years of hard work from the program faculty and leadership at the University. It provides hospital leaders around the country the comfort and knowledge that a graduate from AHU’s M.H.A. program has developed the skills, ability, and mindset to be an

impactful leader in their organization.”

“AHU will be vital to providing the leadership talent essential to the future of Adventist health care in North American and globally, wherever our mission is active,” said Houmann. In an earlier video interview, he stated that AHU is “where the leaders of this organization ought to be developed.”

AHU develops skilled professionals who *live* the healing values of Christ. Its graduates will become leaders with a commitment to serve as God’s hands, guiding the healthcare industry as it continues to evolve and change. ❶

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

# Southern Takes Safety Seriously for Fall 2020

In preparation for the return of students and employees to campus for the Fall 2020 semester — which begins August 24 — Southern Adventist University has put in place a number of new safety measures. These precautions were developed by a special task force to help employees and students return to in-person instruction as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, hopefully giving parents some peace of mind.

“I want my son to have the complete Southern experience. While we all have come to expect a certain amount of ‘virtual’ in our lives these days, there is nothing like the real thing,” said Franklin Farrow, Southern alum, board member, and parent of a current student. “The University is working hard to safely provide the real thing to students, and I trust that the preparations made will provide the best opportunity to those who want to experience the fullness of life that Southern offers.”

These are the top five ways Southern is working to guard against infection and viral transmission this fall:

**1. Enhanced Air Filtration** – Southern has taken the special precaution of installing new filtration systems in all buildings on campus. The needlepoint bipolar ionization provides hospital-level air filtration in all classrooms, offices, meeting areas, and residence halls. The technology works by emitting charged ions that bind to airborne particles and neutralize pathogens, such as the new coronavirus. The installation has attracted attention from local churches, schools, and the media, as well as other universities across the country.

**2. Electrostatic Cleaning** – In addition to increasing cleaning frequency, Southern’s sanitation team has a powerful tool in their arsenal: electrostatic spraying machines. These special devices evenly disperse hospital-grade cleaning agents throughout a room, disinfecting even hard-to-reach places. This ensures that high-contact surfaces



With registration on track for a full campus this fall, Southern students, faculty, and staff eagerly anticipate being reunited on campus for in-person classes.

and heavily trafficked areas receive a deep cleaning frequently.

**3. Daily Screening** – All employees and students will be required to participate in daily temperature checks and symptom surveys to help quickly identify individuals who may be infected. Visitors will also be screened.

**4. Masks** – To help protect others from infection, employees will be wearing face masks in most indoor spaces. Washable masks will be provided to students, who will be encouraged to wear one whenever social distancing is not possible. In certain campus spaces, such as classrooms, face coverings will be required.

**5. Revised Calendar** – To reduce the amount of travel and send students home at a time when viruses are typically more prevalent, Southern has adjusted the Fall 2020 semester schedule. The new calendar ends in-person instruction at Thanksgiving break, followed by two weeks of distance coursework, completing the semester on December 11.

Additionally, Southern is reducing class-

room capacity, increasing the number of hand-sanitizing stations on campus, installing Plexiglas at key interaction points, adjusting social activities, and streamlining how food is served, along with other precautions. These safety measures were developed in collaboration with the University Health Center to meet or exceed state and Centers for Disease Control health guidelines for higher education. More information is available at [southern.edu/safety](https://southern.edu/safety).

Despite needing to take these extra precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic, registration at Southern is on track for a full campus this fall.

“Our students are the heart of Southern Adventist University,” said President David Smith, Ph.D., in an email to students. “We believe this will be an amazing fall semester, complete with Vespers, intramurals, Student Association events, and face-to-face classes. We can’t wait to start it with you!”

BY STAFF WRITER





**ANDERSON, STIG BORJE**, 95, born Jan. 13, 1925, died March 30, 2020, peacefully at the Quality Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Lebanon, TN. He was born and raised near Stockholm, Sweden, and migrated at the age of 24 to the United States to pursue a career as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He received his ministry training at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD. During this time, he formed the Wheaton Church with other students. He completed his training at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, before starting his 50-year career pastoring churches in New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

As a young adult, Stig served his community as a firefighter and played professional soccer. He would go on to play soccer in the U.S. where he led his team to a regional club championship in Chicago, IL. He is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Helen Anderson (passed away in 2017). Together, they raised three sons: Paul of Chestnut Mound, TN, James (Kathy) of Tampa, FL, and David (Cornelia) of Beltsville, MD; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters: Ingrid Nelson and Britt Swanson.

Beltsville, MD; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters: Ingrid Nelson and Britt Swanson.

**CINQUEMANI, ALVINA L.**, 89, born April 28, 1930 in Sturgeon Bay, WI; died April 1, 2020 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for six years.

Her non-denominational work included an assistant to the principal position and media specialist for the Berrien County School District in Michigan. Her denominational work included secretary in the Education Department at the Wisconsin Conference from 1952 to 1956; church secretary at Forest Lake Church in Apopka from 1989 to 2010; and church wedding coordinator for the Forest Lake Church from 2010 to 2015.

She is survived by one son, Jeff (Tami) Cinquemani of Apopka; three daughters: Barbara (John) Kurlinski of Bremerton, WA; Bonnie (Greg) Schaller of Los Angeles, CA; and Theresa Clark of Apopka; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The service will be held at a later date.



**KLOOSTERHUIS, ROBERT**, 87, born Aug. 22, 1932 in Kalamazoo, MI, the youngest of four sons, died Nov. 3, 2019 at AdventHealth, Fish Memorial Hospital. He was a graduate of Forest Lake Academy in 1950, and earned a B.A. from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1954 with a major in religion.

In June 1953, Bob married Ruth Schoun. After graduating from EMC in 1954, he was called to be the industrial director of the Seminaire Adventiste School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Later he became the principal of the school, and got the school accredited by the Haitian government. The school is now called Universite d'Haiti. When the French-speaking countries in the Caribbean were united into a union, the Franco-Haitian Union, he became the secretary-treasurer.

Upon return to the United States in 1964, the couple were able to send their two sons, David and Jim, to denominational schools, and Bob earned a Master's degree from Andrews University in New Testament studies. He served 11 years (1966-1976) as pastor, and departmental secretary in the Stewardship and Youth Departments in the Illinois Conference.

In 1976, Bob was called to be president of the Franco-Haitian Union and served until 1980, when he was called to be president of the newly formed Africa-Indian Ocean Division in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, serving there from 1980 to 1985.

In 1985, he was elected as a general vice-president of the General Conference of Seventh-day-Adventists, where he served until 2000. During that time, he served as chair of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Andrews University, and chair of the Pacific Press Board. He also received an honorary doctorate from Andrews University. After his retirement, Bob continued to take assignments in relation to the work of the Church in various parts of the world field on behalf of ADRA (Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency), and the Presidential and Secretariat Departments of the General Conference.

Since 2014, Bob and Ruth have lived in DeLand, FL, where they were active members of the DeLand Church. Bob served as a member of the church board, chairman of the nominating committee, and served as a Sabbath School teacher. In addition, he was invited to serve as a member of the Executive Committee at the Florida Conference.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth; two sons: David (Susan) and Jim (Joanne) Kloosterhuis; five grandchildren: John (Erin), Ryan (Jennifer), Ross, Andrew, and Julie Kloosterhuis (Justin) Burks; and four great-grandchildren: Shade, Ezra, and Blake Kloosterhuis, and Hazel Burks.



**MATCHIM, ALLISTER (AL) S.**, 73, born April 22, 1946 in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada; died Feb. 22, 2020 in Lake Worth, FL. He was a member of the Palmetto, FL, Church.

As a young man, Al enjoyed fishing and building boats with his father, and helping his mother around their small family farm in Sandy Cove, Newfoundland. In his late teens, Al left his beloved island to travel to Toronto to try his hand on the mainland. Living with his uncle Bert, Al secured a job working with Somerville Industries making interiors for Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors. While in Toronto, Al found the love of his life and married Donna in the summer of 1966.

In his mid-20s, Al became an Adventist and was called by God to become a fisher of men. He attended Canadian Union College (now Burman University) to study theology. After graduating in 1975, he became a pastor, which became his life's work.

A few years later, he moved his young family to the United States. In his 45 years of ministry, Al served as a youth pastor at several Adventist academies, and led multiple churches in the Kentucky-Tennessee and Carolina conferences. He also counseled countless church members with the knowledge he gained from graduate family life studies at Andrews University. Together with Donna, he served as a family life director. He was affectionately known by all as Pastor Al. His sense of humor kept his congregations engaged, and his wise leadership shaped churches and influenced many.

Although he and Donna retired to Florida in 2013, his ministry continued. He loved Jesus and made it a point to witness in his gentle way to everyone with whom he came in contact. Even in retirement, Pastor Al enjoyed preaching the Word of God in local churches, and performing weddings and funerals for family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna; two sons: Trevor (Marsha) and Chris (Aiza); three brothers: Clarke (Sharon), Gerald (Marilyn), and Neville (Rosalind); two grandchildren: Cassie (Chris) and Alec; and four step-grandchildren: Bridget (Steven) and Anthony, Christie, and Josh.

A celebration of life service was held at the Palmetto, FL, Church. Interment will be in Glovertown, Newfoundland, Canada.

**WORKMAN, RALPH CHARLES**, 89, born Sept. 9, 1930 in Battle Creek, MI, died May 2, 2020 in Hendersonville, NC. He was member of the Fletcher, NC, Church.

Ralph married Dorothy Marie Baumgartner on Oct. 4, 1953, while attending Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, MD. After being drafted and serving his country, he used the GI bill to receive a B.A. degree from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, in 1956, and a M.Div. degree at Potomac University, Takoma Park, MD, in 1957.

After serving as an Army chaplain for 20+ years, Ralph retired in Hendersonville, to become an assistant pastor at Fletcher Church. He taught religion at the Fletcher Nursing School and Academy, served as chaplain at Park Ridge Hospital, Baystone Assisted Living, and The Lodge Assisted Living in Mills River.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; three children: Chuck, Trudy, and Ray; and five grandchildren: Adrienne, Kelsey, Gilman, Chris Workman, and Emily Jaschke. He was preceded in death by his parents: Paul and Mary (Hubble) Workman.



**DOPP, RANDALL ERIC**, 67, born May 27, 1952 in Wenatchee, WA, died May 9, 2020 in Birmingham, AL. He was a member of the University Parkway Church in Pensacola, FL. He loved his work, becoming an airline captain, and also working on Capitol Hill to strengthen air safety legislation. He retired from American Airlines in 2017. Randy used his sailing skills to guide

friends on bare-boat yacht charters in the Caribbean and in Tahiti, and he enjoyed participating in the Glad Tidings mission sailboat project in Micronesia, bringing health care and spiritual hope to remote islands. He is survived by his wife, Marie Dopp; his son, Tyler Dopp; his daughters: Ruth and Erika Pabalan; his sister, Terrie Aamodt; his niece, Erica Aamodt; his neph-

ew, Alex Aamodt; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents: Matthew and Janice Dopp. A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 16, 2020, at the Trahan Family Funeral Home in Milton, FL.

**DOUGLAS, EUSTACE A.**, 99 born March 20, 1920 in Birds Hill, Clarendon, Ja-



maica, to James Douglas and Esther Shaw, died Jan. 16, 2020. He attended Birds Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church School. As a child, Eustace was very adventurous and loved the outdoors, where he spent much of his time fishing and swimming. He enjoyed working with his father and while doing so, he developed a love for carpentry and painting. Eustace also had a love for music—he learned to play the piano, organ, and harmonica by ear. He was so talented that he was often asked to play his harmonica at church and could play any hymn requested. Because of his adventurous spirit, Eustace moved to the U.S. to help in the war effort. This landed him in Springfield, MA, where he worked at the Springfield Gun Armory. While working in Springfield, he met and married his loving wife, Patricia L. Josey in 1945. This union produced 10 children: Murdock (Kathleen), Lelett (Raymond), Serle, Eustace Jr. (Denise), Kathy (Fred), James, Gary (Misty), Marcia (Albert), Kirk (Debby), and Sharyn (Gilford). Eustace proved to be a faithful husband and father. He often worked several jobs to support his family. In 1965, he was recognized for his qualities of being a good father by the city of Springfield, and was declared Father-of-the Year. While in Springfield, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to start his construction business of buying, refurbishing, and selling homes. He was so successful in this business that he decided to grow it full time. This caused him to move his family to California in 1967. Douglas Construction became a flourishing business due to the efforts of Eustace and his brother Franklin. Not only was his family blessed by this business, others were also blessed because Eustace would employ men from within his community and his church. Eustace was raised in the Seventh-day-Adventist Church. His father James was a pioneer in the Church, and helped to spread the message throughout the country. Following

in his Father's footsteps, Eustace dedicated his life to serving God. Eustace faithfully served with and supported many pastors by serving as a deacon, head deacon, elder, head elder, Sabbath School teacher, evangelism leader, and conducted Bible studies, bringing many to Christ. Eustace was very compassionate to those who were less fortunate. He worked in missions feeding the homeless, and sometimes brought some of them home. He supported many churches financially, and used his carpentry skills to repair and upgrade several churches. His kindness and selflessness knew no limits. After 53 years of marriage, the loss of his wife Patricia left a void in Eustace's life. God brought joy back into his life when he met Lora Allen in Sacramento, CA. They found that they had many things in common, and enjoyed each other's company. They both loved the Lord, they grew up in the Church, they were both from Jamaica, they loved to travel, and they each had many children. They decided to spend their lives together, and they got married on March 26, 2000. Eustace was welcomed into Lora's family by her seven children and many grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Lora; his children, 28 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces; nephews; family; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: James and Esther; his four siblings: Amos, Alice, Franklin, and Ida; his loving wife, Patricia; his daughter-in-law, Denise; son-in law; Fred; and two grandsons: Colin and Malachi.

**DREW, TODD MITCHELL**, 48, born April 30, 1971 in Baxley, GA, died March 3, 2020 in Baxley, due to injuries sustained in a boating accident. The Appling County native was the owner of Georgia Green Environmental and a member of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, FL. He is survived by three children: Austin (Maci) Drew of

Alma, GA, Grant Drew of Baxley; and LeAnna Drew of Baxley; parents: John H. and Sandra Drew of Baxley; sister, Samantha Drew Eden of Baxley; brother, John H. Drew II of North Augusta, SC, and sister, Nancy Sullivan of Oklahoma.

**FIELDS SR., RUSSELL LEE**, 94, born Dec. 14, 1925, died April 12, 2020. He was reared by his adopted sister, Daisy Mae Fields, and her husband, Ransom (Duley) Fields Sr. He attended elementary school in St. Matthews, SC, and graduated from Jamison High School. He attended one year of college at Claflin College (now Claflin University) in Orangeburg, SC. He became a Seventh-day Adventist after attending an evangelistic tent meeting led by Pastor Malcolm Phipps. A few years later, he moved his family to New York for his children to get an Adventist Christian education. In 1976, he returned to South Carolina from Far Rockaway, NY. He was a faithful member of the Pecan Grove Church (now Christ is the Answer Church) in Orangeburg, until his death. He was a very active member serving faithfully as an elder, prison ministries, community services, visiting local nursing homes, keeping the church neat and clean for services, and dedicated to the work of the Adventist Church by spreading the Good News about Jesus. Russell was a hardworking man and worked at various places. He retired from Methodist Oaks Nursing Home in Orangeburg, and assisted Jasper Dawkins with preparing the River Oaks Campground in Orangeburg for yearly Camp Meetings before the new facilities were built. He devoted his life to attending to the welfare of his 10 children, 24 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren. Russell is survived by his wife of 22 years, Georgia Mae Fields; five sons: Russell (Delores) Fields Jr. of St. Matthews, SC, Ransom David Fields of Conyers, GA, Kenneth (Audrey) Fields of Lithonia, GA,

James (Michelle) Fields of Conyers, and Ryan Fields of Orangeburg; three daughters: Christine (Glenn) Terry of Marietta, GA, Mary Fields-Rivers of Huntsville, AL, and Januwoina (John) Nixon of Nashville, TN; and one special daughter-in-law, Irisene Douce of Stone Mountain, GA; and a host of loving relatives and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 35 years, Mary Louise Fields; two sons: John Allen Fields Sr., and Joseph Thaddeus Fields; and one grandson, Shawn Lannel Massey.

**GREENE, DORIS**, 87, born 1933, died May 26, 2020 in Boligee, AL. She was a member of the Community Church in Meridian, MS. She is survived by her son, Tommy Greene of Boligee, and her daughter, Bonnie Sue Miller of Mt. Hebron, AL. Interment took place at the Beth Salem Cemetery conducted by Pastor Mike Burks.

**HAAS, BETTY JANE (TUMLINSON)**, 94, born Nov. 16, 1925 in Oakland, CA, died March 4, 2020 in Asheville, NC. She was married to the late Richard Warren Haas for 60 years. She worked as a nursing and public health educator for many years. She was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She is survived by one son, Richard Haas; one daughter, Judy Lynn (Haas) Brauer, and her husband, Marvin Brauer; granddaughter, Cassandra Brauer Krause, and her husband, Reed Krause; granddaughter, Sashenka Jessic Brauer, and her husband, Alvaro Chauca; and one great-grandson, Connor Muir Krause.

**NEIVES, THEOPHILUS D.**, 92, born Oct. 4, 1927 in St. Charles, Trinidad, died March 22, 2020 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for 14 years. He was employed during his life by the City of New York Housing Authority. He is survived by

his wife of 56 years, Christiana; one son, Philli T.P. Neives of District Heights, MD; four daughters: Karen Neives of Apopka, Wendy Ann (Ronald) Neives-Reed of Loganville, GA; Yolanda (Clevon) Harrison of Columbus, OH, and Denise Neives of Apopka; one sister, Esther Springer of St. Charles, Trinidad; and seven grandchildren. The service will be conducted at the Forest Lake Church, and the interment will be at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

**NICHOLSON, EDLYN CLOVER RAMSAY**, 91, fondly called Lyn, born June 15, 1928 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies, after a brief illness, she died July 22, 2019. In 1949, she married her childhood friend Vincent Nicholson. To their union, three children were born. Lyn and Vin were married for 60 years until his death in 2010. After marriage, Lyn moved to New York City where she continued her education in nursing. She was privileged to work in that field until her retirement. Lyn was a member of the Ephesus Church in Harlem, NY, where she held many church ministry offices including Sabbath School lower division teacher and Sabbath School secretary. Lyn enjoyed working for the Lord, and encouraged her children to be active in church ministry. In 1976, Lyn and Vin moved to Miami, FL, where they were members of the Miami Temple Church. As was her custom, Lyn was a faithful, active member in her church, and held many church offices including deaconess, Sabbath School junior division teacher, Sabbath School secretary, and a loyal member of the church choir. Serving God in any capacity was one of her greatest joys. She is survived by two children: Clover (Paul), and Harvey (Reina); six grandchildren: Tiffany, Sheldon (Yaisa), April (Joel), Shawn (Ayanna), Shane (Domonique), and Franklin; (Shea preceded her in death); seven great-grandchildren:

Mia-Jolie, Julius, Parker, Mason, Aria, Joshua, and Persephone; her brother, Astley (Gertrude); her sister, Doreen; a host of nieces; nephews; relatives; and friends, all of whom eagerly await the promised resurrection and the glorious reunion with their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her youngest child, Danelle Walcott who passed in Oct. 2019.

**O'QUINN, DAVID EUGENE**, 72, born May 10, 1948 in Surrency, GA, died May 29, 2020 in Surrency, at his residence. A lifelong resident of Appling County; a retired truck driver of 20 years with Trucks Inc. of Jackson, GA, and a member of the Waycross Adventist Church in Georgia. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Debbie O'Quinn of Surrency; five children: Randy (Lisa) O'Quinn of Surrency; Melisa (Kyle) Hannigan of Cocoa Beach, FL; David Troy O'Quinn of Baxley, GA; Brandon Johnson of Baxley; and Charli O'Quinn (Max Sanders) of Surrency; six grandchildren: Reese O'Quinn, Ashton O'Quinn, Preston O'Quinn, Kaylyn Scarborough, Harmony Johnson, and Marleigh Sanders; two sisters: Sandra (Henry) Padgett of Baxley, and Tammy (Bob) Overstreet of Collegedale, TN; two brothers: Charles (Shelia) O'Quinn of Surrency; and Ronnie (Renee) O'Quinn of Odum, GA; nieces; nephews; and other family members.

**SCHULEMAN, RICHARD JOHN**, 92, born Aug. 23, 1927 in Wilmette, IL, died April 13, 2020 in Hendersonville, NC. He was member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. Richard attended Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) to study business. There he met and married Juanita Berg. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Juanita Berg Schuleman of Hendersonville; two daughters: Jeanette (Scott) Gividen of Dorchester, SC, and Carol (Kenneth) Scranton of Bolingbrook, IL;



four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Reprinted with corrections:

**UNDERWOOD, THEODORE ROOSEVELT**, 95, born Nov. 19, 1924 in Bainbridge, GA, to the late Reverend Hardie Mamon Underwood Sr. and Addie Hardnett Underwood, died peacefully on Dec. 21, 2019 in Orlando, FL. There were 10 children born to his parents; Theodore was the eighth child. Addie Hardnett Underwood, Theodore's mother, passed in 1932, leaving five young children to be cared for. His sister, Marie, who was nine years old, helped her father care for the younger children until their older sister, Ethel Penn, sent for them in 1937 to come live with her and her husband, Will Penn, in Perry, FL. Theodore's sisters, Marie and Ethel, became surrogate mothers nurturing, loving, and guiding him. Theodore enrolled into Jerkins High School in Perry, in 1937. He loved going to school learning, making friends and playing sports. There he met his close friends James Golden Jr. and Earl Williams. They became lifelong friends. Later, Theodore enrolled at Florida A&M College (now University) in Tallahassee, FL, and completed a trade in wood working in Dec. 1942, and electric welding in March 1943. The United States Army drafted Theodore, and he entered into active service on April 3, 1943. He served during World War II, and he served with the 4068th Quartermaster Service Company. His unit provided service and support for the front line. He served in the European African Middle Eastern Theater of Operations, serving in Oran, Algeria, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Le Harve, France, and Frankfurt, Germany. PFC Theodore Underwood received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on Dec. 17, 1945, earning the EAMETO Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. The-

odore was introduced to a young girl by his friend James Golden Jr., who would later become his wife; her name was Elouise Williams. Theodore thought that she was so pretty and could really dance; he thought they were a good match. Theodore married Elouise on June 10, 1946 in Quitman, GA. They moved to Tampa, FL, in 1947, for a better future. To this union three children were born. At an early age, Theodore was taught about Jesus by his mother and father. His parents taught him how to pray his bedtime prayers and bless his food. He would attend church every Sunday with his family, participating in praise and worship service and listening to his father preach. God led Theodore to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1958, in Tampa, FL, during an evangelistic series under the leadership of evangelist Elder Eric C. Ward. He was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Elder Theus Young at Mt. Calvary SDA Church in Tampa. Theodore was a faithful, active member of the Westside Community SDA Church. He was part of a small group of members from Mt. Calvary who lived in West Tampa, Carver City, and Lincoln Gardens, and helped to organize the Westside Community SDA Church. Whatever needed to be done at church or for the church, he was willing to do it. Theodore was an ordained deacon. He also worked in various departments at the church: Treasury Department, Community Services Department, and the Sabbath School Department. He was coordinator of transportation—driving the church van on Wednesday nights, picking up members who wanted to come to Prayer Meeting, and picking of members who wanted to come to Sabbath School and Divine worship service. Theodore was also the church custodian; keeping the inside of the church clean. He was thankful that he was able to worship and fellowship with his church family. Theodore was a loving husband, fa-

ther, and grandfather. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 73 years, Elouise Underwood of Tampa; three daughters: Mary Winslow of Clarkston, GA; Cynthia Underwood and Theodosia Underwood of Winter Park, FL; two grandsons: Christopher Winslow of Marietta, GA; Roman Davis of Clarkston; one sister, Marie Phillips of Burlington, NJ; one sister-in-law, Clara Williams of Tampa; a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents: Reverend Hardie Mamon and Addie Hardnett Underwood Sr.; three brothers: Willie Clefort Underwood, Hardie Mamon Underwood Jr., and Frank Henry Underwood; six sisters: Ethel Penn, Alberta Howard, Eddie Lee McQueen, Elouise Wilson, Josephine Hinson, and Flora Mae Stallworth. The life of Theodore Underwood and his family is featured in the book, *UNDERWOOD RECOLLECTIONS: Memories of Frank Underwood, his four wives, and their descendants as told by his grandchildren: Marie, Flora Mae, Josephine, and Theodore*, written by his daughter Cynthia M. Underwood.

**VINSON, FRANCES SMITH**, 96, born March 7, 1924 in Shelby County to the late George and Iva Ellen Smith, died April 2, 2020. She was a member of the Shelbyville, KY, Church. She was the first Adventist in Shelbyville. She was very involved with her work for the Church. Frances loved to sew by hand and enjoyed her garden. She retired from Union Underwear. She is survived by one daughter, June Craig of Shelbyville; one son, Wayne (Jean) Vinson of Simpsonville; one brother, Gean (Alice) Smith of Georgia; three grandchildren: Allison (Michael) Johnson, Brandy (Jonathon) Kardeen, and Benjamin (Jenna) Craig; and four great-grandchildren.

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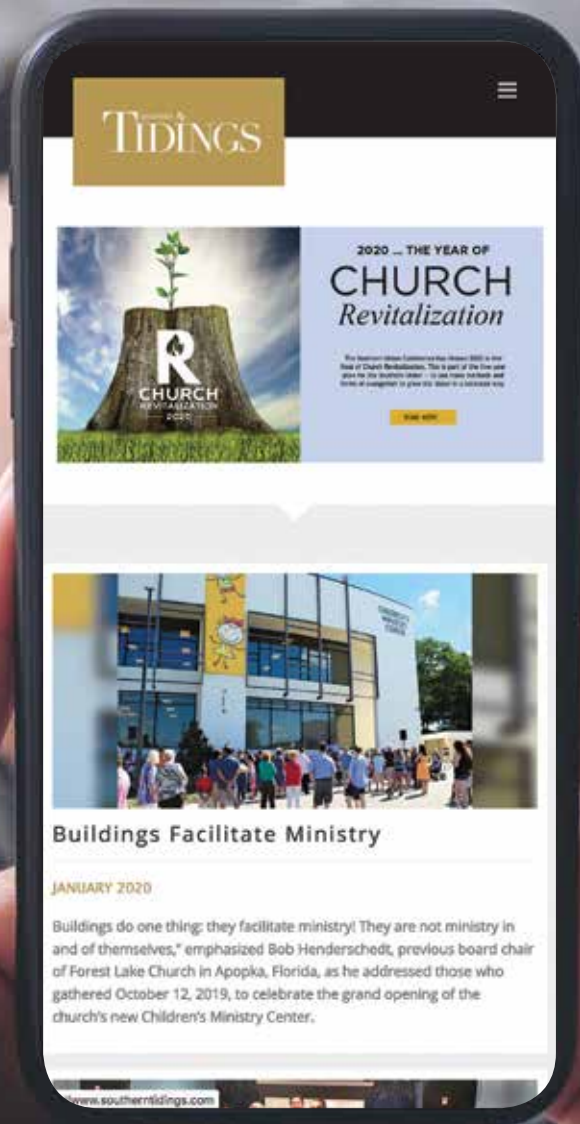
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## SPIRIT OF THE PIONEERS

JOHN NEVIN ANDREWS, a Millerite, later accepting the Sabbath, and mostly self-educated, became known to early Seventh-day Adventists as "The Ablest Man in Our Ranks."

Pouring out his life as evangelist, editor, General Conference President, and our first Adventist Missionary, he exemplified the sacrifices of our pioneers. After the death of his wife, he left for Europe with his son and daughter and one small trunk of belongings. Living in the most austere manner, they learned the languages of Europe and started not only the first publishing work, but helped give birth to the total European Adventist church. His daughter died at 17, and he at 54; both died of tuberculosis. One of his last acts was to sign over his remaining \$500 to be used in the Lord's Work in Europe.

The spirit of the pioneers is not dead but still resides in many members right here in the Southern Union. Planned Giving and Trust Services is designed to help all our members to further the causes they believe in, as well as to adequately provide for the needs of their family. You are invited to contact for counsel and services the Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services Department.

**Carolina** Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200  
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## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**AYMT (PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION)** - Aug. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**ACF RESTART** - Aug. 21, 22.

**ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY - Aug. 22 CONNECTED...SISTERS WALKING TOGETHER** - Aug. 22. 3-5:30 p.m. Online event open to women and teen girls 12 and up. To register, send email to dcrandall@gccsda.com

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLY WITH EW DEMPSEY** - Aug. 22. 2-5 p.m. Greater Atlanta Church, Decatur, GA.

**ADVENTURER MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - Aug. 28-30. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP 40-YEAR STAFF REUNION** - Sept. 4-6. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - THEME IS "CHANGED"** - Sept 18-20. Get ready for an EPIC weekend. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**MADE TO MOVE WEEK** - Sept. 19-26. InStep for Life, plan an event like a 5k, and invite your community. These events can be virtual as well.

**CARRYING THE FRAGRANCE OF JESUS-WOMEN'S & TEEN GIRLS' FALL RETREAT** - Sept. 26, 27. Online event.

**IGNITE MEN'S CONFERENCE** - Oct. 2-4. Speakers are Ivor Myers, founder/president of Power of the Lamb Ministries and ARME Bible Camp; and Rickie Halversen, pastor for the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, TN. There will be seminars on marriage, finances, fatherhood, addiction, health, sexual purity, and leadership. Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Crandall, GA.

Register for events on the Conference website, [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**FALL CLASSES BEGIN** - Aug. 24. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. This fall, normal classes will be held on campus, with precautions in place to promote health and safety. For more information, visit [southern.edu](http://southern.edu) or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

**VIRTUAL HOMECOMING** - Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. Save the date! Honor Classes include: 1940, '50, '60, '70, '75, '80, '90, '95, '00, '10. Visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni) or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - OCT. 2, 3.** At Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11, '16. For more information call, 701-751-6177, ext. 212 or visit [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org).

**FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - OCT. 2-4.** FA Campus. Celebrating 110 years! Join us as we honor the class years ending in 5's and 0's. The Class of 1970 will be marking its 50th Reunion. A special invitation to those connected to our School of Nursing. Please update your contact information at [agibbs@fletcheracademy.org](mailto:agibbs@fletcheracademy.org), 828-209-6704. More details at: [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com).

**INDIANA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - OCT. 9, 10.** Alumni weekend will be conducted at the Academy located in Cicero, Indiana. There will be a golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 9. For reservations, contact Bill Summitt at [IAgolf-](mailto:IAgolf-)

[classic@gmail.com](mailto:classic@gmail.com) or call 317-437-8104. On Sabbath, Oct. 10, the services will be streamed via YouTube at Indiana Academy Alumni or on the Alumni website at [iaalumni.org](http://iaalumni.org). For questions about weekend events, contact Janet Schalk White at [janet.white@earthlink.net](mailto:janet.white@earthlink.net).

**VILLAGE SDA CHURCH - OCT. 22-24.** Hosting the third annual Daniel 11 Conference, featuring leading Adventist scholars discussing the interpretation of this intriguing prophecy. Learn more at [www.daniel11prophecy.com](http://www.daniel11prophecy.com) (the most comprehensive Adventist website on Daniel 11), and watch online at [www.villagesda.org](http://www.villagesda.org).

**SINGLES:** Bible study, hikes, socials, banquets, retreats, bowling, cooking class and more! Check out the Calendar of Events at [www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home](http://www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home).

**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, 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 for free now. Available for both Android and iOS devices.

## SUNSET

	AUG 7	AUG 14	AUG 21	AUG 28	SEPT 4	SEPT 11
ATLANTA, GA	8:31	8:24	8:15	8:07	7:57	7:48
CHARLESTON, SC	8:12	8:04	7:56	7:48	7:39	7:30
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:19	8:12	8:03	7:54	7:44	7:34
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:36	8:28	8:20	8:11	8:01	7:51
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:41	7:33	7:25	7:16	7:06	6:56
JACKSON, MS	7:52	7:45	7:37	7:28	7:19	7:10
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:45	8:36	8:27	8:17	8:06	7:55
MEMPHIS, TN	7:56	7:48	7:40	7:31	7:21	7:11
MIAMI, FL	8:02	7:56	7:50	7:43	7:35	7:28
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:36	7:29	7:21	7:13	7:04	6:55
NASHVILLE, TN	7:45	7:37	7:28	7:19	7:09	6:58
ORLANDO, FL	8:10	8:04	7:57	7:50	7:42	7:34
TAMPA, FL	8:14	8:08	8:01	7:54	7:46	7:38
WILMINGTON, NC	8:06	7:59	7:50	7:41	7:32	7:22



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