

T Southern 

JULY 2020

TIDINGS



CLASS *of*
2020

The Challenge of Ending Well



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

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gave me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was,” John 17:4, 5.

There is nothing quite so satisfying as to finish a job successfully, particularly if the task has been a difficult one. Christ must have included this concept of completed work in His prayer with a deep sense of satisfaction. He died from a broken heart, but never had He a moment of remorse or disappointment over any shortcomings on His part in finishing His work. In the entire prayer, He does not once complain of His life of poverty and hardship. What a noble Person our Lord is! His life of victory has left a marvelous example for us to follow throughout our lives on Earth. In Heaven, we shall continue to glory in His success.

Melanchthon, collaborator with Martin Luther in the Protestant Reformation, said shortly before his death, “No more noble, no more holy, no more salutary, no more lofty voice has ever been heard in Heaven or Earth than this very prayer of the Son of God.”

The concept of glorifying God is involved in finishing the work. Compare this with the first angel’s message, which commands, “Fear God, and give glory to him,” Revelation 14:7. God’s remnant people are under the same obligation as Christ to glorify the Father. But, what does glorifying God and finishing the work really mean? Can we human beings accomplish this? Christ lived a righteous life. He kept His Father’s law perfectly. Satan could not point to one single fault in His life. It is on His merits and character accomplishments that our salvation rests. Therefore, His first work was to glorify His Father by perfectly patterning His character after His Father’s character. This Christ successfully accomplished on a daily basis and became a perfect sacrifice for the salvation of man. His success assures us that our success is possible through the inner-working power of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus declared in his final remarks, “It is finished,” He did not yield up His life until He had accomplished the work which He came to do. He conveyed that message in His final breath.

What was finished? The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror, He planted His banner on the eternal heights. The old account had been settled. He or she who has fallen in the pits of sin is now given a way to be lifted up. The prodigal is summoned back into citizenship. The crooked ways in life can be made straight. The weight of my sins — not some of them, but all of them — have been lifted forever. The long journey of resolving the sin problem has concluded. Can you hear Him as He bows His head and gives up His spirit? Father, I turn myself over. The Warrior’s muscles relax. He unbuckles the shield. He ungirds the armor. Father, the battle has ended. Father, hell has lost. Father, God has won. Finally, my active imagination hears Him declare: “Angels, get My mansions ready — by way of the grave to make it all clear, but I’m coming home.” ❶

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CLASS *of* 2020



It is with great delight that we congratulate all 2020 graduates — kindergarten through university — within the Southern Union. This class is the first in history to make an abrupt transition from an on-campus experience, attending classes in person, to an online experience, attending classes from the comfort of home. They, along with their teachers, rose to the occasion and finished strong. In the pages to follow, we honor the graduates from our Southern Union senior academies and invite you to join in celebrating the Class of 2020's achievement of such an important milestone.

—The Southern Union Office of Education Team

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Cameron Richards



Ciin Cing



Dakota Godfrey



Dim Niang



Dung Than



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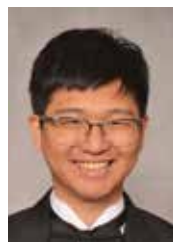
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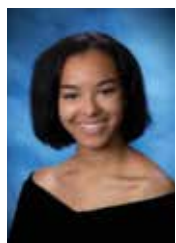
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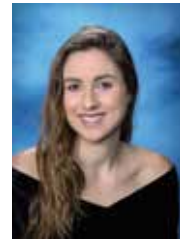
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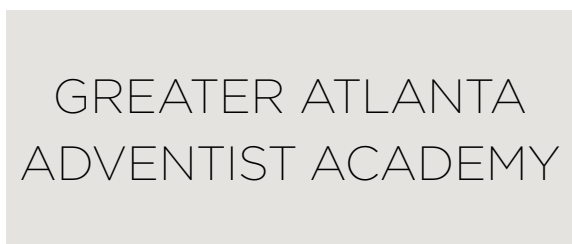
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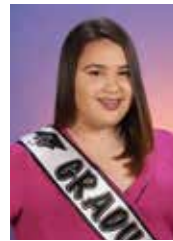
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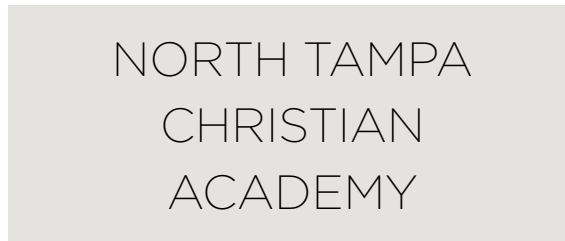
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AdventHealth Launches First-of-its-kind Immunotherapy Treatment



Antigen-Specific T-Cell therapy team prior to infusion.

AdventHealth physicians are the first in the world to launch a pioneering treatment targeting certain blood cancers for patients who have exhausted all other types of therapy.

Antigen-specific T-cell therapy, which is the subject of a clinical trial at AdventHealth Orlando, uses the immune cells to target cancer cells, and provides what is often the final treatment opportunity for people suffering from certain types of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

The first patient to receive this therapy was treated in late April at AdventHealth Orlando and is recovering at home. He will be monitored to determine the efficacy of the treatment, which may take several months.

More than 19,000 people will be diagnosed with AML this year in the United States, and more than 11,000 people will die from the disease, according to the National Cancer Institute. The five-year survival rate for AML is 28.7 percent,

while in comparison, the five-year survival rate for leukemia is 63.7 percent.

The number of people diagnosed with MDS in the country each year is uncertain, but is estimated at 10,000 or higher, the American Cancer Society reports.

“The best attribute of an immunotherapy treatment like this one is that it’s a precise, customizable, and personalized way to treat cancer for those who have no options left,” said Juan Carlos Varela, M.D., hematology oncologist at AdventHealth and principal investigator of the trial. “The relapse after traditional forms of treatment for these patients is around 40 percent. That relapse is the number one cause of death for this patient population. Their options are very limited and there’s an urgent need for potentially lifesaving treatment options like this one.”

Antigen-specific T-cells are made by removing white blood cells from a donor (who had previously donated stem cells to the patient), generating immune cells that are tumor-specific, and then infusing

the generated cells back into the patient’s bloodstream. Antigen-specific T-cells are able to attack specific cancer cells.

“Being the first in the world to launch this therapy, and to have the lead investigator on our team, shows our commitment to personalized medicine, which is the future of cancer care,” said Mark Socinski, M.D., executive medical director of the AdventHealth Cancer Institute. “We’re excited to bring this innovative therapy to our patients and allow them to access this potentially lifesaving treatment close to home.”

The Antigen-specific T-cell therapy clinical trial and the blood and marrow transplant program are made possible by the generous support of community donors, including the AdventHealth Foundation of Central Florida. ●

BY CLAUDIA MAURY, EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST IN ADVENTHEALTH'S CENTRAL FLORIDA DIVISION

Social Distancing Will Be No More!

Beth Grissom shares her social distancing experience.

It has now been months since everything changed. COVID-19 hit the world and suddenly everything was different. Like many of you, I found myself at home: at home working, at home for church, at home for every meal, at home for birthdays, at home isolated as we do this strange new thing called social distancing. Social distancing has really been a challenge for me. I miss human faces (in real life — it’s not the same on Zoom!). I miss worshipping together and listening to everyone sing. I miss hugs. I miss so much!

In the garden of Eden, God had a beautiful relationship with Adam and Eve. They walked together and talked together. They saw each other face to face, and it was glorious. After sin the very first social distancing took place. Adam and Eve hid from God. Perhaps more than ever, I now have a glimpse of what that must have been like for God. Here He was in perfect communion with us, and then, in a split second, distance became necessary.

The good news is this: Jesus Christ came to this earth so there would be a solution to the social distancing between us. He lived and died, then rose again so each of us might have eternal life with Him. When He went back to Heaven to be with His Father, He didn’t leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us so we can be together today, not just someday in the earth made new.



God wants to be in relationship with us; He wants to walk and talk with us. He doesn’t want social distancing, even here and now.

In *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White writes, “Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual relationship with our heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune

with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life,” p. 93.

Prayer is so much more than our praises and our requests. Prayer is the very foundational need to communicate, to be in relationship with God. When we don’t pray, when we social distance ourselves from Him, our hearts and His hurt. Just as we are all yearning to be back together, just as we miss hugs and conversations, meals and worshipping together, He yearns for you to have conversations with Him.

The one constant joy during this time has been prayer. It hasn’t changed. If you want to be part of a community that prays every night, please join us on the Carolina Conference Prayer Call* at 7 p.m. each evening until July 4 and every Monday night from then on. It is a beautiful time of prayer and togetherness that will uplift your heart.

As social distancing restrictions are lifted and we start coming back together as communities, don’t forget to pray! Remember to develop and treasure the most precious of all relationships, the relationship with your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is always ready and waiting!

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me,” Revelation 3:20 NIV. 🕊

BY BETH GRISSOM, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S MINISTRY AND PRAYER MINISTRY

Member Returns from God’s “Zoom Call”

When Heidi* received the mailer advertising the Prophecies of Hope series at the Morganton, N.C., Church, her first thought was to throw it in the trash. More than a decade earlier she had left that church because of a personality conflict and never returned. For some inexplicable reason, though, she left the brochure on her table for several weeks.

By the time Heidi decided to see if the

Morganton Church had a website, the Prophecies of Hope series had been going on for about three weeks. However, the pastor, Steve Bietz, had cancelled the remaining meetings just that week because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The regular Sabbath worship services were also cancelled, and each week’s service would be live streamed instead.

The first Sabbath that the service was

live streamed was the day Heidi found the church’s website. Bietz was the only one leading out in the service, and as he called for the offering, he reminded his church family that tithe and budget offerings are not tied to attendance but are tied to our hearts. Heidi was struck by this thought, and on Monday she called Bietz and asked to meet with him.

On Thursday, Heidi met with Bietz and his wife, Deborah, at his church office.



was time, after a decade, to let go of the hurt feelings and come back to her church family. She told him that she knew coming back was what God was asking her to do, but that it was hard. Bietz assured her that the financial restitution she had made was a great beginning to letting go of the past, and Heidi promised to come to church after the pandemic restrictions were lifted and the church doors were open again.

The Holy Spirit impressed Heidi to not trash a brochure from a church she had run from more than 10 years earlier. He impressed her to look for the church's website and then to watch the live stream. The Holy Spirit impressed the pastor to speak words that in turn impressed Heidi that she had based her giving on attendance rather than the heart. The Holy Spirit impressed her to call the pastor and meet with him. Who knows what the Holy Spirit will impress Heidi to do next?

What will the Holy Spirit impress you to do?
**Not her real name* 📍

BY JOALYCE WAUGH AND STEVE BIETZ, PASTOR OF THE MORGANTON ADVENTIST CHURCH

She proceeded to tell them that the offering call had stabbed her in the heart, and that she had not given a dime to God and His church for more than 10 years. She asked if she could give her tithe and an offering to Morganton Church, and Bietz responded that he would be glad to accept the money on behalf of the church. As

Bietz and his wife watched in amazement, Heidi placed multiple bundles of cash on the desk and then laid a check on top of the large pile of cash. Nearly \$50,000 lay on Bietz's desk: \$25,000 of tithe and \$20,000 for the local church budget.

After Bietz prayed with Heidi, he invited her back to church and told her that it

Foster Adventist Community Services Provides Essentials



PHOTO BY: PHIL ROSBURG

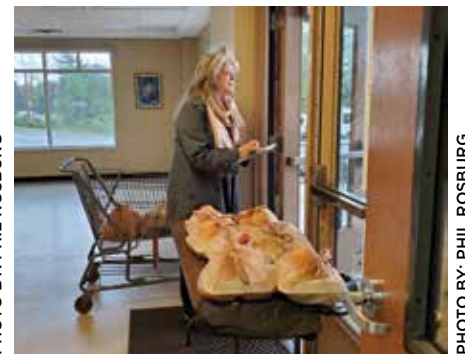


PHOTO BY: PHIL ROSBURG

At the Foster Adventist Community Services Center in Asheville, N.C., a dedicated group of volunteers runs a weekly drive-through food distribution service. These volunteers show up on Mondays to organize and get ready, and then come back to distribute the food on Tuesdays. A collaboration

with the local MANNA FoodBank and local grocery stores ensures that the two boxes given to each client contain a good supply of canned goods, fresh fruit, bread, milk, eggs, snacks, laundry detergent, toilet paper, cereal, and soap. Each client receives not only boxes of food, but also a hot breakfast and fruit, which is provided

ed by teams who volunteer on a rotating schedule. More staff are on hand to assist any client who needs help putting the food boxes into their car. Breakfast and food supplies are provided to any homeless individuals who stop by as well. 📍

BY COURTNEY JIMENEZ AND JOALYCE WAUGH

Young Adults Host Upper Room Experience



Ministry team members of Young Adult Life at 1st West Palm Beach planned an entire night of worship, prayer, and presentations. Front row: Ashley Jackson, (left), Catherine Ebanks (Leader), Line-May Narcisse, and Nathanya Vidal. Back row: Keithia Bryan, Lydie Leveille, and Marliano Smith.

The Young Adult Life ministries of 1st West Palm Beach (WPB), Fla., Church hosted The Upper Room Experience from 10:00 p.m. on a Saturday to 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The well-attended program was an all-night encounter with Christ, with the purpose of surrendering the mind, body, and spirit to the Lord.

Called the “Young Adult Life @ 1st SDA WPB,” the seven-member ministry planning team put a lot of work into making the event memorable. The program was recorded and is still available for viewing on YouTube: youtu.be/9viUZqnn17k?t=22143.

A praise team of nine singers introduced the audience to a worship atmosphere. To close this segment, the audience joined in singing a prayerful rendition of Sweet Holy Spirit. Catherine Ebanks, leader of this ministry, welcomed attendees to the Upper Room



Participants in the Upper Room Experience held by Young Adult Life of 1st West Palm Beach are shown breaking into groups of two for a prayer session.

and encouraged them to “allow the Holy Spirit to fill you.”

Presentations, interspersed with worship and prayer, were given throughout the night by invited speakers on a variety of topics:

- Mental health
- Addictions
- Marriage
- Sex
- Intimacy with Christ
- Making a prayer list
- Rap session

As the audience dispersed on Sunday morning, the words of this song from the opening moments on Saturday night were never more true:

“Without a doubt we’ll know
That we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.” 🎧

BY CATHERINE EBANKS

Youth Earn Honors in Midst of Pandemic



PHOTO BY: ANA LEMUS

Johanna Lemus and Lisabella Castillo of Jacksonville, Fla., Spanish Church show their enthusiasm for working on the cat honor.

Every evangelistic program has been interrupted by quarantine. But, Florida Conference is not without innovative ways to spread the good news of Jesus' love and soon return by turning to social media and video conferencing. Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders are continuing club activities by using Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube, and Twitter. These virtual tools allow leaders to reach out and nourish personal connections with local church families and beyond.

One example of this leadership is Sandra Pitti, Adventurer Club director and wife of Azael Pitti, pastor. She ministers to children of the Plant City Spanish Church, as well as other children throughout the Conference, by offering weekly Adventurer Awards online. Recently, Pitti led out in teaching an honor on cats. On another occasion, she taught an honor on sea shells.

Florida Conference youth have also enjoyed joining leaders from other conferences, such as Alyssa Truman, marketing manager



Sandra Pitti, Adventurer Club director and wife of Azael Pitti, pastor, from Plant City, Fla., Spanish Church, is presenting the cat honor as part of the weekly Adventurer Awards online program.

at Adventist World Radio, who resides in Texas where she leads a local club. Truman decided to create Pathfinder Corona Club, a private virtual club established solely as the result of constraints generated by the pandemic, with the purpose of providing Pathfinder

honors taught by experts from various parts of the United States.

“My family is blessed by the Tampa Spanish Pathfinder and Adventurer Club leaders who host regular club meetings with young people from the church and community,” says Yolanda Acevedo. “These club meetings ensure the continuity of the spiritual development of my granddaughters.”

It’s been said that we are living in unprecedented times. We are living in an age deeply impacted by technological advances that have provided a pathway to revival in the midst of a pandemic, a doorway into the very homes of families. Nothing surprises a faithful God who plans a way through every season for love of His children.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,” Isaiah 43:19 ESV. ●

BY YOLANDA ACEVEDO

Smiths Offer Neighborhood Chaplaincy



Cheryl and Dave Smith have thought about offering spiritual support in their Calhoun, Ga., neighborhood, and COVID-19 gave them the opportunity.

Since Dave Smith's retirement as chaplain from AdventHealth Gordon, he and his wife, Cheryl, have wanted to offer spiritual support to their neighbors in Greystone-Ashley Terrace subdivision in Calhoun, Ga. Reading how even secular minds are considering prayer during the COVID-19 pandemic, the couple ordered a postal carrier's list, stamps, refrigerator magnets, and envelopes for 146 neighbor residences.

Their note expressed regret that they couldn't personally visit each family due to general fear of viral infection. Instead, their message promised they would pray for specific needs phoned, texted, or emailed back to their contact info on the refrigerator magnet.

The notes arrived in mail boxes April 29 and responses were immediate: "This brought tears. So very heartwarming!" "Glad to know you guys are my praying neighbors."

"Thank you so much for your encouraging note." "My son was in ICU at AdventHealth Gordon. You ... prayed with us many times ... then and now much appreciated."

One couple so effusively loved the outreach that Dave Smith invited them to join the New Beginnings Discipleship Class. They have since attended via Zoom three times. Once, the link to class failed, and the Smiths offered to make up the study with them online.

Smith has mapped the neighborhood to match names with locations. Gifts have been sent to graduates identified by lawn signs. When it's considered safe, they walk streets for casual visits and prayers. At year-end they look forward to Christmas caroling. Only the Lord knows what He'll accomplish but they're "having a ball waiting to see!"

DAVE AND CHERYL SMITH

Hispanic Churches Report 10,000 Online

The three-church Hispanic district, which includes Lawrenceville Central, North Gwinnett, and Winder First churches in Georgia, has been closed during COVID-19 just like everyone else. A dedicated team of 10 people has been helping transmit church services every Saturday through Facebook, including the study of the Sabbath School lesson and the worship service.

The church members record the church service from a church to help the members feel as if they are experiencing traditional worship. The Lawrenceville, Gwinnett, and Winder church district has a membership of approximately 450 members. They were pleasantly surprised that the first Sabbath online they had more than 2,000 people watching, and that number



SUBMITTED BY: JULIO DE LA ROSA



PHOTO BY: JULIO DE LA ROSA


A three-church Hispanic district has witnessed exciting results online. When they started they saw 2,000 online guests; now they have around 10,000. One church member even decided it was time to get both baptized and married.

has now grown to about 10,000.

In March the pastor also performed a marriage ceremony prior to the baptism of a church member who had postponed

her baptism for many years. She decided now was the right time for both her baptism and marriage.

These are difficult times, but GOD is still

working and doing wonderful things. 

BY JULIO DE LA ROSA

Steen Chosen as New Alpharetta Senior Pastor

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand,” Proverbs 19:21 ESV.

The Alpharetta Church in Georgia clung to this amazing Bible promise as they worked with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in the search for a new pastor.

They began 2020 with a sense of calmness and excitement, knowing that God had the perfect minister for their young church, if they would only look to Him for guidance. Not their will, but God’s alone was the constant prayer.

In mid-January, the church members were elated when a young guest preacher came and gave the Sabbath sermon. Associate pastor of the Marietta Adventist Church, Luke Steen seemed to meet every one of the qualifications the church board told the Conference they believed they needed. Steen’s energy, wisdom, obvious communication gifts, friendliness, and his passion for the youth won over the entire congregation. It seemed God had quickly answered their prayers!

But then reality set in. Steen still had to attend seminary at Andrews University, so they were disappointed that he seemed to be completely off the table.

Then the new coronavirus hit, and the world changed almost overnight. Live church services were canceled for who knows how long, Zoom meetings sprang up to try to fill the gap and keep members connected, and streaming Sabbath School and worship services became the norm.

Their first two pastoral candidates were unable to meet with the church board for the foreseeable future, so they seemed stuck in a holding pattern without a pastor.



SUBMITTED BY: NELSON FONTAINE

Luke and Caressa Steen are excited to serve at the Alpharetta Church in Georgia. It is interesting that, because of COVID-19, Steen can obtain his master of divinity degree online and also serve as a pastor.

But, in the middle of the storm, Jesus said “Peace, be still,” and a silver lining unexpectedly emerged from this health crisis that has engulfed the world.

It turns out, under the current situation, online seminary is not only possible, but advantageous. Steen talked to the conference about pursuing his master of divinity degree online, and serving as pastor of the Alpharetta Church at the same time, and the administration agreed.

Within a few weeks, the church members joyfully met Steen and wife, Carissa, at the

church for a meet-and-greet, took a Board vote, and Steen was overwhelmingly approved to be the new senior pastor of the Alpharetta Church.

The members praise God for His leading, guiding, and timing in providing leadership for their church, even in the middle of a storm.

The Alpharetta Church can be found online at www.alpharettasda.com. 

BY NELSON FONTAINE

Education VP Stan Hobbs Retires

Office staff gathered at a safe distance in the meeting hall of the Gulf States Conference office to bid farewell to Stan Hobbs, M.Ed., vice president for education, on May 11, 2020. Hobbs announced his plans to retire from educational ministry earlier in the year following a career that spanned 35 years. Hobbs, who grew up in lower Alabama, has served as the superintendent of schools and vice president for education at Gulf States since January 2014.

An alumnus of Bass Memorial Academy (1981), Southern Adventist University (1985, B.A. history and religion), and University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (1988, M.Ed.), Hobbs has worked in education in the Southern Union for all 35 years of his ministry. He served at Southern Adventist University



Stan Hobbs (left) accepts a signed baseball bat and plaque from Dave Livermore, Conference president.

as residence hall dean, 1985-1996; Bass Memorial Academy as vice principal, teacher, and principal, 1996-2000; and Atlanta Adventist Academy as principal, vice principal, and teacher, 2000-2013.

Hobbs is a sports fanatic, who also enjoys reading, travel, hiking, jet skis, and roller coasters. The theme of his retirement party at the office was baseball, and attendees were encouraged to wear sports fan attire. Hobbs was also gifted a baseball bat signed by all of the staff. Hobbs and his wife, Barbara (whom he met at Southern), have been married 35 years. Barbara is an R.N. working at Baptist South Hospital as a clinical documentation specialist. They have two adult children, Caitlin and Colton. Caitlin is a dietician who is married to Jason Kawamura, living in Braselton, Ga. Colton is a senior engineering major at Tennessee-Chattanooga University. 📍

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Isaac Olatunji Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Isaac Olatunji Jr., Ph.D., was ordained to the Gospel ministry at the Gulf States Conference office on May 13, 2020.

Olatunji was born in New York City to Isaac and Carmen Olatunji, and raised in the Washington, D.C., area. He received Christ as his personal Savior and Lord at age 17, and asked for the Lord to reveal the truth of the last days. In answer to this prayer, a childhood friend who happened to be an Adventist shared the Adventist message with him. In addition to this, he began to read Adventist literature that had been in his home that was sold to his mother through a literature evangelist five years earlier. These influences led him to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism on June 2, 1990.

While attending the seminary at Andrews University in 1995, Olatunji received a call from the Southwest Region Conference, where he pastored for five



Isaac Olatunji Jr. (center), receives his new credential identification from Martin Fancher, Conference executive secretary.

years and planted a church in LaPlace, La. Following his time there, he returned to Andrews and completed his M.Div. in 2002. Olatunji continued his studies while working in Oklahoma with several

churches, including another church plant. In 2005, he earned a Ph.D. in Bible and theology from Louisiana Baptist University, and began working for Oakwood University as a volunteer guest chaplain. His



Elders gather around the Olatunjis for the ordination prayer.

chaplaincy role eventually led to an instructor position in the School of Religion at Oakwood. In 2012 and 2013, he earned another Ph.D. in leadership and organizational change, and a post-doctoral certificate from Walden University.

In 2013, Olatunji accepted a call from Gulf States to pastor the State Line Church in Ardmore, Ala. Since that time, the church

membership has doubled, and they were able to purchase the building they had been renting, and paid it off in four years.

Olatunji, married to the former Desiree Vernon, is raising niece and nephew Goldyn and Aaron, is stepfather to Brandon Vernon, and grandfather to Blake Vernon. 📧

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Dothan ACS Sews, Donates More Than 500 Face Masks



Rosalind James, right, ACS director for Dothan First, receives the fabric donation from an area Walmart.

The Dothan, Ala., First Church recruited volunteers from several Adventist churches in Alabama and Florida to sew more than 500 cloth face masks in late April 2020. The covers were given to John Deer Company employees, Alfred Saliba's Family Services, Southeast Alabama Homecare employees, and doctors and



Completed face masks are displayed at a JOANN Fabric and Craft Store.

nurses at Southeast Health.

The project was made possible by JOANN Fabric and Craft Store, which donated 50 yards of fabric; Walmart, which gave four boxes full of material; and local church members who donated fabric for the project. The church is grateful for the support from their local members and others who helped to make a positive community impact through a partnership with local businesses. 📧

BY ROSALIND JAMES

Madison Campus Teen Featured on Local Newscasts



Braden Larson is wearing one of the face masks and holding the extenders that he makes on his 3-D printer.



Braden Larson (left) and Joe Dubin

Braden Larson celebrated his 15th birthday in an extraordinary way. On his birthday, Joe Dubin, popular reporter for WSMV, Nashville's NBC local affiliate, visited his home for four separate interviews during several hours to broadcast in the morning and evening newscasts. His interest — Larson's 3-D printer contri-

butions to the healthcare frontline fighters across middle Tennessee.

Larson has made face masks with filters, face shields, and hundreds of face mask extenders that are now being used by nurses and other healthcare professionals at Skyline Medical Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Summit Med-

ical Center, Tennova Healthcare Clarksville, and Centennial Medical Center.

"You've made hundreds of extenders with your 3-D printer. Why are you doing this?" Dubin asked. "I noticed there was a need," responded Larson. "The masks were hurting people, so these extenders actually make sure that the straps don't hurt the people on the frontlines' ears."

Larson's father, Kirkland Larson, D.D.S., drives him to the homes of family and friends that are frontline healthcare workers to drop off his contributions to fellow healthcare workers in the fight. "What reception do you get when you take these to the hospitals?" inquired Dubin. "It's really positive. They're really glad to have these and I'm happy to help," replied Larson.

Appreciation has been routinely expressed by the healthcare workers who've benefited from Larson's efforts. In fact, these facilities have placed requests for more. In addition, a local viewer saw the broadcasts and requested that Joe Dubin arrange for Larson's extenders to be sent for use in a New York hospital. 📍

BY HAMLET CANOSA

Adventist Christian Fellowship Goes Virtual

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to transition into virtual classes, Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) student leaders at Middle Tennessee State University also decided to end the meetings

for the school year. However, one of the visitors who had become a friend of the group at the end of the fall semester suggested continuing with the meetings virtually, just like the classes. That was the beginning of a virtual ACF.

One Friday night, leaders received about seven prayer requests before the meeting even started. Among them was "Hillary," a former student leader of the University of Kentucky (UK), now living in Boston, Mass., continuing her education. She had

been hospitalized, but from her hospital bed joined the Zoom ACF meeting.

Another student leader from UK, a visiting research Ph.D. student from Australia

and originally from China, joined the ACF Zoom meeting from Australia. Her research time at UK was cut short due to the pandemic. “Jia” met Christ through the

underground church in China, and met the Seventh-day Adventist Church through an Adventist Public Campus Ministry group in Australia. She had told the group that Christianity in China is very secretive, and it was hard for her to get to the underground church since no one trusted her. She shared that experience due to a question from “Ninon,” an exchange student from France. Ninon was introduced to Christianity through ACF at Middle Tennessee State University. She asked the group for help in identifying the true church and when Jesus would return to Earth.

Virtual meetings have allowed ACF to reach students near and far. In normal circumstances, many of them wouldn’t have been present. This has provided a place for community among the young people. ACF is not only a local ministry, but also a global one: Reach a Campus — Reach the World! 📍



The last ACF meeting at Middle Tennessee State University before quarantines began

BY NELSON SILVA,
ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Food Service Director Hired at Indian Creek Camp

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference administration needed a qualified person with both skills and experience suited to the needs of Indian Creek Camp (ICC) for the position of food service director. Additionally, this person would be responsible for coordinating reservations for the use of ICC. They knew filling the position was going to be a difficult task, but they were confident God would provide just the right person for the position — and He did!

In April, Melissa Newell assumed the position of food service director, and the responsibility of reservations at ICC. She comes well prepared. During 1998 and 1999, Newell served as the assistant food service director at Camp Blue Ridge in Virginia. She also served as the summer camp kitchen director at ICC in 2001, 2002, and



Doug and Melissa Newell

2003. Newell is trained in vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, and other allergy-related food preparation, and she grew up on the grounds of ICC. She is the daughter of Herb and Dar White.

Her husband, Doug Newell, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. He will retire in June 2021. The Newells’ son and daughter have both worked at ICC. Alan Newell is now a lieutenant in the Kentucky National Guard, and Anya Newell is a sophomore at Lee College in Cleveland, Tenn.

Administration is happy to welcome Melissa Newell as a member of the ICC staff and the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference team! 📍

BY STEVE ROSE SR., VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Education Continues in Time of COVID

No one has been exempted from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last few months. Every struggle looks different, and each person or organization will find new ways to cope and thrive, with varying degrees of success. At AdventHealth University (AHU), there has been no exception to these challenges. However, despite the upheaval, employees and students are finding ways to stay connected and persevere through the obstacles of remote learning and working.

AHU, like other colleges, shut down its campus and moved to fully remote learning for the end of spring and full summer trimesters. AHU is fortunate to have a well-established online learning component — it was one of the first universities to enter the online education space — but such a massive shift requires more than technological expertise. It requires thoughtful communication and understanding, which is something that faculty and staff have tried to maintain during this period of social distancing.

The results seem to speak for itself. According to a recent survey of AHU students, more than 88% agreed or strongly agreed that the University’s administration managed the transition to remote learning well. More than 80% felt the same about their instructors’ skill in handling remote learning activities, and 93% felt their instructors “have been supportive and responsive to me during this transition period.”

But, college success isn’t only about how well students are learning their coursework. Students who enroll in universities are often seeking other objectives like personal growth, rewarding relationships with peers, and guidance from mentors. How would faculty and staff maintain the supportive and tight-knit culture of AHU’s campus environment during this indefinite separation?

The old proverb says that “necessity is the mother of invention.” And, while virtual meeting tools have existed, there’s an unprecedented surge in the innovation of their use. For AHU, this necessity lit a spark in the staff and faculty, who have coordinated on many initiatives to keep campus connected.



AHU’s campus has been closed since March 27, 2020, but leaders have implemented a number of initiatives to ensure students’ success during this time of separation.

For the start of the summer trimester, AHU’s traditional Welcome Week was taken fully online as AHU Mission and Student Life hosted a series of events through Zoom meetups and the school’s private Facebook group. Events included a healthy recipe cook-off, live trivia, and other contests. The activities attracted engagement and positive feedback – group membership nearly doubled in size over the course of a couple weeks.

Caring for student’s health has been a key focus for AHU leaders, as anxiety and fear about everyday life during COVID-19 can easily build up on top of the normal strain of collegiate life. Betty Varghese, M.S., L.M.H.C., AHU’s mental health counselor, has actively promoted her services, encouraging students to make virtual appointments if they’re feeling overwhelmed.

To promote mental health and self-care, Elizabeth Spinella, office coordinator of AHU’s office of mission, sent out “care packages” to students that included items such as a journal and pen, packets of tea, LifeSavers candy to “remind you we are here when you need us,” a bookmark, and a special letter of encouragement. Students responded positively, sharing messages of gratitude. As one student wrote in an email, “Your kindness made a difference in my world!”

At AHU, offering a chance for students to explore and expand on their faith, and to see it in the context of their profession, is a crucial

piece of its mission. AHU’s Campus Ministries team has made significant adaptations to stay spiritually connected to students and employees. They’ve successfully moved their previous in-person meetups to a virtual environment. In their weekly “Vespers” gathering, students share a devotional, message, or any idea they feel called to share. Students will also record videos of them playing music, and send that in to be shared during the virtual meeting.

“Even though [it’s] not the same as sharing the same space with my friends ... it has helped keep me and others connected because we are able to comment our thoughts on the message ... as well as share our love for Jesus — at least until we can congregate together again,” said Martin Rodriguez, an AHU student.

Karen Pastor, MOT, assistant chaplain at AHU, said, “Campus Ministries is usually a way for students to connect, make long-lasting relationships, and build their relationship with God together. With this pandemic, it initially seemed as if this connection could be shattered. To my surprise, there are moments where I believe that ... these students are making ‘highways through the seas’ to reach each other. I have witnessed students driving 1-2 hours ... just to participate in a car drive-by birthday party for another student ... dozens of Zoom calls where we play ‘scavenger hunts’ or have a family worship This pandemic has made me realize that that connection will never break, because God has us in His hands.”

These efforts have been worth it, according to the student survey; 88% of students agreed that they “felt the spiritual support from AHU during this time of change,” and nearly 87% expressed agreement that they felt AHU’s care and concern for them.

AHU strives to uphold their vision of developing skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ. Bestowing those values begins with action, and AHU will continue to demonstrate Christ’s love and guiding hand, whether its students are near or far. 🕊

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Ordinary Women Empowered by an Extraordinary God



Approximately 700 women from the South Atlantic Conference and other conferences attended the convention.

Approximately 700 ordinary women empowered by an extraordinary God converged at the Embassy Suites Hotel on the beautiful shores of Myrtle Beach, S.C., during the fall of 2019, for the South Atlantic Conference Women's Ministries Convention.

Women from South Atlantic and other conferences convened for a weekend of fellowship, prayer, and praise with one common goal, "Each One – Reach One."

The Morning Glory Prayer Line opened the convention with a live broadcast. Prayer warriors were dedicated to praying for attendees in a lovely prayer-themed room, decorated and set up to imitate the heavenly sanctuary, with the Morning Glory staff available for prayer for those seeking communion with God. The idyllic, holy setting encouraged the women to be themselves, to share their gifts, and to call on their strengths to witness the holiness of their own lives with prayer.

On Friday morning, attendees met on the beach for a breast cancer awareness walk led by Sheila Mills. More than \$3,000 was raised for the walk, and will be donated to breast cancer centers in the South Atlantic Conference territory of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



Pictured are state and regional South Atlantic women's ministries leaders.

Attendees enjoyed the various vendor opportunities that were available throughout the entire convention. The Sabbath was ushered in by a Friday evening candlelight Vesper service on the beach shore, led by former South Atlantic women's ministries directors Debra Harris, Ph.D., and Sylvia Wilson, and current director Rosia Parker. The candlelight service was held to honor and acknowledge the beautiful sunset that only God could have orchestrated.

Several seminars were conducted during the convention. Risk factors associated with dementia, and family medicine with an emphasis on children and teens were part of the seminar topics the women attended. Workshops of notable acclaim were given by April Smith, addressing the millennial women; Edna Andrews

Rose, Ph.D., sharing the risk factors associated with dementia; and Kitty Carter-Wicker, M.D., presenting family medicine with emphasis on children and teens.

There was also a mass choir of convention attendees directed by LoLo Harris. Young women from Atlanta Maranatha and New Jerusalem churches in Atlanta, Ga., ministered to the attendees.

Kimberly Bulgin, pastor at New Beginnings Church in Wichita, Kan., Central States Conference, delivered a powerful Sabbath message emphasizing "Who the Son Sets Free Is Free Indeed." It was a message that helped many shift their mindset from spiritual bondage to freedom, so they could create a life overflowing with abundant living, satisfying relationships, and true joy.

To culminate the weekend activities, an unassuming "flash mob" was organized for the grand finale as the audience gathered to sing, "How Great Thou Art." The women were most appreciative of the convention opportunity, and left the gathering committed to carrying the energy with them. It was a delightful, unforgettable experience. ●

BY ROSIA A. PARKER, SOUTH ATLANTIC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Educators Travel Far to Show Love to GMAA Families

When the teachers and principal of Greater Memphis Adventist Academy (GMAA) boarded the school bus on a sunny Sabbath afternoon, they knew they were in for an adventure. What they were not sure about was how many miles and hours it would take.

They wanted to physically see their students after teaching by teleconference for seven weeks. They wanted to thank parents — their co-teachers — in-person for their hard work during the pandemic. So, they agreed to take one Sabbath afternoon to visit all their 20 families. The challenge? The school is in the largest (755 square miles) and most populous county in the state of Tennessee, Shelby County, which includes Memphis. And, their students live all over the county. Some students even make a daily two-hour round trip from northern Mississippi to attend GMAA!

But, they did it! They took gifts, flowers, and smiles (sometimes hidden behind masks). They tried not to touch and hug, and they practiced social distancing. Students and parents gave gifts, waved signs, and poured lemonade. Everyone shared the joy of being a part of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school family where teachers and parents work together for the salvation of young people. Ellen White wrote, “Love is the best teacher,” *Fundamentals of Education*, p. 58. After six hours and 200 miles of travel, the GMAA teachers had taught and been taught, and were already discussing how to make the tour even better next year! 📍

BY PHILLIP WILLIAMS



PHOTO BY: PHILLIP WILLIAMS

Natalie St. Bernard (left), Evelyn Quinteros, Brenda Cowan, and Cheryl Williams prepare to board the bus.



PHOTO BY: NATALIE ST. BERNARD

Teachers visit one of the families during their tour.

Mildred Johnson's 90th Birthday Feted With Drive-by Celebration



PHOTO BY: GIANNA SNELL

Mildred P. Johnson, D.H.L., a native of Birmingham, Ala., was born May 3, 1930. Johnson, a retired religious educator/Bible instructor for the Seventh-day Adventist Church's South Central Conference headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., served for 42 years.

Although she began her professional career as a nurse, Johnson was inspired with a burning desire to share the Gospel with others. After all, someone had graciously shared the Gospel's Good News in the 1950s with her and her late husband, Washington Johnson Sr., a veteran of World War II and retiree of United States Steel Corporation. The Johnsons were blessed with six children, all of whom attended Oakwood University.

Johnson worked both nationally and internationally with many noted evangelists, sharing the Good News with thousands —many of whom were baptized

into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She broke the glass ceiling in evangelism during the 1960s, a time when women were not as active in such roles. This was particularly evident with her singular female role during the initiation of the Evangelism Council at Oakwood University (currently referred to as PELC, the Pastoral, Evangelism, and Leadership Council), where she facilitated all the Bible instructor seminars.

Prior to COVID-19, her family members had planned a traditional 90th birthday celebration for their family's matriarch, but due to social distancing guidelines currently in effect in Alabama, the family decided to have a drive-by birthday celebration in Harvest, Ala., that included friends and colleagues.

Among those participating were the Oakwood University president, Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., and his wife,

Prudence Pollard, Ph.D.; Johnson's pastor, Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church senior pastor and Breath of Life speaker/director, and his wife, Danielle, and their three daughters; Debleaire Snell, First Church senior pastor, and his wife, Gianna (event photographer); Richard Long, retired pastor, and his wife, Mildred; William Byrd, pastor, and his wife, Carol; Michael Ross, pastor, and his wife, Judy; and Benjamin Browne, retired pastor and former South Central Conference president, and his wife, Janice (Johnson's daughter). She graciously and emotionally waved and thanked those who drove by to wish her a happy birthday.

One of her favorite Scriptures is Psalm 90 where the Psalmist wrote, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom," Psalm 90:12. 📖

BY JOYCE JOHNSON, PH.D.

Southeastern Members Profess: “I Am the Church”

For the last eight weeks, the churches in rural south Florida, Belle Glade and Clewiston, have embraced the new normal, worshipping over various technological platforms that are available to the churches. When the orders were issued by the local government and Southeastern Conference to close church buildings from public worship, it was not an easy task. Some gladly accepted the precautions that needed to be exercised to stop the spread of the new Coronavirus. On the other hand, many were skeptical about the immediate decision to close the churches, fearing that they were “bowing the knee to the drums of Babylon,” which would remove them from the right to preach the everlasting Gospel to the community. Thankfully, they were not bowing to Babylon, but instead are making even larger footsteps as they continue to build the kingdom of God on this side of eternity.

They were challenged by this difficult situation to experience some of the glory days of the 1st Century church. Paul, the apostle, in his letter to the Ephesians, gave the perfect definition of the Church with the use of various metaphors. The Church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:1-16, 5:29-30), a holy temple (2:19-22), the bride of Christ (5:25-27), and a victorious army (6:10-20). The Church, in its simplest sense, is the community of God’s people — not the building. If they take an investigative look at how God’s church grew, particularly in that first century, they realize that the believers worshipped in various homes and buildings. Padded pews, screens, and cameras were not essential to the rapid growth of God’s Church.

The home church is in God’s plan. It is a place where true religion is experienced. Fellowship is genuine and the focus is on community and prayer. As the pandemic forced upon all social distancing laws and gathering restrictions, they moved rapidly



PHOTO BY: DWIGHT GAYLE

Trinity Temple church building in the south Florida area is closed, but the Church must continue to thrive. The members are the Church, not the building.

to maintain fellowship, community, and prayer. All services were conducted via a telephone conference line with the occasional Zoom video conferences for those who can access technology and are comfortable expressing themselves while using video technology. It is crucial to maintain the community within the body of Christ. Christ gave Himself for her. She is special.

It is through the Church that there is a constant connection between Heaven and Earth. The proclamation of the Gospel, which is one of the roles of the Church, cannot be done by the building, but by those who gather together in that building week-after-week for services, seminars, and other programming. Christ would not allow His Church to be closed. It is impossible to close the Church because the Church is not a building, it is the body of Christ.

The church buildings serve their purpose in times of ease when all can gather as a body and worship the true and living God. In the community, many take pride in the fact that they were able to pay off all debts on the properties with the help of the Southeastern Conference Mission-Driven initiative last year. But, COVID-19 restrictions let them understand that free and clear properties are not enough. The Gospel must be preached!

Souls must be won for the Kingdom since the Church is an indispensable part of the Gospel. The building can be closed, but the Church must continue to thrive — even in adverse circumstances.

Can a world without the Gospel be imagined? The pandemic alone has taught many that every facet of life has its limits, and there comes a time when all need to look to the One Who is without limits. And so, the Church’s responsibility, during these difficult times, is to help a planet in trouble by instilling Hope in hopelessness. COVID-19, the storm that troubled the boats, has helped local churches to understand the statement, “I am the Church!”

“I am the Church” has always been a part of the mode of operation, but due to ingrained institutionalization, the Church is seen only as a building and not as a people. These congregations are hoping, by the grace of God, that they will continue in the power of the Holy Spirit to keep in the community as they build the Kingdom of God. In this season, they desire to grow in community, experience genuine fellowship, and pray many to spiritual renewal. ●

BY DWIGHT GAYLE

COVID-19 Creates Opportunity for Children to Grow in Christ

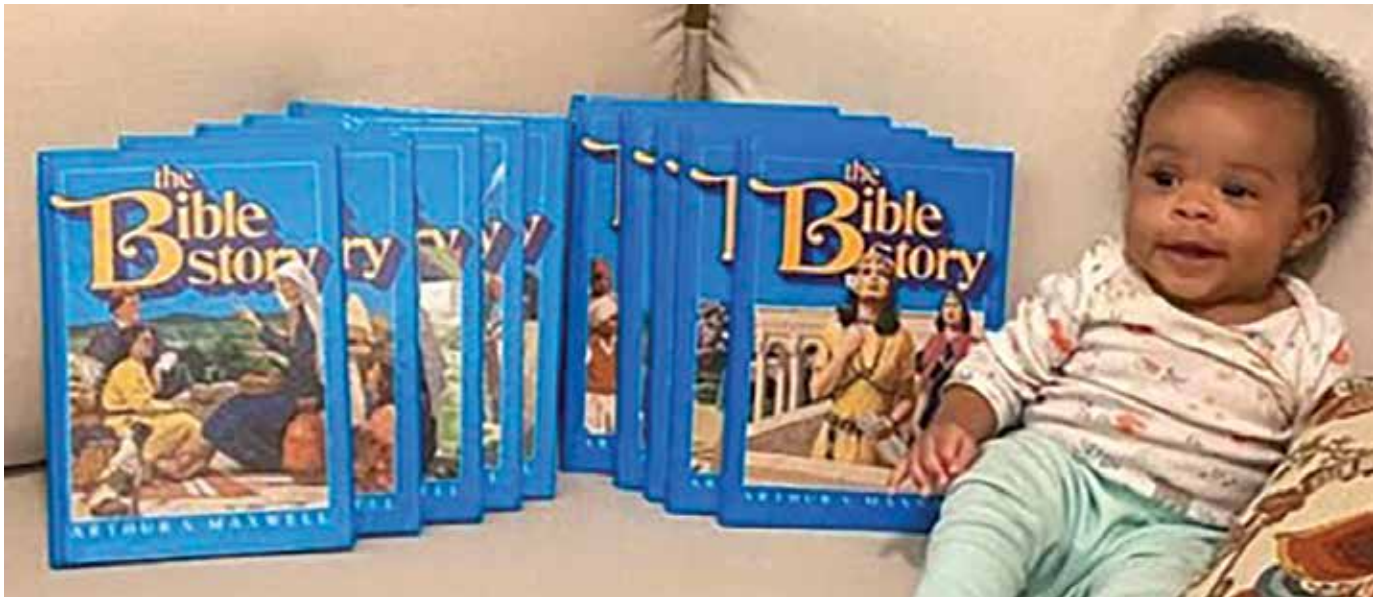


PHOTO BY: JAVA MATTISON

Carsen Alvonnia Robinson receives *The Bible Story* 10-volume set.

Raising children in 2020 has its challenges, but the new coronavirus has highlighted, again, the important role Christian books have on raising our children. Our children often spend 7-10 hours between school and aftercare or in activities such as sports or music (Habenicht and Burton, 2004). Considerable amounts of time are spent on the computer or hand-held devices searching the internet or playing games. However, COVID-19 changed that drastically. Now, parents at home due to the shutdown, along with their children, have stepped in and become “homeschool” teachers.

With so much time with their children, parents have become creative in finding ways to engage them socially, physically, and, most importantly, spiritually. The Conference Publishing Department seized the opportunity to emphasize an age-old Adventist classic, the 10-volume Bible series entitled *The Bible Story*.



Haniah and Java Mattison III read Bible stories for a Facebook audience.

PHOTO BY: JAVA MATTISON

Tracing the handiwork of God in creation, His unfailing love shown throughout history to man, and His redemptive sacrifice at Calvary, *The Bible Story* set spans the entire Bible.

Publishing hosted a story hour on Facebook the week of Easter, reading

Gethsemane, Golgotha, the Graveside (His burial), and Glorified (His resurrection) that Wednesday through Sunday. Facebook lit up with comments of nostalgia and how this current generation needed this opportunity of sitting down at home in the family circle and reading the entire Bible.

People began placing orders, making referrals, and ordering them for their neighbors and grandchildren. Parents remembered growing up with these books, too, and ordered them for their children. Pictures of babies and proud parents popped up on Facebook with their books once they were received! Some shared that they were glad to finally be able to get their hands on a set. More than 50 families have ordered and received the timeless classic during the months of April and May. 🙏

BY JAVA MATTISON

Mt. Olivet Ministries Partner with Nonprofits to Serve Community



Mt. Olivet Community Service Ministries weekly outreach activities include food distribution to 700 individuals each month, serving 500 hot meals to the unsheltered homeless, and operating a site location for shelter placement. In addition, they provide hot mobile showers for the unsheltered and/or community.



PHOTO BY: CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

PHOTO BY: CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

The church collaborates with several nonprofit organizations that have committed to the cause of making a difference in the community.

Mount Olivet Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., continues its efforts in being a servant to God's people during a pandemic crisis that is plaguing millions. Mt. Olivet resides within a community with a population of 63,786. Unfortunately, the number of families below the poverty level is 37.9%, and in single-parent households with children under 18, the poverty level is 50.1%.

Prior to the new coronavirus pandemic, Mt. Olivet community services' (ACS) weekly outreach activities included food distribution to 700 individuals per month, serving 500 hot meals to the homeless, and operating a site location for shelter placement. In addition, they provided hot mobile showers for the unsheltered and/or community to use. These efforts were in collaboration with several nonprofit organizations that have committed to the cause of making a difference in the community. Even though

the challenges have been grave, and millions have been affected by the pandemic, Mt. Olivet's ACS has continued its efforts in making a difference.

Under the leadership of Cynthia Holmes, community services ministries leader, and Sarah Shaw, personal ministries leader, the two teams joined hands to take a holistic approach to meet the many needs of the community.

Weekly, approximately 170 hot meals continued to be served to the unsheltered community. In addition, bi-weekly drive-through food distributions to approximately 300 families continues. These efforts have been coordinated with a host of volunteers from ACS, church members, and the community. The Personal Ministries Department has distributed more than 2,000 tracts to the community, with messages of the times that provide emotional, physical, and spiritual healing for the many individuals served.

The church family gives God the glory that many have enrolled in Mt. Olivet community Bible school, and some have sealed their newfound faith in baptism.

ACS continues to follow Jesus' example and mingle with the community to meet their immediate and spiritual needs. Many are waiting to receive the salvation message. With these joint efforts, individuals see, hear, and read this simple message of salvation. God's Word is powerful, and all must give it, live it, and teach it; God will do the rest. 🙏

BY CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

Students Oversee New \$500,000 Investment Portfolio

Students at Southern Adventist University now have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience learning investment analysis principles under the supervision of faculty and staff. The Student Managed Asset Risk and Return Training (SMARRT) Fund, a collaboration between Southern's Financial Administration Office and the School of Business, provides \$500,000 — 1% of the University's total endowment — for students to manage.

According to finance professor and SMARRT Fund adviser Dennis Steele Jr., Ph.D., the first group of students were selected to begin managing the fund last fall. Part of their initial education involved learning more about the faith-based components of the University's investment policy, a socially-responsible approach that seeks to avoid funds connected with alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and defense stocks, among others.

"The emphasis is on training," said finance professor Braam Oberholster, D.B.A., another adviser for the fund. "Students need to learn how to actually analyze the market. And, we want to bring in majors from dif-



PHOTO BY: DANIELLE LAURENT

The SMARRT Fund team of students and advisers work together on a real-world investment project.

ferent disciplines across campus, because we need that diversity of insight. We need to recognize that business is something that touches every dimension in our lives."

SMARRT Fund team members do not receive academic credit for their work, but Steele emphasizes practical experience and professional networking as valuable benefits — not to mention how impressive the

project looks on a résumé.

"The SMARRT Fund sends a strong message to potential employers about how much we trust our students, and our confidence in the education they're receiving while at Southern," Steele said. 📌

BY STAFF WRITER

Virtual Benefit Concert Assists Local Tornado Victims

Following a series of tornadoes that caused extensive damage to the Greater Chattanooga area in April, Southern students wanted to help. While the University campus received minimal harm, the heartbreak of the surrounding devastation — even felt remotely by students sheltering in place at their homes across the U.S. as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic — inspired a group of Southern musicians to organize a virtual benefit concert to help victims in the Collegedale and Ooltewah areas.

The special evening of sacred songs, composed of 17 individual vocal and instrumen-

tal performances recorded in seven different states and two countries, was streamed online. Musicians included a collection of Southern students, alumni, adjunct instructors, and other talented friends of the University. The concert attracted several hundred viewers and raised more than \$1,600.

Kaili Kimbrow, senior music and business administration double major, helped organize the event from her home in Texas, and contributed her own harp performance to the collaboration.

"As I contacted friends and classmates across the country, we all really wanted

to help those affected by the tornadoes," Kimbrow said. "If we were still in Collegedale, we could have volunteered with storm clean up, but we were scattered, so that just wasn't possible. Instead, we created this unique concert where everyone shared from their hearts and their homes. Music uplifts and encourages during difficult times. We pray that this concert blessed those who listened as well as those who will benefit from the financial help." 📌

BY LUCAS PATTERSON

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or local programs, and extracurricular programs.

CAROLINA CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Mt. Pisgah Academy, Candler, NC

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Adventist Christian Academy, Charlotte, NC
Adventist Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC
Asheville-Pisgah School, Candler, NC
Blue Ridge Adventist Christian School, Waynesville, NC
Brookhaven SDA School, Winterville, NC
Charleston SDA School, Charleston, SC
Columbia Adventist Academy, Lexington, SC
Cornerstone Adventist Academy, Charlotte, NC
Eddlemon Adventist School, Spartanburg, SC
Five Oaks Adventist Christian School, Durham, NC
Mills River SDA School, Mills River, NC
Myrtle Beach SDA Christian School, Myrtle Beach, SC
Poplar Springs SDA School, Westminster, SC
Salisbury Adventist School, Salisbury, NC
Silver Creek Adventist School, Morganton, NC
Tri-City Christian Academy, High Point, NC
Tryon SDA School, Lynn, NC
Upward Adventist School, Flat Rock, NC
William Johnston Elementary, Hickory, NC
Wilmington SDA School, Wilmington, NC

FLORIDA CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL
Greater Miami Adventist Academy, Miami, FL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beryl Wisdom Adventist School, Orlando, FL
Deltona Adventist School, Deltona, FL
East Pasco Adventist Academy, Dade City, FL
Forest City Adventist School, Orlando, FL
Forest Lake Education Center, Longwood, FL
Gateway Christian School, Mt. Dora, FL
Gulfoast SDA Elementary, St. Petersburg, FL
Indigo Christian Junior Academy, Daytona Beach, FL
James E. Sampson Memorial School, Ft. Pierce, FL
LifePoint Academy, Jacksonville, FL
Living Springs Academy, High Springs, FL
Miami Springs Adventist School, Miami Springs, FL
Naples Adventist Christian School, Naples, FL
New Port Richey Adv. Christian Academy, New Port Richey, FL
North Tampa Christian Academy, Wesley Chapel, FL
Okeechobee Adventist Christian School, Okeechobee, FL
Orlando Junior Academy, Orlando, FL
Osceola Adventist Christian School, Kissimmee, FL
Port Charlotte Adventist School, Port Charlotte, FL
Sawgrass Adventist School, Plantation, FL
Tallahassee Adventist Christian Academy, Tallahassee, FL
Walker Memorial Junior Academy, Avon Park, FL
West Coast Christian Academy, Bradenton, FL
West Palm Beach Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, FL
William A. Kirlow Junior Academy, Miami Gardens, FL
Winter Haven Adventist Academy, Winter Haven, FL
Z. L. Sung SDA Church School, Gainesville, FL

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Atlanta Adventist Academy, Atlanta, GA

Collegedale Academy, Collegedale, TN
Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A.W. Spalding SDA School, Collegedale, TN
Adventist Christian School of Maryville, Maryville, TN
Algood Christian Elementary School, Cookeville, TN
Atlanta North SDA School, Atlanta, GA
Adventist Christian School, Augusta, GA
Bowman Hills SDA School, Cleveland, TN
Carman Adventist School, Marietta, GA
Collegedale Adventist Middle School, Collegedale, TN
Columbus SDA School, Columbus, GA
Douglasville SDA School, Douglasville, GA
Duluth Adventist Christian School, Duluth, GA
Dunlap Adventist School, Dunlap, TN
Faulkner Springs Christian School, McMinnville, TN
Gainesville Adventist Christian School, Gainesville, GA
Greeneville Adventist Academy, Greeneville, TN
Inez Wrenn SDA School, Crossville, TN
Jasper Adventist Christian School, Jasper, TN
Jellico SDA School, Jellico, TN
John L. Coble Elementary School, Calhoun, GA
Josephine Edwards Christian School, Ellijay, GA
Knoxville Adventist School, Knoxville, TN
Learning Tree Elementary School, Dalton, GA
Lester Coon Adventist School, Apison, TN
Living Springs Christian Academy, Gray, TN
Meister Memorial SDA School, Deer Lodge, TN
Misty Meadows SDA School, Ringgold, GA
Lighthouse Christian Academy, Morristown, TN
Murphy Adventist Christian School, Murphy, NC
Oglethorpe SDA School, Oglethorpe, GA
Ooltewah Adventist School, Ooltewah, TN
Savannah Adventist Christian School, Pooler, GA
Shoal Creek Adventist School, Sharpsburg, GA
Standifer Gap SDA School, Chattanooga, TN
Valdosta Christian Academy, Valdosta, GA
Wimbish Adventist School, Macon, GA

GULF STATES CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Adventist Christian Academy, Panama City, FL
Bass Christian Elementary, Lumberton, MS
Big Cove Christian Academy, Owens Cross Roads, AL
College Drive SDA School, Pearl, MS
Community Christian School, Meridian, MS
Emerald Coast Christian School, Fort Walton Beach, FL
Faith Christian Adventist Academy, Summit, MS
Floral Crest Junior Academy, Bryant, AL
Hoover Christian School, Hoover, AL
Mobile Junior Academy, Mobile, AL
Pensacola Junior Academy, Pensacola, FL

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Highland Academy, Portland, TN
Madison Academy, Madison, TN

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Appalachian Christian Academy, Manchester, KY
Bill Egly Elementary School, Lawrenceburg, TN
Centerville Christian School, Centerville, TN
Highland Elementary School, Portland, TN
Lexington Junior Academy, Lexington, KY

Louisville Adventist Academy, Louisville, KY
Madison Campus Elementary, Madison, TN
Memphis Junior Academy, Memphis, TN
Ridgetop Adventist Elementary, Ridgetop, TN
Taylor Mill SDA Church School, Latonia, KY
Tullahoma SDA Elementary, Tullahoma, TN
Woodbury SDA Elementary, Woodbury, TN

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, Atlanta, GA

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Atlanta Adventist International School, Jonesboro, GA
Berea Junior Academy, Sumpter, SC
Berean Christian Junior Academy, Atlanta, GA
Berean Junior Academy, Charlotte, NC
Bethany Junior Academy, Macon, GA
Carolina Adventist Academy, Whiteville, NC
Decatur Adventist Junior Academy, Stone Mountain, GA
Ebenezer SDA School, Augusta, GA
Emanuel SDA Junior Academy, Albany, GA
Ephesus Junior Academy, Winston-Salem, NC
Gethsemane SDA School, Raleigh, NC
Greater Fayetteville Adventist Academy, Fayetteville, NC
Lithonia Adventist Academy, Lithonia, GA
New Bethel Christian Academy, Columbus, GA
Norma D. Richards Adventist Christian School, Pageland, SC
Ramah Junior Academy, Savannah, GA

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Oakwood Adventist Academy, Huntsville, AL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Avondale SDA School, Chattanooga, TN
Bethany SDA Academy, Montgomery, AL
E. E. Rogers SDA School, Jackson, MS
Emma L. Minnis School, Louisville, KY
Gulf Coast SDA Christian Preparatory Academy, Mobile, AL
Ephesus Junior Academy, Birmingham, AL
F. H. Jenkins Elementary School, Nashville, TN
Greater Memphis Adventist Academy, Memphis, TN

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Miami Union Academy, N. Miami, FL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bethel Elementary SDA School, Florida City, FL
Bethel Junior Academy, Riviera Beach, FL
Broward Junior Academy, Plantation, FL
Daughter of Zion Junior Academy, Delray Beach, FL
Elim Junior Academy, St. Petersburg, FL
Ephesus Junior Academy, Jacksonville, FL
Ephesus Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, FL
Mt. Calvary SDA School, Tampa, FL
Mt. Olivet Jr. Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mt. Sinai Junior Academy, Orlando, FL
New Hope SDA School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Palm Bay SDA School, West Melbourne, FL
Perrine SDA School, Miami, FL
Shiloh SDA School, Ocala, FL

UNIVERSITIES

AdventHealth University, Orlando, FL
Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL
Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN

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TN/GA REALTOR - Buying or selling a home in the Collegedale, Chattanooga, North Georgia or surrounding areas? Howard Karst is your best partner for experienced professional service. Realty Specialists 423-238-7325. Online virtual consultation is available. *Contact Howard today: 301-332-8471, tsrak@msn.com* [7]

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in Portland, Tennessee, seeks **Administrator**. This 52 apartment HUD Section 8 independent living facility owned by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, is seeking a qualified candidate to administer the day-to-day needs of the residents and the plant. This position requires both keen business skills and a compassionate human touch. Responsibilities include seeing to the maintenance and improvement of the plant, planning the budget, hiring and maintaining staff, marketing, complying with regulations and, most important, focusing on the residents' needs. Located in an idyllic country setting, Highland Rim Terrace is only 3 miles from Highland Academy and less than an hours' drive to Nashville. Send resume to Aaron McNulty, amcnulty@kytn.net [7] 

OUACHITA HILLS COLLEGE is accepting applications for the position of **President**. The OHC President provides strategic, operational and spiritual leadership and reports directly to the Board

of Directors. Our website is www.ohc.org. Contact Wanda Sarr at wandas@isei.life or call 423-903-4205. [7, 8]

PATHWAY TO PARADISE MINISTRIES

is seeking a mission-minded **video editor** to join our team. Must be fluent in English and Spanish and be willing to relocate to the Macks Creek, MO area. For more information visit our website at: www.pathwaytoparadise.org [7]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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free evaluation. Visit www.Infbooks.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases. [7-4]

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offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [7-5]

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GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER SOS EVENT FOR REGIONS 1 & 2. July 12. (details online)

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER SOS EVENT FOR REGIONS 3 & 4. July 19. (details online)

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER SOS EVENT FOR REGION 5. July 26. (details online)

HEALTH RALLIES WITH EW DEMPSEY
 Aug. 1. 2-5 p.m. Douglasville, GA, Church.
 Aug. 8. 2-5 p.m. Standifer Gap Church, Chattanooga, TN.

Aug. 22. 2-5 p.m. Augusta, GA, First Church.

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

ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY - Aug. 22.
ADVENTURER MINISTRIES CONVENTION - Aug. 28-30. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP 40-YEAR STAFF REUNION - Sept. 4-6. Crandall, GA.

Register for events on the conference website, 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 or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

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 or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION - Scheduled for June 5-7, has been cancelled due to COVID-19, and will be rescheduled

for 2021. Details will be sent by mail. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or <http://www.glaa.net>.

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.

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, 828-209-6704. More details at: www.fletcheracademy.com.

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.

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.

	JUL 3	JUL 10	JUL 17	JUL 24	JUL 31	AUG 7
ATLANTA, GA	8:51	8:50	8:47	8:43	8:37	8:31
CHARLESTON, SC	8:31	8:30	8:27	8:23	8:18	8:12
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:41	8:39	8:36	8:32	8:26	8:19
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:58	8:56	8:53	8:48	8:43	8:36
HUNTSVILLE, AL	8:02	8:00	7:57	7:53	7:47	7:41
JACKSON, MS	8:11	8:10	8:07	8:03	7:58	7:52
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:09	9:07	9:04	8:59	8:52	8:45
MEMPHIS, TN	8:18	8:16	8:13	8:09	8:03	7:56
MIAMI, FL	8:16	8:15	8:13	8:13	8:06	8:02
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:56	7:54	7:51	7:47	7:42	7:36
NASHVILLE, TN	8:08	8:06	8:02	7:58	7:52	7:45
ORLANDO, FL	8:27	8:26	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:10
TAMPA, FL	8:30	8:29	8:27	8:23	8:19	8:14
WILMINGTON, NC	8:27	8:25	8:22	8:18	8:13	8:06

Inspiration for Times Like These...

RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND HOMES

AWR is still hard at work developing innovative ways of sharing the gospel, and we hope to inspire and equip you during these unprecedented times through:

- ▶ Weekly miracle videos every Thursday at 11 a.m. Pacific / 2 p.m. Eastern
- ▶ Timely AWR360° Health presentations by Dr. Lela and Pastor Kyle every Monday
- ▶ Interviews and videos on 3ABN every Sabbath at 12:30 p.m. Pacific / 3:30 p.m. Eastern
- ▶ Live cell phone evangelism training sessions
- ▶ “Meet the Staff” videos
- ▶ New and archived prophecy-focused sermons at awr.org/prophecies
- ▶ Videos and Pathfinder honor trainings for kids

Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/awr360) to get all the details!



Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Let's Connect! [f awr360](https://facebook.com/awr360) | [t awr360](https://twitter.com/awr360) | [@ awr.360](https://www.instagram.com/awr.360) | [awr.org/videos](https://www.youtube.com/awr/videos) | awr.org

Motivated By A Small Inheritance

In 2017, Sara* and her daughter Amy* received a small inheritance. They began to think, if we die prematurely our family is not prepared, and we have not set aside a gift for the Lord's Work.

In their desire to be good stewards, Sara and Amy decided to prepare a will. They contacted the Gulf States Trust Department and completed their Estate Planning documents. "It is our prayerful desire to be good stewards of our Lord's Goods," says Sara.

**Names changed to remain anonymous.*

- ▶ Like Sara and Amy, we encourage you to contact your local Trust Department today to begin the Estate Planning process.



Carolina
Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida
Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland
Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States
David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee
Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University
Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic
Merquita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central
Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

Southeastern
Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University
Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

SCHEDULE

A VIRTUAL

VISIT



VISIT CAMPUS FROM HOME

We are now offering virtual visits to Southern, which include a guided tour, faculty visit, and admissions consultation.

See what Southern is all about and get your questions answered from the comfort of home.

Schedule your visit today!

southern.edu/visit



Collegedale, TN

