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JUNE 2020

CHAPLAINS:

*On the
Front Line
of Service*

THE CUT OF THE
DIAMOND

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

HIS HANDS AND FEET
IN QUARANTINE

COURAGE
IN THE STORM

A Statement to the Fearful



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

As national and jurisdictional leaders and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge people to stay home and maintain social distance to combat the spread of the new coronavirus, alongside multiple declarations of a national and worldwide emergency, we shiver in fear. In the presence of this frightening pandemic that dominates news-media outlets and personal agendas, one cannot help experiencing a strange melancholy sweeping in its scope of influence. We experience the prompting to succumb to a fearful or pessimistic view of life's possibilities, fueled by nervousness surrounding the possibility of dying from COVID-19. Much of the mania we see around us threatens to erode our belief in a Supreme Being who is in charge of everything. In a sense, the frightening times in which we live are eroding the God factor in our lives.

However, when we look at the situation from God's perspective, there is joy, because God stood out on nothingness and spoke humanity into existence. Can you see the excitement of God as He established our first parents in a beautiful home with autonomy to choose to do His will or their own? Can't you feel the eagerness of God to bring relief to the only creation of His that has fallen?

This pandemic should not heighten our pessimism or fear. The "shelter in place," "stay at home," and "social distancing" orders from government officials offer us a new window of opportunity for hope and faith on the way to eternity.

Because we may be circumstantially isolated from others, we are afforded an even greater platform to put some important things into perspective. We are moving closer and closer to the return of Jesus.

As we look around us, it is obvious that this world cannot continue. Its rising population is outstripping Earth's food supply. The World Food Council of the United Nations declares that scores of thousands of children die of hunger-related diseases annually. Mass starvation is killing millions because of overpopulation. Eight children will die of hunger before you finish reading this editorial. The environmental protection agencies declare that there are enough pollutants in the air to kill us in a few years unless we clean up our act. We are depleting the ozone layer at an enormous clip. Disasters by land and sea signal that Matthew 24 is being fulfilled.

Jesus is coming soon!

Daily updates of COVID-19 implications through media are not designed by God to frighten or demoralize us. They are a plaintive wail urging men and women to make their "calling and election sure" — now. The presence of societal ills may prompt some to succumb to fear and paranoia. Skeptical fixation on the media tempts us to distrust God's ability to efficiently orchestrate time and eternity. If allowed to germinate and grow, such distrust in God will magnify our fear and drive us further from Him and others. Under the weight of our skepticism, God's sovereignty, which is designed to protect us and give us assurance, gives way to an endless cycle of insecurity, confusion, and rebellion. It is God's intention that the promise of "the day of the Lord" be our most consuming preoccupation.

There is a promise in the Scriptures that offers much comfort during these times that try men's souls. It enters the lexicon of our consciousness by way of one familiar with life-sapping anxieties. "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High," wrote the psalmist David, "will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust," Psalm 91:1, 2. What an assurance!

Scarcely does one passage of Scripture outdo another, but, in this case, I think God may have one-upped David. He gave this assurance to the apostle John as he sat scared and helpless on the island of Patmos:

"Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be," Revelation 22:12 KJV.

COVID-19 is swirling. Don't give in to fear. Talk to God. —RCS ①

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ADVENTHEALTH
Ingrid Hernandez
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
Lisa Marie Esser
CAROLINA
Rebecca Carpenter
FLORIDA
Gladys Neigel
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
Tamara Wolcott Watson
GULF STATES
Shane Hochstetler
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
Denise Pope
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
Maquisha Ford Mullins, Ph.D.
SOUTH ATLANTIC
James Lamb, Ph.D.
SOUTH CENTRAL
Anthony Chornes II
SOUTHEASTERN
Noel Grant
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
Janell Hullquist

CONFERENCE/ INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000
351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE (615) 859-1391
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088
SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535
P.O. Box 1688, Decatur, GA 30031-1688
SOUTH CENTRAL (615) 226-6500
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202
SOUTHEASTERN (352) 735-3142
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056
ADVENTHEALTH (407) 357-2083
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY (800) 500-7747
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
(800) SOUTHERN
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 114
Number 6 | June 2020
Published monthly by the Southern Union.
Free to all members.
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to
Southern Tidings
P.O. Box 923868
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868
EMAIL: idouce@southernunion.com

june 2020

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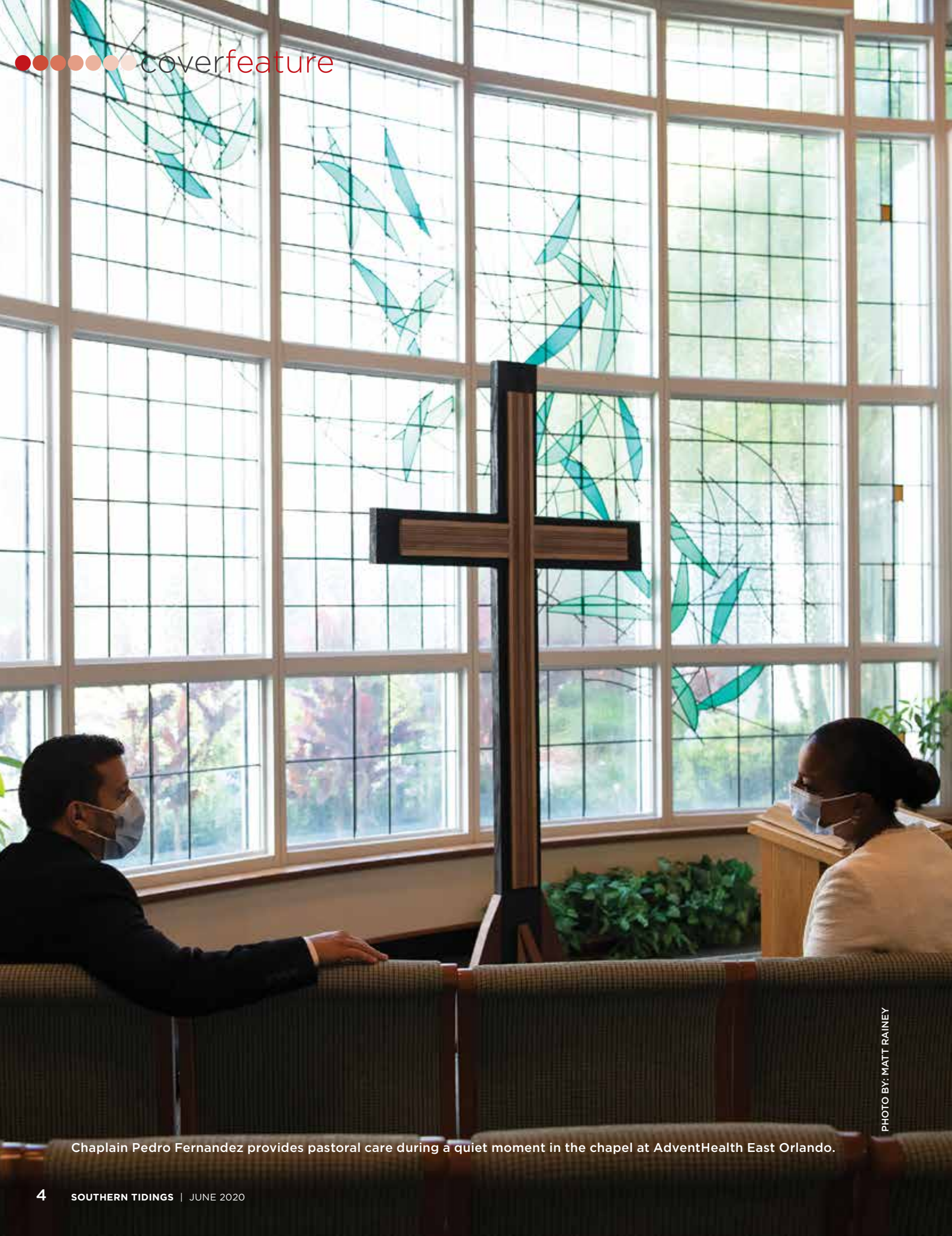
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Chaplain Pedro Fernandez provides pastoral care during a quiet moment in the chapel at AdventHealth East Orlando.

CHAPLAINS:

On the Front Line of Service

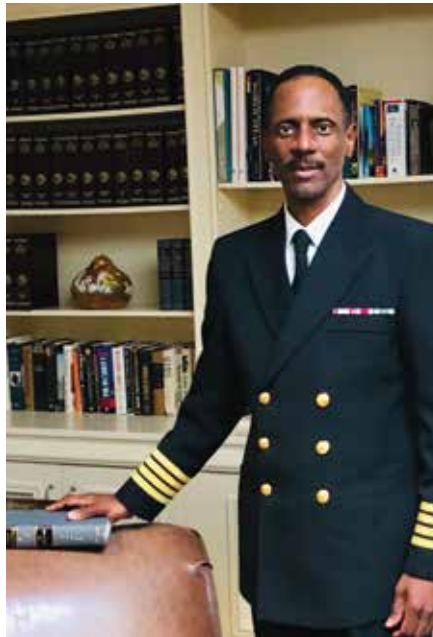
BY WASHINGTON JOHNSON II, D.Min.

Few areas of ministry offer greater challenges, excitement, and opportunities than chaplaincy. This specialized ministry covers several areas, including educational campuses, community and government agencies, correctional institutions, healthcare facilities, and the armed forces. Chaplaincy requires 24/7 ministry to people of diverse faith groups, as well as those with no faith. Chaplains provide spiritual care and counseling, conduct worship services, perform weddings and funerals, oversee religious education, and advise military leaders, to name just a few of their broad responsibilities. The Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists covers a vast geographical area where chaplains are not only trained, but actively engaged in chaplaincy ministry.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, chaplains have been placed on the front lines of ministry like never before, facing additional challenges as part of their daily ministry. Spiritual care, while a natural aspect of chaplaincy ministry, has greatly increased in demand due to the nature of the COVID-19 illness, as well as significant losses due to death. Chaplain Wanda Davis, employed by AdventHealth in Altamonte Springs Florida, is among those who have managed to meet many of these challenges in a very unique manner. After being quarantined for more than a month on a cruise ship and later an Air Force Base during a vacation, Davis shared that her experience helped to prepare her to provide spiritual care to COVID-19 patients, who are not allowed

to have visitors. Recognizing from her own quarantine experience that “people just need to know they’re being cared for and that you are there for them,” she has placed special emphasis on offering this type of care to COVID-19 patients through telephone calls since physical contact is limited or prohibited.

Chaplain Juleun Johnson, D.Min., di-



Captain Washington Johnson II, D.Min.

rector of mission and ministry for AdventHealth’s South Market and lead chaplain at AdventHealth Celebration, shared that the COVID-19 pandemic has required “chaplains to work around the clock pro-

viding spiritual support, nurture, and encouragement to staff, patients, families, and community clergy.” Johnson further described chaplains as “God’s living letters of love, bringing calm and light to a world that is in chaos, and in desperate need of hope.”

COVID-19 has additionally required creative and innovative approaches with all aspects of chaplaincy ministry, including funerals. I recently officiated a funeral where only a graveside service was allowed, with social distancing and masks for all attendees except the eulogist. At least for now, this may be the chaplain’s new normal.

To address the need of Adventist chaplains, Southern Adventist and Oakwood universities are committed to preparing students for chaplaincy ministry careers. Greg King, Ph.D., dean of Southern Adventist University’s School of Religion, recently shared that, “The field of chaplaincy presents abundant opportunities for ministering to people who might not ordinarily be reached in a traditional church setting. The School of Religion at Southern offers a major in pastoral care that is designed to help train prospective chaplains to serve in various areas of chaplaincy ministry.” Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University, described Oakwood’s new chaplaincy preparation track, which operates in partnership with AdventHealth and Huntsville Hospital for its clinical pastoral education component, as a “significant advancement in the school’s chaplaincy curriculum.”



Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Torres (left), XVIII Airborne Corps deputy chaplain, stands with his son, Private Second Class Gabriel Torres. Jorge Torres is a chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and he is able to retain his religious identity despite the religiously diverse setting.



Greg King, Ph.D., dean of the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, helps train prospective chaplains enrolled in the pastoral care major.

In addition to academic training, persons interested in chaplaincy within the North American Division have the opportunity to receive support, mentoring, professional development, and chaplaincy endorsement through the division's Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry (ACM) Department. According to Paul Anderson, D.Min., director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the North American Division, "Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries has been entrusted with the leadership, endorsement, and in some cases credentialing, of chaplains for 35 years, and continues this work today by serving over 700 endorsed chaplains in the North American Division."

Many of the chaplains within the Southern Union serve with AdventHealth, headquartered in Altamonte Springs, Florida. AdventHealth operates 50 hospitals across eight states, admitting 1,000 patients daily. The organization employs experienced chaplains who provide spiritual care throughout the AdventHealth healthcare system. Ted Hamilton, M.D., AdventHealth's chief mission integration officer, recently shared that, "Each

and every day, AdventHealth's dedicated chaplains are engaged on the front lines of injury and illness, brokenness and despair, providing comfort, peace, and hope when needed — most through a gentle touch, a healing prayer, or a calming word."

Religious Pluralism

Because chaplains regularly minister in diverse religious settings, it is important that they develop an appreciation for religious pluralism — the attitude or ability to peacefully co-exist with other faith groups without apprehension or dismissal of one's own tenets of faith. LTC Jorge Torres, a United States Army chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, who serves as XVIII Airborne Corps Deputy, is very comfortable ministering wherever he is assigned without fear of losing his religious identity. Torres explained, "Among the many benefits of working in a diverse religious setting is the opportunity to learn firsthand the similarities and differences of other faith groups. When differences are greater than similarities, to the extent that a chaplain cannot directly perform the requested religious support

due to a conflict with religious beliefs, a referral is made to another chaplain who is able to provide the requested support."

Religious pluralism is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." Religious liberty, as it is defined, guarantees that multiple religions can worship peaceably.

Ministry of Presence

The "ministry of presence" is a term used to describe how chaplains minister — without words to facilitate spiritual and moral support when entering the room of a dying patient, the cell of a prisoner, a grieving parent, a student with test anxiety, or a service member experiencing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or moral injury. It is often said that a chaplain's best sermon is preached without words when patients and family members are facing trauma or death. They appreciate the chaplain's prayers and quiet presence, which can be more comforting than a thousand spoken words.

Chaplain Makeba Garrison, a staff chaplain at West Cancer Center, Germantown, Tennessee, says, “The ministry of presence is first and foremost a state of constant prayer. Praying that none of my personal thoughts, agendas or assumptions will interfere with being available for the care seeker.” The ministry of presence is an invaluable strategy for every chaplain, and potentially a key component to their success. As Stephen Davey states, “We do not have to be brilliant, articulate, biblical scholars; it is true that the greatest ability as a friend is availability. Just show up — and you exercise the ministry of presence.”

Proselytism

Chaplains, regardless of the area in which they serve, are cautioned to avoid giving the impression of proselytizing — an attempt to convert others to one’s own faith beliefs. Crossing this line in spiritual care can jeopardize a chaplain’s ministry influence, as well as his or her employment. It is critical for chaplains to know the difference between evangelism and proselytizing. Barry Black, D.Min., Ph.D., demonstrates this distinction in an exceptional manner in his role as the 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate. His responsibilities include opening each session of the United

States Senate with a prayer, and providing and coordinating religious programs and spiritual care for senators, senate staff, and their families. Black’s duties are carried out superbly in spite of the United States Senate resembling a religious melting pot with Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and some senators listed as being unaffiliated with a religious denomination — pluralism at its best.

Another example is associated with my own deployment with the United States Navy as a chaplain to the Horn of Africa. A service member noticed that my diet did not include pork and, after a few weeks, inquired about it. I shared the reason for my dietary practice based on Scriptures found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. The service member was thankful for the information that was shared only by request. “Service members can share their faith (evangelize) but not force unwanted intrusive attempts to convert others of any faith or no faith to one’s beliefs (proselytization),” Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, *USA Today*, May 3, 2013.

Seventh-day Adventist chaplains carry out their specialized ministry wholeheartedly, and from a deeply rooted spiritual motivation. The character of Jesus is illuminated in every act of service. Chaplains work long hours and weekends, sometimes requiring absence from some of life’s most important events. They take seriously the words of Jesus spoken on the day of His ascension: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,” Acts 1:8 NKJV.

Chaplains in the Southern Union and throughout the North American Division are on the front line of service, which is invaluable and far-reaching! 📌



Chaplain Juleun Johnson prays with his colleague Nancy Maille. During the COVID-19 pandemic, chaplains minister to the needs of staff as well as patients and family members.



Chaplain Wanda Davis prays with team member Lorenzo Vargas at AdventHealth East Orlando campus, where she has served for 20 years.

PHOTO BY: MATT RAINEY

PHOTO BY: MATT RAINEY

Captain Washington Johnson II, D.Min., is the United States Navy Region Hawaii deputy chaplain, assistant director for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the North American Division, and responsible for Chaplaincy Ministries at the Southern Union Conference.

THE CUT OF THE DIAMOND

Four Lessons for a Long-lasting Marriage

BY JOSEPH DENT

Four lessons from the cut of a diamond came to me recently while preparing to perform the 60-year diamond anniversary for Herb and Betty Doggette. Diamond anniversaries are rare for three reasons: so few marriages make it to 60 years, so few people live past the United States average age of 78.6 years, and so many marriages end in divorce. However, here are four insights that can help couples make 60 years of marriage if they live long enough.

Those who buy and sell in the diamond trade tell me there are “4 C’s” that determine the worth of a diamond.

Those 4 C’s are ...

1. Its CUT — how it is shaped, rubbed, and polished.
2. Its COLOR — i.e. how much color the diamond lacks.
3. Its CLARITY — i.e. how many imperfections are in the diamond.
4. Its CARAT weight — or how much the diamond weighs.

Surprisingly, it is actually the diamond’s cut that is the most important quality to determine its value. The color, clarity, and carat weight can all be flawless and impressive. However, if the cut is poor, the diamond will be dull, unattractive, and of relatively low value.

Also of note, the diamond’s cut is the only one of the 4 C’s determined by the human hand. The remaining 3 C’s are all predetermined by God in nature, and cannot be altered in any way by human touch.

The Cut of the Diamond

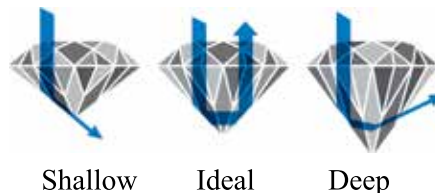
A 60-year marriage anniversary can



certainly be analogous to all 4 C’s of a real diamond’s quality, but I’m going to only focus on the cut of the diamond, its most important quality.

The cutting of the diamond is the process by which a rough, unpolished, unremarkable, and ordinary looking stone is converted into a polished, brilliant, and expensive precious jewel.

Why is the cut so disproportionately important to a diamond’s value compared to the other 3 C’s? Answer: It’s the light! The cut determines what happens to the light that strikes and enters the diamond, and hence, it’s appearance.



If the cut is ideal and just right, any light, artificial or natural, from any angle that hits the diamond, will hit the diamond and literally make a full U-turn and bounce back into your eyes like hundreds of little mirrors all dancing together to give you the diamond’s effulgence, brilliance, and fire.

However, if the cut is too shallow,

light hitting the diamond will leak out at the bottom, leaving it with a dull, unattractive appearance and low worth.

On the other hand, if the cut is too deep, light hitting the diamond will leak out of the sides, again leaving the diamond with a dull, unattractive appearance and, as a result, again, low worth.

How is a Diamond Like a Marriage?

What does this all have to do with marriage? Good question!

I liken the cutting of the diamond from a rough stone to a polished gem to the resulting changes that a marriage relationship inevitably have on a husband and a wife to each other.

Besides the parental relationship, no other human relationship has as much of an effect on a person than a marriage. Like the diamond cutter changing the diamond, marriage inevitably changes people — for better or for worse! Some people are changed by their marriage more than others, but although most people remain largely the same, everyone is changed in some way, positively or negatively. This is why you want to be very, very careful whom you marry! Both of you are going to change — legally, financially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically — simply by being married to each other!

Cutting the Marriage Relationship Too Shallow

The cutting of a diamond in too shallow a manner, I compare to a marriage that suffers from inattention and other



Betty and Herb Doggette on their wedding day, May 24, 1959



Herb and Betty Doggette (left) with Judy and Joseph Dent at the 60th anniversary celebration

deficits such as neglect, indifference, taking each other for granted, and by one spouse selfishly prioritizing their own needs over and ahead of their spouse's and their family's needs. As a shallow cutting diamond cutter fails to apply enough attention and effort to the cutting of the diamond, so in a shallow marriage relationship one or both spouses fail at unselfishly giving each other and their marriage relationship sufficient and sincere time, effort, and attention.

One of the most amazing revelations I read that came out of the tragic death of NBA star Kobe Bryant, his daughter, and seven others in a helicopter crash on January 26, 2020, is the reason Kobe decided to regularly commute around Southern California in a helicopter when he retired. It's because Kobe decided his time at home with his children and family was more important than sitting in traffic on Los Angeles freeways. They say he'd regularly commute around town on business in his chopper, and then fly home just so he could get in the parent carpool line to pick up his children after school.

The Analogy to Infidelity

To extend the analogy, a shallow relationship can also be illustrated by the sad but all too common practice of marriage

infidelity. Instead of staying home and being loyal to their marriage vows, lovingly and carefully cutting and polishing their own diamond wife, or husband, a dull, low-value, unfaithful Lothario is out across town surreptitiously attempting to cut and polish on someone else's dull, low-value, and unfaithful "stone."

Cutting the Marriage Relationship Too Deep

The cutting of a diamond in too deep a manner I compare to a marriage relationship that has been deeply wounded, scarred, split, and often destroyed from physical and/or emotional abuse, smothering over-attention, over-dependence, jealousy, lack of privacy, lack of trust, extreme fussiness, or a disrespect for the spouse's individuality. The stalker spouse, if you will, or the so called "hen-pecked" husband or a "doormat" wife could be additional examples of a marital diamond being cut and scarred too deep.

How Do You Cut a Marriage Diamond?

Because diamonds are the hardest known substance on Earth, only diamonds can cut, alter the shape of, or polish other diamonds. A diamond can't be cut and sawed or shaped by a piece of

paper, or wood, or aluminum, tin, iron, or steel. Why? They are not compatible! If you try to cut or shape a diamond with a piece of paper, or even a piece of steel, both will be destroyed.

Just so with a happy, enduring marriage that can, like Herb and Betty Doggette's, last for 60 years and beyond, as long as life lasts. A couple contemplating marriage that will last a lifetime must determine and decide before they marry that they are both diamonds in the rough, i.e., compatible.

I believe this is what Ellen G. White meant when she counseled, "If those who are contemplating marriage would not have miserable, unhappy reflections after marriage, they must make it a subject of serious, earnest reflection now," *Adventist Home*, 43:1. Also, "It is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love. Only where Christ reigns can there be deep, true, unselfish affection," *Adventist Home*, 69:2.

The cut determines what happens to the light that strikes and enters the diamond, and hence, it's appearance. ①

Joseph Dent is a retired pastor who resides in Sebring, Florida.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

in a Time of Pandemic

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

While the world has been turned on its head over the current pandemic, many people are still concerned over issues of religious freedom. Since the stay-at-home order and other social gathering restrictions were put into place because of the virus outbreak, the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty has been monitoring and evaluating this very fluid situation. Our concern over the closures of churches, whether voluntarily or by order, is to evaluate the motivation and method behind such.

Many people, not just Adventists, have questioned the constitutional authority of the government to prohibit churches from meeting. How can this be constitutional? Isn't this infringing upon my personal rights to free exercise of religion? The religious liberty department is grappling with these same issues.

Through prayerful study, review of current and past history, as well as the few court cases that have arisen since the start of the pandemic, we offer the

following assessment.

The term “unprecedented times” seems to be the catchphrase of the year. And, while this is true in many ways, it is not true on the issue of a contagion spreading around the world. A hundred years ago, the world was faced with a similar pandemic when the Spanish flu started in 1918 and did not end until 1920. The Church was faced with many similar issues that we face today — but this time, we count ourselves lucky. We can still worship together in a meaningful way through live streaming, video chats, and other social media platforms. We can even continue to be faithful in returning our tithes and offerings using the Church's secure AdventistGiving app. These tools all allow for the continued work of the Church and its ministry, as well as providing a means to worship together that was not available a century ago. We can be thankful for the tools at our disposal; they allow us to safely shelter for the good of the whole while we continue to go about our Father's busi-

ness, though a bit differently.

A hundred years ago, protective and timely quarantining was not utilized early enough or consistently enough to prevent more than 50 million people from dying from that pandemic. There are certainly lessons to be learned from history.

There have already been a few court cases (with more coming down the line) that were decided very rapidly in regards to church closings and the rights to free exercise of religion. All of those cases were decided in favor of the quarantine. And, since we are speaking of the quarantine, we should evaluate the issue again in light of reason and understanding. The limits placed upon public gatherings were not implemented with the specific purpose of denying us the right to worship. On the contrary, governments are encouraging churches to reach out and share their faith in a safe manner. We should count ourselves fortunate to be able to live stream services and share in fellowship together with



like-minded believers in different and innovative ways.

To date, the closing of churches has not singled out religion or even a particular religion. The state has a compelling interest in issuing stay-at-home orders. Church members should understand our own moral imperative in making sure that we do all we can to keep our fellow humans safe. With no vaccine, no medical cure, limited testing, as well as asymptomatic spreading of the virus, we must act with proper Christian charity in temporarily sacrificing our in-person worship services. Acting together to stop the spread of the epidemic will hopefully get us back worshipping together all the sooner.

God, in Bible times, directed the children of Israel (Leviticus 13) on what to do with those in our midst who may be infected. Remember that leprosy had no treatment or cure in biblical times, and, like COVID-19, could be passed along from person to person through contact and droplets. God's directive to the chil-

dren of Israel was to quarantine, and continue to quarantine the infected until cured. Our problem today is that we do not know who is infected, so all must act judicially for the sake of our loved ones.

Some will say, as was said of leprosy, that COVID-19 is a curse from God upon this world for its wickedness. The appeal is made for you to reject this claim for what it is: satanic. Pestilence in our time is brought about by the architect of sin and suffering, Satan. It is another way for Satan to get people to turn away from a loving and caring God by accusing Him of cruelty, and to make people believe that God would do this to small children, the elderly, or chronically sick. Instead, we should utilize this time as a means of getting closer to God, realizing that even though His protection is surely being slowly withdrawn from the world, we will continue to abide in Him and He in us.

The God of our faith asks us to use discernment and utilize prudent measures to save lives. We use discernment

to understand a threat to real religious freedom versus simply our preferred method of worship styles. We acknowledge everything is fluid. Everything is changing. Our assessment of this issue weeks from now may be totally different, depending on other factors. We have been given light that others do not have. God expects us to use proper discernment in these trying times.

The Southern Union Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty welcomes comments and discussion on this topic. We also offer town hall meetings via Zoom for your church during times of quarantining. Reach out to the department with your religious liberty needs. We are here for our church members, even during the quarantine. ❶

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of religious liberty and public affairs at the Southern Union Conference.

PENTECOST 2020

BY CARLTON P. BYRD, D.MIN.

I've been privileged to preach the Gospel for more than 25 years. To witness thousands of individuals surrender and give their lives to Jesus has been most rewarding, not just for the people, but for me too! God's power is real to me! Yet, never in all of my years have I seen anything like what I witnessed during our most recent Breath of Life evangelistic revival in Tanzania, Africa, for our "Mungu Kwanza" Campaign, Swahili for "God First," in the city of Chato.

For two weeks I preached in the open air to thousands of people in the English language while translators interpreted my sermons in sign language and Swahili. Audio devices were also provided so French-speaking individuals could hear the message translated. It seemed like the crowd grew larger and larger each night as those who came shared what they learned with family and friends.

What made this revival unique was that while there were thousands attending at our primary location in Chato, the revival was also being broadcast live on television, radio, and the internet to more than 3,000 locations across the entire country of Tanzania and beyond.

When the first call for baptism was made, we were amazed at the number of individuals who responded. The number was so great that we struggled to keep up with the count. It was like a modern-day Pentecost! Many kept responding and requesting that they, too, be able to give their hearts to God and be baptized!

Today, I'm proud to report that 16,706 individuals were baptized, and became members of God's Church! Praise the Lord!

And, while this is great news, it presents a great problem! With the great number of new church members, we now need a place of worship for them. Hence, it's our plan to return to Chato and build the first Breath of Life Church ever to be established on the continent of Africa! Please pray for



Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., presents the sermon appeal at Chato, Tanzania.



Byrd poses with the children of Chato.

Breath of Life as we continue to provide support to the new members, and prepare to construct a new place of worship for our new brothers and sisters in Chato!

Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min. is the speaker/director of the Breath of Life Telecast and the senior pastor of Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

LOCKED DOWN

But Not Locked Out

BY MESHACH MAUIA

COVID-19 is the most recent pandemic to sweep the globe. It has put restrictions on places we usually gather in groups, such as celebrations ranging from birthdays to anniversaries to celebrations of life. Gatherings in large numbers have been put on hold in hopes of slowing down the rate in which COVID-19 is spreading. As a result, it has impacted and interrupted the way we gather, especially in churches.

I am currently privileged to pastor the district of Macedonia and SoSo in southern Mississippi. COVID-19 has forced me and many of my colleagues across the Southern Union to find different avenues to minister to parishioners. As I speak with them, I am encouraged because ministry has not stopped. If anything, I'm discovering pastors and leaders are finding innovative, creative ways to minister during these times.

In Lexington, Kentucky, Winston Taylor, pastor of Lima Drive, is holding an online evangelistic series entitled "Believe in Jesus Campaign." As I asked Taylor about his motivation for the online evangelistic series which is held every day, he said, "It is to provide comfort for the people of God."

In Huntsville, Alabama, Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church, and David Lee, pastor of Madison Mission, recently partnered with about 40 different congregations to bring to their churches an online communion experience. Among the churches who partnered with Snell, 30 different countries were represented. They sent out a link on how to prepare communion bread, followed by instructions to their members on how to participate from their homes. More than half of the congregation took the challenge of making their own unleavened bread, and the others were given an opportunity to pick theirs up at



Meshach Mauia, senior pastor at the SoSo, Mississippi, Church, and the SoSo members, passed out food to the community.

the church. Snell said part of the motivation behind holding an online communion was to "create an opportunity with a fresh perspective and family involvement." Snell added, "It gave a space for families to explain to their children the importance of the ordinances and the deeper meaning of communion." It was a huge online success.

Also, in Huntsville, Carlton Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor at Oakwood University Church, is still producing amazing online content, and recently found a way to make up a virtual choir to minister during their online services, which went viral on the internet.

In smaller districts in the Southern Union, pastors are also finding creative ways of ministering to their parishioners. Many have used phone conferences, Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook to have Prayer Meeting, Sabbath School, and Sabbath worship during the pandemic.

For example, I have recently partnered with Kyle Crawford, pastor of Lintonia Chapel in Yazoo, Mississippi, and Rising Star in Rolling Fort, Mississippi, to co-pastor our districts during this time of

quarantine. Together, with the leading of the Holy Spirit, we have created an online worship experience to encourage the members, and currently live-stream weekly via Facebook. We have invited our churches into an interactive experience where those who are watching are engaged, and are leaving prayer requests during the live feed and throughout the week.

Not only is online content being pushed out to encourage the people of God, but there are pastors who are impacting their communities during this time of need. Many pastors across the Southern Union are practicing social distancing while still meeting the needs of the community through service.

Bryant Stewart, pastor of the College Hill Church, in Knoxville, Tennessee, has partnered with local churches of different denominations to provide groceries every Tuesday, and hot meals every Thursday for those in need. Edward Harden, pastor of Berean Church in Jackson, Mississippi, is serving the community via a drive-through food bank. In Natchez, Mississippi, Marcus McIntyre, pastor, has partnered with Mississippi Food Network to release 8,000 pounds of food to those who are in desperate need.

COVID-19 may have shut down the buildings in which we gather, but we are understanding more than ever that we are the Church. Our buildings are shut down for now, but ministry is still taking place. It doesn't matter if you're in a big church or a small church district, God has granted different ways to share the Gospel in innovative, creative ways with the gifts which He has blessed us with. Be encouraged! Maranatha! 🕊

Meshach Mauia is the senior pastor at the SoSo, Mississippi, Church.

DIGITAL EVANGELISM

is Increasingly Relevant

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



A new video series at gscsda.org/digitalevangelism aims to equip members and churches to be more effective.

From the beginning of the Adventist movement, the Church has been poised to utilize the very best methods of the time to further the work. Steamships, printing presses, radio, television, and more have all been used to carry God's end-time message to His people. Technology today has exploded, and the potential for sharing God's Word with others is literally at our fingertips. As COVID-19 brought in-person meetings to a grinding halt, we all caught a glimpse of the power of digital evangelism. However, the need for digital missionaries was felt long before the coronavirus pandemic.

The use of digital evangelism is a vast subject, as most of the workings of to-

day's world include digital components. It's not just social media, but all forms of media distributed digitally, including YouTube videos, podcasts, blogs, and more. While many of us may not have the gifts to produce content for these mediums, everyone can help to promote good content by sharing what has already been created. Engaging with the material with positive comments and "Likes" can also ensure that this media appears at the top of search results.

Amy Pershin, a member of the Uchee Pines Church in Seale, Alabama, shares numerous stories of the results she has gained from engaging with others online during the last 10 years. Pershin presents Bible studies on Facebook Live, and at

times includes her family to sing Bible promises as part of the presentation. As people engage with her online, primarily former friends from school or other acquaintances, she messages them personally, and creates a time to meet with them in person, like going out to lunch. Through prayer, many opportunities for spiritual conversations come up during these meetings. It's easier for these conversations to take this route when the initial reconnection online was based on religious content.

Although the responsibility of digital evangelism primarily rests on individual church members, churches also have a role to play in making a positive digital impact. While offering audio record-



STARTING YOUR A/V ASSESSMENT

Churches have different A/V needs and objectives. Here are four starter questions that should apply to most, if not all, churches. Live streaming, lighting, and worship planning tools are some additional areas to consider.

1. Are projectors, screens, and flat screen TVs large enough and bright enough for the room, as well as clear and easy to read from anywhere in the room?
2. Is it easy to hear and understand what is being said through the PA system?
3. Does the church media department receive funding that is adequate to fulfill its missional purpose, including upkeep of essential equipment and supplies?
4. Is the church investing in quality equipment and tools or merely the cheapest available?

Keeping the mission of the church and the role the media department serves in fulfilling that mission paramount, will help guide the church through this process.

ings or live streams of sermons is good, churches can go beyond their regular worship services and produce content that is specific to online audiences. Instead of watching someone present a sermon to an in-person audience, online viewers are more inclined to engage with a presenter that speaks to the camera, and is closer to them rather than on a distant stage.

The presentation we offer attendees inside our churches can make a lasting impression, either for good or bad. As many people are visual learners in our current culture, church media production should be the best it can be. As a result of COVID-19, most churches have had to rely on their A/V setups entirely for online presentations, and many proved to be lacking. Many of our volunteer A/V technicians receive little to no support from the church, and often resort to funding the department needs themselves. Funding for the upkeep and advancement of church media production should be a regular budget item in every church, and they should seek to implement components of good quality, not merely the cheapest that is available. It is no less critical to the mission of the church than the standard building utilities, like water and air-conditioning. Projection systems and other digital displays need to be bright and clear, and microphones and speaker systems should sound crisp and intelligible. Assess your areas of weakness and develop a plan to

improve them. Churches that prioritized these items over time were ready to adjust their services to online only when the COVID-19 need arose.

We have a great opportunity before us. Whether there is a pandemic or not, all things digital and internet-connected are here to stay. Each of us and our churches need an intentional strategy to use these



Amy Pershin (center) meets up with a former school friend after reconnecting on Facebook.

resources for good. A free video series on working in these digital mediums is available at gscsda.org/digitalevangelism, as well as written transcripts for each episode and links to resources. 📌

Shane Hochstetler is the communication director at the Gulf States Conference in Montgomery, Alabama.

Collegedale Members Face Virus Challenges on KENYA MISSION

BY WOLF JEDAMSKI

Twenty-three Collegedale, Tennessee, Church members left March 11, 2020, for the Olmalaika Home (www.theolmalaikahome.org) in the Sekanani community next to the Massai Mara, in Kenya, Africa. This home is a mission, housing young girls who have endured or are escaping female genital mutilation and child marriage.

The goal was to form relationships, provide a medical and dental clinic, and help build new cabinets for the 40 girls. The Tennessee church members also prepared to offer a daily Vacation Bible School, and assist with teaching, team building, and one-on-one tutoring.

Things started well. The team arrived Friday evening to unload and meet the girls. Unfortunately, the management was concerned due to COVID-19 and the team couldn't unload.

Sabbath was a high day. The church members had worship services with the girls and staff, and watched them warm up through worship and small group activities. The craft time provided opportunity to deepen the quickly forming friendships, and as they left they bestowed red Olmalaika polo shirts to each girl and staff member compliments of the Collegedale Church.

Joe Milholm, D.M.D., church member and a Chattanooga, Tennessee, area endodontist, set up to the dental clinic Sunday to assess each girl's needs. Sunday afternoon was spent in groups with the girls learning Kenyan culture, including going to the river to experience how they washed clothes.

Sadly, the girls were harassed on the way back from the river, with people saying the church members were "corona carriers." Richard Moody, M.D., head deacon at Collegedale Church and a family practice physician from East Ridge, Tennessee, explained COVID-19 and allayed fears.

That evening the president of Kenya announced that Kenya had nine confirmed



PHOTO BY: SHERIE WILLIAMS

Cheyenne Roth and Barbara Platt and girls from the Olmalaika Home read a Bible passage, and then prepared a charade for the worship service.



PHOTO BY: SHERIE WILLIAMS

Staff at Sarova Mara Game Camp, where the mission team was quarantined, enjoyed a break from their duties to tie-dye pillowcases. Though originally planned for the Olmalaika Home, it was a great bonding time between the staff and the mission team.

COVID-19 cases, and anyone who entered the country had to quarantine for 14 days. The church members now had to stay at camp.

Surely, God had not brought them to Kenya for a 2 1/2-day encounter? After talking with the management of the Sarova Mara Safari Camp, they mutually agreed to set up their projects at camp and focus on the 100-plus staff. The medical, dental, and dental hygiene clinics set up in the conference center, and the cabinet shop in the camp's maintenance area.

The cabinet team, led by Bud Platt and

Steve Ericson, took that challenge personally, saying that they now had four days. The crew was determined, and through many challenges, completed the cabinets Friday.

The rest of the week, the team provided free services to more than 100 staff members, offering medical, dental fillings, extractions, restorations, and perhaps the highest number of teeth "washings" Jodi Wheeler has ever done.

The president closed Kenya to all flights on March 25, and the mission team was to fly out March 26. Nine team members were able to purchase new tickets and left. The 14 remaining had five different flights arranged, but had issues with cancelled flights or boardings denied. The group finally left Kenya early on March 25, on one of the last flights. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, they were pulled from the flight and told they could not enter the U.S. through Houston, Texas. They spent an entire day at the airport to have flights five and six changed. The team praises God they all did finally make it home safely. ①

Wolf Jedamski is the Collegedale Church's foreign missions coordinator.

His Hands and Feet in QUARANTINE

BY KIM TAYLOR



The members of the Cross Plains, Tennessee, Church realized the great opportunity that lay before them to share and show God's love during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. They brainstormed for ways to reach out and help their local community during a time of need and uncertainty, eventually coming up with two helpful, and much needed, ministries. They were moved to offer assistance to the elderly, high risk, and vulnerable individuals throughout the community.

The personal ministries team offered a grocery shopping and delivery service, while the women's ministry team worked together to offer a meal delivery service. An elderly couple in White House, Tennessee, came across the Facebook post about the meal delivery service, and thought that it would be a great blessing for some of their friends in need. This

selfless couple set up a meal service for their friends, but did not ask to receive any help for themselves. Through the conversations with the Cross Plains Church members, they began to feel that the services being offered were from God, so they were moved to accept the grocery shopping and delivery service as well.

While in line at the grocery store, a simple but beautiful flowering plant stood out to Jeremy Wells, and he felt impressed to buy it as a gift for the couple. When the groceries were delivered, Jack asked, "And what is this? Is this for us?" The personal ministries member responded, "It's our gift to you." Overwhelmed with the gesture, Jack, with tears in his eyes, went on to say, "It is our 58th wedding anniversary in four days, and I was just wondering what I could get for her!" How great God is!

Knowing that this couple had a special oc-

casión coming up, but could not leave their home due to COVID-19 risks, the personal ministries team felt impressed to do more. They picked up two anniversary cards for the couple to give one another, and booked some talented friends to go to their house and serenade them on their special day.

Kim and Greg Taylor, along with their son, Joshua, who recorded the momentous occasion, serenaded the couple with their rendition of "Annie's Song" by John Denver. The couple of 58 years were overwhelmed with gratitude, joy, and love!

While many people are frustrated with the COVID-19 situation, we can still find ways to turn bad into good for the love of God and our fellow neighbors.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good," Romans 12:21. 🕊

COURAGE

in the Storm

BY JANELL HULLQUIST

At 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, 2020, Southern Adventist University alum Juan Class, '09 and '11, headed home from his shift as an emergency room nurse practitioner at Erlanger Health System's main hospital in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Severe storms were brewing, so he reached out to Erlanger East, a smaller branch where he also works, letting the lone physician on duty know that he could come in if things got bad.

"Back in April 2011, I was a trauma nurse specialist working at the Erlanger Trauma Center when tornados struck this area," Class said. "We cared for many injured patients that night, and the experience made me want to be available now, just in case another tornado hit."

At 11:45 p.m., Class received an emergency alert, warning of a tornado spotted nearby, and he quickly sent his wife and children to a neighbor's basement. As the worst of the storm passed, he got word that he was needed in the emergency department, located about seven miles from his house. He jumped into his car, but within a mile, he was blocked by tornado damage — trees crossing the road.

"It was amazing to see the response from local residents, out in the storm cutting trees and moving debris from the road," he said.

After helping to clear the street, Class proceeded, only to be stopped again and again by downed trunks, limbs, and power lines. It did not seem like he would make it to the hospital at the rate he was going. But then his training kicked in from when he was an U.S. Army medic.

"At that point, I decided to start walking," Class said. "What I witnessed firsthand was unforgettable: homes that I had previously admired were completely



Juan Class earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Southern Adventist University.

destroyed, and trees were down everywhere. As I met people who were aimlessly wondering around, I stopped to make sure they were okay."

As he went, the destruction intensified, and Class pictured the number of injured likely to be transported to the emergency department. That thought pushed him on through the dark, rainy night for 5 miles,

scrambling around debris as he went. After nearly two hours, he reached a clear road and was able to catch a ride the last few blocks to the hospital, arriving soaked, muddy, and covered in leaves. However, after a quick change into clean scrubs, he went right to work, caring for the injured.

Class' commitment to helping people



PHOTO BY: TODD PETTIBONE

As Class walked past this neighborhood and others even worse off, he knew he had to get to the emergency department to help.

did not go unnoticed. The president and CEO of Erlanger Health System, William Jackson Jr., M.D., commended Class in an email to all employees, saying, “I am deeply thankful to work alongside

colleagues who embrace and embody Erlanger’s mission of compassionately caring for people.”

Southern’s nursing professors were not surprised to hear of Class’ actions, re-

membering his dedication while studying on campus.

“Juan was an excellent student!” said Cindy Johnson, associate professor of nursing. “While taking a class from me, his infant son required ICU care. (We praised God for his full recovery!) Yet, Juan persevered despite the added stressors in his life. In fact, he was one of my top students.”

“I firmly believe that God has given me the gifts of compassion, grace, and an innate desire to care for and help people,” Class said. “It is this and my belief in God that keeps me going in the midst of all this tragedy, including the current pandemic. I truly love Southern and how it empowers people to serve like this.”



PHOTO BY: TODD PETTIBONE

His route — partly visible here, as shown by the red line — took Class through some of the areas hardest hit by the EF3 tornado.

Janell Hullquist is editorial manager at Southern Adventist University, where she earned a degree in mass communication in 2005.

MPA Holds “1950s Diner” Banquet

Student Emma Boughman recounts Mount Pisgah Academy's recent Student Association Banquet.

Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) is blessed to have a creative Student Association (SA) made up of dedicated students who help plan fun activities and events. During the school year, a fall festival was hosted, spirit days, and fall and spring picnics, along with other surprises, to help the students have fun and give them a break from the busy school year.

One of the events hosted by the SA that I always anticipate is the SA banquet. This year's theme was '50s Diner. I couldn't wait to put on my swing skirt and enjoy an old-fashioned burger!

The night of the banquet came, and I was super excited. The girls wore an assortment of poodle skirts, jeans, bandanas, and heels. The boys wore white shirts, and slicked their hair back with as much gel as possible. Even before we went into the gym, it already seemed as though we had been transported back in time.

“I liked seeing the creative costumes and fellowship between the students,” said Chedly Lafrance, finance intern.

When we walked into the gym, it looked amazing. We entered through a big wooden cut-out of the outside of a retro diner and into the “restaurant” itself. A bar with a kitchen-like area behind it sat on the far wall. “It was really cool! I loved the whole diner look,” said Hannah Guenin ('21). Surrounding us were round tables covered with pink tablecloths and decorated with vintage cars and vinyl records. There were several picture opportunities, including a giant cut-out milkshake and jukebox.

Soon everyone sat down, and we were dismissed by table to go up to the bar and order our food. The SA members were ready to take our orders. They were all yelling '50s slang to each other as they prepared our food. Once we got our food, my friends and I headed back to the tables where we laughed and had a great time. “The cream sodas and cheese fries were so good!” Sharon Duque ('22) commented.

We recognized some of the songs being



PHOTO BY: EMMA BOUGHMAN



PHOTO BY: EMMA BOUGHMAN

played and sang along and joked about being time travelers. The SA members soon announced dessert, and we all cheered with excitement. We got in line, and they served each of us a banana split. It was excellent! As everyone ate their ice cream, SA announced that it would soon be time to leave for the activity. In 10 minutes we would be getting on the buses.

Our destination was the bowling alley. It was really fun goofing off and having a great time with my friends. As each person rolled the ball down the lane, their teammates cheered behind them. Even if we didn't knock down a single pin, we were having a blast! There were so many of us packed into the lanes, but many people grew closer because of the experience. Whether we won or lost, we were just happy to be there.

Unfortunately, the night did have to come to an end, and the staff ushered us out the door to

the buses. It was fun to experience a little bit of the '50s, and I know that SA put in a lot of hard work just for us to have some fun for a night.

“This year's SA banquet was probably my favorite banquet,” said Ethan Stauffer, SA president. “My fellow SA members were so driven and determined, and we quickly got a lot accomplished while preparing. I believe the memories we made that night will last us way past high school.”

SA deserves a big thank-you, especially their sponsors, Nancy Parra, Ed Pelto, and Tyler Hedges. They worked really hard putting up all the decorations, making the food, and making sure we had an awesome night. Everyone at MPA had a really fun time, and I can't wait to see what SA brings us for next year's SA banquet. 🎵

BY EMMA BOUGHMAN, CLASS OF 2022

Spartanburg Church Creates Miniature Golf Course

In January 2020, the Spartanburg, S.C., Church held a Saturday night game night and invited church members, as well as friends made during a recent prophecy series. A nine-hole mini golf course had been constructed and set up throughout the Eddlemon Adventist School building. Individual church members and several ministry teams — church choir, young adult small group, Pathfinder club, and various youth groups — designed and built the mini golf holes, each of which took upwards of 18 to 20 hours to complete.

The evening began with Vespers, continued with food and fellowship, and finished with mini golf. When participants reached the ninth hole, they used



PHOTO BY: ROSS KNIGHT



PHOTO BY: ROSS KNIGHT

a potato gun to shoot a golf ball into the softball field where the final hole was located to conclude the round. While the golfers played, others played cornhole, Pit, Rook, and other games. It was a fun evening and a great opportunity to get to

know each other better. It's quite possible that this was the beginning of an annual event. 🍌

BY ROSS KNIGHT AND JOALYCE WAUGH

Rockhill Church Members Eliminate School Lunch Debt

In 2019, Rock Hill, S.C., Church members questioned what they could truly contribute to their community. It was discouraging looking at what larger churches could do; and, the local non-profit that connected churches with community service opportunities was closing. They prayed for a creative ministry idea, and at a board meeting in the fall, someone presented an idea. They had all seen the news stories about children not being able to afford school lunches or students being unable to graduate because they had outstanding lunch debt. Close to the church was a little school, and for the past few years they had been hosting back-to-school and end-of-the-year brunches for the teachers. Now it was time to take that community relationship to the next level.

Ken Herring, head elder, had already



PHOTO BY: CASEY VAUGHN

built a relationship with the elementary school, and now approached the principal. The school was excited about the opportunity, and explained that they had many students with outstanding debt. Church members began collecting loose change in September, and by the end of January, they had collected more than

\$1,500. This was enough to not only eliminate the current lunch debt for the entire school, but also provide a surplus to assist students with any new lunch debt for the rest of the school year.

The church's relationship with the school has continued to grow, and now the members are considering branching out to the local middle school and high school, further expanding their influence in the community. A small church of 40 members has impacted the lives of 350 children. When the middle and high schools are added, this number will increase to more than 1,000. It is encouraging to these 40 individuals to know that even though they aren't a large church, they can do great things and reach many people for Jesus. 🍌

BY CASEY VAUGHN

Dunnellon Company Becomes a Miracle Church



PHOTO BY: GLENDA BATES

Some of the members of the miracle church in Dunnellon, Fla., stand in front of the church and the large visible church sign.

Establishing a church in Dunnellon, Fla., was not an easy task. For many years, prayers were offered for God to open the doors.

It was not until 1998, that Art Swaningson, a lay evangelist and retired truck driver, agreed to hold meetings in Dunnellon, and four people were baptized. The first church was purchased in 2001.

As the community grew, the state of Florida decided to widen Highway 41 to make a four-lane highway. This would make the highway right-of-way come very near the front sidewalk of the church.

About the time when it became apparent the church would have to move quickly, a much larger building on the same highway became available at a non-affordable price. After it was on the market for a number of months, the price was considerably reduced. An inspector found needed improvements would be expensive. As

a result, the owner reduced the price once again. The church was then able to purchase the building.

The county approved the request to have the property zoned for a church. Several months later, the church was notified of a number of improvements needed to comply with zoning regulations in order to receive the Certificate of Occupancy.

One problem was that the chairs did not meet the county code, but the church could not afford to buy new pews. Thankfully, property management at Florida Conference became aware of the Brooksville, Fla., Church trying to sell their pews. Church leaders met with Eric Doran, Brooksville pastor, who then talked with the board. Instead of selling the pews as planned, Dunnellon Church was given the pews for free.

Now, the church had a new problem. The pews were too long to fit in the sanctuary as it was currently configured. Deann Hawley,

from property management, asked her husband to draw a floor plan to scale showing how the new pews would fit if the platform direction was changed. After two trips in a rented U-Haul, pews were put in place and bolted to the floor. Rather than sell the excess chairs and pews, chairs were given to the Ocala, Fla., Spanish Church, and pews went to another Christian church.

A designer and engineer were also hired to create a layout of all the rooms to scale and show the proposed use and occupancy of each room before the county approved the Certificate of Occupancy.

God continues to work miracles as the members seek to be a means by which He can do His work. The Dunnellon Church members extend an invitation to come and worship in their miracle church. ❶

BY GLENDA BATES

Ocala Adventist School Reborn

Ocala Fla., Church is happy to announce the opening of Ocala Adventist Academy (OAA) for the 2020-2021 school year. Much prayer

and hard work have gone into this effort, and the members feel blessed by how God has worked through the Ocala Church and community to make this possible.

A small Adventist church school first opened its doors in 1927 in Ocala. Like some other Adventist schools scattered across the country, this school closed in



Ocala Adventist Academy

the early 2000s. However, this story now has a happy ending — or, rather, a new beginning.

For its first year of operation, OAA will be serving children in grades K-9, with plans to add grades 10-12 in the 2021-2022 academic year. The integrat-

ed curriculum as shown on their web page, ocalaadventistacademy.org, promotes educational wholeness through:

- outdoor education,
- spiritual growth and maturity, and
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math).

The school places a strong emphasis on Christ-centered values, outdoor education, project-based learning, and an open-concept classroom atmosphere, while maintaining high academic standards. ①

BY KAREY MESSINA

Marian Eloise Lowman Celebrates 100th Birthday

Marian Eloise Thomas was born in Baltimore, Md., as the second child of Frank and Rose Thomas, on March 5, 1920. Childhood years were spent in the shadows of Fort McHenry, the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner.

As Marian grew up in the Brooklyn area of Baltimore, she developed a friendship with a young man in the neighborhood. She married her friend, Walter Lowman, on June 11, 1937. Two children were born to this marriage, Marian Patricia (Pat) and Marvin Gerard.

In 1942, the couple purchased their first home a few miles away in Anne Arundel County. Shortly thereafter they were introduced to the Adventist Church by a colporteur. After attending a series of tent meetings, Marian was baptized and joined the local church. Ten years later, Walter also joined. The Lowmans were always actively involved in the work of the Adventist Church.

In 1985, they retired to Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka, Fla.



Marian Eloise Lowman celebrates her 100th birthday surrounded by friends and family at the Florida Living Retirement Community dining room.

They enjoyed traveling, took several trips abroad, and enjoyed many cruises together.

Both were very active in the Florida Living Church. They also volunteered at the Florida Conference Office to facilitate sending out bulk mailings to churches. Upon Walter's death on March 9, 2005, Marian continued her volunteer work with the help of her friend, Janice Cohen.

In October 2011, Marian moved to Baltimore to live with her daughter. After little more than a year, she decided to move back to Florida Living where she lived until May 2019. She now resides at Brookdale Assisted Living in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

"Mom continues to have good health and a clear mind," says her son, Marvin. "There is definitely something to be said for the Adventist lifestyle and health message." ①

BY MARVIN GERARD LOWMAN

Pam Lewis Creates Comfort Birds for Tornado Victims

Pam Lewis loves teaching individuals how to create something. Lewis is a member of the Collegedale, Tenn., Community Church, and teaches woodworking at a retirement home, Garden Plaza at Greenbriar Cove in Ooltewah, Tenn. Due to COVID-19 she is now home.

In an effort to comfort others, first from COVID-19, and now from the Easter Sunday tornadoes, Lewis makes small birds she calls comfort birds from wood, and gives them to people for free.

"This helps me feel like I am helping in some small part," said Lewis. That day she said she was going to take a comfort bird to someone from Murray County, Georgia, who was in the hospital. This person lost her mom, dad, and brother from the recent tornadoes, and her husband was in ICU.

Along with each handmade bird, Lewis inserts a promise card with Matthew 6:26, which reads, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

"Comfort birds fit right in the palm of your hand," says Lewis. She makes the birds from a wide variety of trees, and on the tail of each bird she includes the chronological number for that bird (she has made 228); she also includes her name and the name of the tree that the bird was created from. She thinks it is amazing she can do this because she doesn't think she has the skills, giving God all the credit.

"God showed me the idea five years ago," said Lewis, who feels blown away by God's timing. She now has the bird making process down pat, creating each bird in one hour to one hour and 45 minutes, depending on the hard or soft nature of the wood. To create the birds she uses a bandsaw, cutting out a square bird. Then she uses a one-inch belt sander and a cylinder sander to create the fine shape, and, to finish off the bird, a lot of hand-sanding that she finds to be a great stress relief. "I can use this to



PHOTO BY: NATHAN LEWIS

Pam Lewis, a member of the Collegedale Community Church in Collegedale, Tenn., wanted to help others. Not able to work at her retirement home job due to COVID-19, Lewis turned to woodworking, creating comfort birds for those in crisis.



PHOTO BY: NATHAN LEWIS

Examples of the comfort birds Pam Lewis creates in her home. In these times, Lewis wants to bring comfort to others.

bless others — hopefully to bring glory to God, that He is still with us," she added.

Her son, Nathan Lewis, says that the comfort birds mean a lot to people, and he finds it remarkable. He helps supply wood to his mom, and he shared a few stories of those she helps. He said a hospice nurse had her roof collapse after her patient was evacuated during the tornado. Unfortunately, the patient died a few hours later. Lewis will make three birds for their family.

Nathan said that a cedar tree was planted

in the 1960s by some great-grandparents; the tree had been in multiple family photos as the family met under the tree for many gatherings, even a wedding. On Sunday, April 12, 2020, the tree fell during the tornadoes and the family was devastated. Lewis will make six birds for this family.

Another tree, an oak tree that had been on this family's property for decades, also fell on Sunday. The dad is heartbroken because it was his favorite tree. Lewis will make a bird for the father. These are just a few examples of comfort birds created by Lewis to help families.

Woodworking for Lewis started back in high school. She enjoyed a variety of crafts, and after she got married and had children, she would make them wooden toys and puzzles. For the past eight years, she has been teaching 80- to 90-year-olds woodworking.

Lewis said, "This has been what the Lord knew that I needed." ❶

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

Youth Help with Tornado Cleanup

Tornadoes devastated parts of the southeast over Easter weekend, April 12, 2020. As soon as people could get out of their neighborhoods, pastors asked the youth of the Collegedale, Tenn., area to come help clear trees off of people's cars and houses.

The pastors had a good response. Youth from McDonald Road, Collegedale Community, and Collegedale churches, as well as students from Collegedale Academy, Ooltewah Adventist School, and Ooltewah High School, helped out.

Brett Klasing, a junior at Collegedale Academy, said, "It was very sad to see so much damage to homes and property, but it was rewarding to get outside and help people. With everything that is going on with COVID-19 and having to do school from home, it was also great to get out and see friends while we helped people."

Those that were helped expressed how grateful they are and how they were so impressed. The helpers had such positive



Tyler Hodges, Bible teacher at Collegedale Academy, operates a chainsaw while Brett Klasing, junior at Collegedale Academy, and Nick Martin, student at Ooltewah Adventist school, haul away tree branches.



Ben Starr, student at Ooltewah Adventist School, helps haul tornado debris.

attitudes and were so willing. These young people showed the love of God in a very practical and needed way. ❶

BY GEOFF STARR

Two Churches Damaged in April Tornadoes

Several tornadoes brought havoc and death to southeastern Tennessee and north Georgia on Sunday, April 12, 2020. In all the reported destruction and deaths, only two Adventist churches were significantly damaged — the Collegedale Community Church in Collegedale, and the Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga.

"As members have come together to assist those who have lost much, I am reminded that this is the Gospel! We are praying for each of you that has been affected," said Gary Rustad, president.

Collegedale Community reports damage in and surrounding the church, as well



The Collegedale Community and Hamilton Community churches were both damaged on Easter Sunday. Weather authorities report that seven tornadoes caused the damage to numerous businesses and homes in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area.

as in the sanctuary and steeple. An outside pavilion had its roof ripped half off, and an outdoor amphitheater is completely destroyed, said Jim Lewellen, Collegedale Community Church administrative pastor.

Dave Ketelsen, pastor for the 860-member Hamilton Community Church, shared that their church has structural damage, including a wall ripped off the church near the stairwell and holes in the church sanctuary roof.

Both churches lost many trees. They are working to repair their facilities and are reaching out to help their communities. ❶

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

Wanda Beck Voted New Education Superintendent



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Wanda Beck looks forward to serving Gulf States, “As long as the Lord provides me with strength.”

Wanda Beck, former principal for Floral Crest School in Bryant, Ala., has recently been voted by the Gulf States Executive Committee as the superintendent of education for Gulf States. Beck comes to the office with more than 40 years of classroom teaching experience, having primarily taught grades 1-9. However, 16 of the 40 years she also served as a school principal, with one school achieving the Adventist EDGE School of Excellence award.

“I’m excited to take this position. I feel like the Lord has called me for this position. I am here to serve our teachers, our academies, our elementary schools, and our families in the Gulf States Conference with this ministry,” says Beck.

While the transition is going to be challenging, Beck is looking forward to bringing her practical elementary teaching experience and perspective to the administrative position. She also isn’t concerned with the travel that the job requires because traveling is among her favorite hobbies, along with her family.

Beck, with her college sweetheart husband of 44 years and two children who are now grown, has enjoyed numerous international trips, primarily in Europe. When asked about her favorite international travel experience, Beck shared about a reformation tour that she attended along with the Gulf States Conference. Rome, in particular, stuck in her memory, as she was able to eat Italian food right outside the Vatican with Dave

Livermore, Conference president, and Larry Owens, former Gulf States pastor.

“I know I’m filling big shoes,” said Beck. Stan Hobbs, former vice president of education for Gulf States, retired from the position near the end of May 2020. “However, I feel like my training, education, experience, background, gifts of administration, and trust in God will see me through. My personal mission is to work and pray for the salvation of our young people. Everything we do, our words and actions, is going to affect our impact with our children. The Lord is coming soon, and we need to take our mission to our children seriously.”

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Food Distribution Ministries Flourish Throughout Conference

During a weekly pastors video conference this past April, several pastors shared the ongoing success of their food distribution ministries. For those who had a ministry already established, many saw a dramatic increase in needs arise as a result of COVID-19. Michel Rodriguez, pastor of the St. Elmo, Ala., Church, shared that while they typically serve just over 100 families on a distribution day, their most recent event served more than 200.

Rodriguez serves in both English and Spanish-speaking ministries, and enlisted the help of the nearby Hispanic Adventist pastors to complete the distribution. Among them was Cristofe Guzman, pastor of several Hispanic churches along the Gulf Coast, who had held a similar event one week prior. Dwayne Campbell, pastor of the Auburn-Opelika, Ala., Metro Church, worked with his church to distribute 1,200 pounds of food as part of their monthly distribution partnership with the Food Bank of East Alabama. Fernando Leite, pastor of the Cody Road Church in Mobile, Ala., also reported ongoing successful distribution of food to those who needed it most.

A commonality between all of these ministries and partnerships is that they were established before a major crisis arrived. Because the churches were distribution points in good standing, for many it was a non-issue to support the increased need of their communities. The success also speaks to the importance of how consistent the volunteers have been in their respective ministries. While these types of ministries have moments where it is difficult to discern the positive impact, it is in times of great need that their effect is felt in a significant way. Several other churches through the Conference have participated in these types of services for years, and now many more are encouraged to seek partnership with their communities to be ready for the next crisis. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



Dwayne Campbell (left), pastor of Auburn-Opelika, Ala., Metro Church, assists with distribution preparations.

PHOTO BY: BRIANNA SHERRER



Michel Rodriguez, pastor of the St. Elmo Church, works with his team on the record-setting distribution in April 2020.

PHOTO BY: MICHEL RODRIGUEZ



Vehicles filling the parking lot at the St. Elmo Church in Irvington, Ala., await the food distribution.

PHOTO BY: MICHEL RODRIGUEZ

Pine Car Derby Raises More Than \$47,000

Celebrating 16 years of fundraising through their Pine Car Derby efforts, Madison Campus Elementary (MCE) in Madison, Tenn., raised more than \$47,000 this year. This one-and-only school-wide fundraiser required many volunteers, staff, teachers, and faculty to make the event possible.

Taking six weeks to fundraise, the students mailed letters and sent emails to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and church family asking for donations to support their goal of \$250 per student. Donors mailed in checks or gave through the school's website under the DONATE tab. "We raised over \$18,000 of our \$47,000 through the online campaign," reported Kristin Fulton, Pine Car Derby coordinator.

Race day consisted of the pine cars racing down two tracks to see whose car was the fastest, per class and overall. Race coordinator Matt Roddy said, "The fastest cars would make it down the track in just over three seconds, which would equate to over 200 mph in a real car." He also stated how impressed he was with the creativity of the children and their hard work building their cars.

Booths were set up by each grade, and all of the money that was raised went toward their individual classrooms. Silent auction bids were made on items ranging from eateries to Holiday World and Creation Museum tickets.

The \$47,000 that was raised will help fund MCE auxiliary programs such as art, music, P.E., and the library. "MCE is extremely blessed to have a community that supports our mission and our students. I am grateful for all of the hard work that was done to help us reach our goal," stated Marty Sutton, MCE principal.

The students, faculty, and staff of MCE are so thankful for a community that cares about them. 📍

BY KRISTIN FULTON



Preparing for the race to begin



Pine cars built by the students

Miracles Lead Mission Group to Company



Picture taken following the Company dedication and one-year anniversary worship service on February 29, 2020.

Are there any prayer requests?" the small group leader asked. Requests included church plant, family, and friends, but one request was different. It was, "I would like to pray for miracles." And, miracles are exactly what happened.

God's plan for what is now Bluegrass Connections Company (BCC) became clearer when, in August 2016, the Lexington, Ky., Church board discussed the church's vision for growth. A key item was church planting. A natural church development plan was presented, and a small group began meeting weekly to pray, study, and focus on the Holy Spirit's guidance for planting a new congregation.

By August 2018, the group was unanimously approved as a mission group. A steadily growing plan was set in motion with monthly goals for worship, outreach, and social events. The first official worship service took place in September 2018.

Miracles happened. The first worship



Bluegrass Connections Company's tiny church home (maximum capacity close to 50), from November 2018 to June 2020 before moving to a 200-plus capacity location.

location, a hotel conference room, was not sufficient space for the group. Then, just in time, a building came available. A semi rear-ended the lay pastor's truck, setting it on fire, but his life was miraculously spared. Miracles piled up as cars stopped working, emergency rooms were frequented, surgeries were scheduled, and jobs demanded, but none of this stopped God's work. Seemingly, in-

surmountable obstacles fell away.

Weekly worship services were launched in February 2019, amid concerns about the tiny, but available, church building being considered. Again, just in time, a larger church building became available.

In February 2020, BCC celebrated both its company status and one year of weekly services. More than 40 made a commitment to BCC.

By March 2020, the world has changed. Once again, a church building cannot be used for worship services, but not because it is not available. Nevertheless, just as BCC has learned from the beginning, going from one location to the next, it is clear that God, the "Waymaker and Miracle Worker," has more in mind than can be confined within walls. God in mission; His people are the church. The building is closed, but God's church is open. Go ye therefore... 🙏

BY CINDY WILLEY

DNAP Students Help Battle COVID-19 Pandemic

From March through April 2020, AdventHealth University (AHU) students from the doctorate of nurse anesthesia practice (DNAP) program reached out to staffing agencies to offer their skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. To care for their communities, these students stepped up and returned to the workforce as the country's needs grew.

David and Jissel Samons, married couple and both students at AHU, went to New York City (NYC) where they were placed in Harlem Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) for the duration of their three-week contract.

Chris Mendiola, who joined the Samonses in NYC in the same hospital unit, said, "It was a last-minute decision to go up to New York, but we all felt that calling in our hearts to go and help when the opportunity presented itself."

"We were a little skeptical going, and did not fully understand the seriousness of the virus," the Samons couple recalled. "Still, those images and stories ... did create a lot of uncertainty and anxiety." Before they arrived at their unit, they recalled having mixed emotions of fear and excitement. "One second we wanted to go home; the next second we were hyped and ready."

They learned during their orientation that 95% of the hospital had COVID-19 or were ruled out. The hospital had chosen the term "Code Gold" for COVID-19 patients who were in cardiac arrest. "We felt like we heard 'Code Gold' called overhead every 20 minutes for the first week we were there." It wasn't like anything they had ever experienced in the long years they had worked in critical care.

Mendiola, who said the hospital was already dealing with hardships before the pandemic, said, "[The hospital] was only meant to hold 14 ICU patients at any given time, but during the crisis they had between 40 and 50 critically ill patients spread out across makeshift ICUs."

Mendiola described his experience: "From day one I already could see how the



DNAP student, Chris Mendiola, R.N. (far right), poses with other Harlem Hospital temporary staff, holding signs with their home states on them.

knowledge and training I had gained from anesthesia school could be used to make a difference. I was able to help collaborate with them about the management of ventilation settings, the use of different sedation medications, and give them my thoughts and opinions on not only the plan of care for my patients, but other patients as well."

Their second week brought better news. "We could feel things changing because open beds remained available for longer than 5 minutes," recalled the Samonses. Rumors from their emergency department (ED) nurses came that admissions had gone down. As they were leaving on their third and final week, the hospital was able to start closing one of the ICUs that was created in response to the pandemic.

The couple said, "Even though there were many scary and sad times, we had a lot of happy moments that we will never forget."

Back in Florida, Alissa Cinquemani, Emily Jones, Christian Rubio, and Daniel Novak were working as RNs at the Orange County Convention Center COVID-19 testing site. Cinquemani described long, hot Florida days wearing full sets of personal protective equipment (PPE). "Overall, this experience was great, and I truly felt as if

I was helping my local community fight COVID-19 on the frontlines," she said.

When their contract ended at the end of April, Cinquemani and Jones took assignments as ICU nurses at Howard University Hospital. As of May, Cinquemani was working on the designated COVID-19 medical ICU for Washington, D.C. "I feel blessed to work on the frontlines of this pandemic ... where my skills as both an experienced ICU nurse and student registered nurse anesthetist are being used to my utmost capacity," she noted.

When her CRNA school clinical was canceled, DNAP student Maria Klopfenstein called U.S. nursing in search of a job. "I had heard on the news that hospitals in San Jose [Calif.] were half occupied by COVID-19 patients, but had no idea in a week's time I would see that first-hand." She described her fear about the lack of PPEs, and possibly contracting the virus and passing it to her husband and family. "But, this is not a time to let fear take over. It's a time to step up and do what I was trained to do," she said.

Klopfenstein worked in the "hot zone," wearing full PPE for entire 12-hour shifts. She recalled, "I listened as a patient told me she just wanted to make it to her 76th birthday next month, and then she would be happy letting go." Fortunately, she was able to see some of her patients recover and be sent home. She said, "I feel honored to serve during this fight."

Manuel Tolosa, DNAP Department vice-chair and assistant program administrator of the DNAP program, said, "They all put their safety and their family's safety aside to fulfill what our God has called them to do — take care of patients that needed their help. Patients who — perhaps our students' face was the last they saw before they passed — were comforted by our students. They truly practiced healthcare as a ministry, and I couldn't be prouder." ❶

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Maranatha Members Launch “Tuscaloosa Feeding 500”



Volunteers have fun as they help feed their community.

Maranatha Church members in Tuscaloosa, Ala., launched an initiative called “Tuscaloosa Feeding 500” on Sabbath, March 28, 2020. The goal was to maximize efforts while minimizing exposure — connect without contact. Divided into three teams of volunteers, methods were organized to “Pick it up, Pack it up, Pass it out.”

Tuscaloosa Feeding 500 was a collaborative effort of the community services and hospitality leaders. Rebecca Billingsley, community services leader, was responsible for the first phase, “Pick it up.” She worked diligently to prepare a menu for the initiative. Billingsley and four volunteers shopped for food, paper bags, gloves, and masks, and brought the items to the church.

In the second phase, “Pack it up,” Karen Moore, M.D., hospitality leader, and a team of six volunteers prepared sandwich-



The carefully packed lunches are ready to be distributed.

es on Sabbath morning. Each sandwich was carefully packed with other food items and necessities. On Sabbath afternoon, the “Pass it out” phase began. The pastor organized a team for registration and distribution, while the community services team set up tables and filled the paper bags with Nutri-Grain bars and juice boxes, and then

organized 100 bags per table. The registration data was collected at the entrance of the church’s parking lot, while the people held their identifications up to their vehicle windows. The vehicles proceeded to the mid-point of the parking lot to receive their bags, and then exited the parking lot on the other side.

Social distancing was maintained by having each car enter on one side of the parking lot and exit the other. As the members distributed the sack lunches, each vehicle passed through as a grab-and-go. As each bag of goodness was distributed, each car was filled with smiles and joy. The members thanked God for allowing them to meet the needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. ①

BY ROSCOE SHIELDS JR., PH.D.

Collaborative Event Encourages Student Entrepreneurs



Isaac Fernandez, senior business administration major, won first place in the entrepreneurial challenge.

Southern Adventist University's Enactus team, in partnership with the national education nonprofit CoLabs, held a major pitch competition on campus called LaunchU on February 27, 2020. Modeled after the television show *Shark Tank*, the evening program provided students with an opportunity to present their business ideas while vying for \$10,000 in prize money to invest in the projects.

Southern's LaunchU event featured seven competitors representing a variety of projects. Isaac Fernandez, senior business administration major, won first place and received \$5,000 for his business concept, Systematic Medical Referral (SMR). SMR

seeks to develop an electronic system that will cut back on the errors and wait times that patients often face in the medical field.

"The LaunchU judges not only gave me an insight into different aspects of my company, but also provided me with help regarding the steps to take next," Fernandez said. "The \$5,000 in capital from this competition will cover the early developments of SMR, and go toward helping to find investors for the project."

Southern's Enactus team is sponsored by faculty from the School of Business, and housed in the University's Institute of Ethical Leadership. ①

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

Student Finds New Lifestyle in Vegetarian Culinary Arts Program

Benjamin Greeson, a freshman vegetarian culinary arts major at Southern, has had a passion for cooking since he was a child, with dreams of becoming a chef. Through the years, he built up experience in the kitchen, cooking at home and working in various restaurants.

Eight years ago, Greeson began culinary school in Atlanta, Ga.; however, following the death of his father, he had to drop out and move away. Last year, he decided to return to school, and as he searched for options near his current home, he discovered Southern's vegetarian culinary arts program and signed up.

Being part of the culinary program at Southern was an adjustment for Greeson, who was not accustomed to cooking without meat, but he is thriving.

"What I cook here is very different from what I was used to," he said. "Here we use lots more vegetables!"

Since coming to Southern, Greeson has made several major lifestyle changes; he quit smoking, drinking alcohol and soft drinks, and



Thoroughly enjoying the vegetarian culinary arts program at Southern, Benjamin Greeson made many lifestyle changes this year.

chewing tobacco. He even became a vegetarian, and, through a required fitness class, developed an exercise regimen that he committed

to following. Thanks to these adjustments, he lost 70 pounds in his first semester at Southern.

That wasn't the only benefit Greeson discovered. Besides relief from severe heartburn, he found that smoking had dulled his taste buds; when he gave up tobacco, Greeson gained a new appreciation for the wide range and nuance of flavors in the food he was cooking.

Greeson credits two professors in particular for his new commitment to healthy living: Bob Bengé, Ph.D., dean of the School of P.E., Health, and Wellness, who serves as Greeson's academic adviser, and associate professor Mike Boyd, who became a mentor to him.

"Ben is the first person I have ever seen give up so much in such a short amount of time," Boyd said. "His tenacity to stay focused is highly commendable."

Greeson offers advice to others seeking better health: "You can't sit at home and expect your health to improve," he said. "You've got to get up and do something about it." ①

BY STEFANIE GREEN

College Press Donates Printing Press to Russian Publishing House

Located in Collegedale, Tenn., College Press has been in business for the past 103 years, and performs services which include offset and digital commercial printing, apparel silk screening and embroidery, warehousing, fulfillment, and promotional items.

In the fall of 2019, owners Brad Fisher and Rob Howell had the opportunity to acquire another small print company which included a fairly new printing press. After much discussion and prayer, they decided to donate the older press which College Press had owned for more than 20 years to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Fisher and Howell knew there were many needs all over the world for printing presses, but decided to let the General Conference determine where this press fit best.

The Source of Life Publishing House is located in the Tula Region, just a couple hours south of Moscow, Russia. They have been in operation since 1992, and serve the Euro-Asian Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is an extremely large territory that covers 11 time zones and 13 countries.

The publishing house has accomplished a significant amount of printing despite not having a quality, 4-color printing press like the one just donated by College Press.

“It’s important that the press which served us for so many years has the opportunity to make a significant difference for someone else,” said Howell. “Brad and I were compelled to make sure this press found the right home — and Source of Life Publishing House is it.”

Howell and Fisher, along with their wives, attended a dedication at Source of Life Publishing House this past February. After a four-hour program in which there was a ribbon cutting, a test press run, and several dedication prayers, the printing press was ready for service. “You can eas-



Brad Fisher and Rob Howell (right, front) participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the printing press donated to Source of Life Publishing House in Russia.



First press sheets

ily see how much this piece of equipment means to the people here,” said Fisher. “We’re honored to be a part of it, and are excited to see what they’re going to be able to accomplish with it.”

Importing religious material into Russia is a significant challenge, but printing and distributing within the country is more achievable. “We’re grateful for the generos-

ity of donors like Brad and Rob,” said Almir Marroni, publishing director for the General Conference. “The gift they gave today will have ripples of impact for many years to come. Gaining access to equipment like this is not easy in Russia. I know the publishing house is extremely appreciative.”

BY ROB HOWELL

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ADVERTISING

(1) Have your pastor or local church elder write "Approved" and his signature on the sheet of paper containing the advertisement, (2) write your name and address on the same sheet, (3) specify how many times the ad is to run, (4) send the approved ad to your conference office 6 weeks in advance of the publication date and (5) don't forget to enclose payment in full for each month the ad is to run. Make checks payable to SOUTHERN UNION.

RATES: Southern Union: \$40 for 20 words or less, including address. \$45 for anything longer than 20 words up to 45 words. \$1.30 per word beyond 45. Accepted as space is available. Ads may run in successive months as space permits.

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near Southern Adventist University - (1) Collegedale home: 4/3 with in-law apartment and extra utility garage \$329,900; (2) New construction home w/luxurious finishes in Ringgold, GA -14 minutes to SAU offering a private lot and an unfinished basement, \$357,500; (3) Pikeville land for sale - Build your home on a mountain top with views drive to Pikeville, only 45+ minutes from SAU, an amazing homesite awaits on 5 acres, \$140,000. Keller Williams 423-664-1800 ask for the DixonTeam.com, or call direct, Wendy Dixon Team: 423-702-2000. [6]

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 [6, 7]

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary, friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. Email resume to dkch7@yahoo.com or call us at 706-625-3585. [6]

TEACHERS NEEDED

- Laurelbrook Academy is looking for highly skilled and motivated individuals who have both the passion and the calling to teach students in the areas of: Science, Music, English, and Elementary Education. Must apply on www.laurelbrook.org/employment [6]

CNAS, LPNS, RNS NEEDED

- Laurelbrook Nursing Home is looking for highly skilled and motivated individuals who have both the passion and the calling to provide

compassionate, faith-based senior care. *Must apply on www.laurelbrook.org/employment* [6]

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HEALTH FOOD STORE MANAGER NEEDED: Retirees seeking energetic mission-minded individual or couple to assume operations of established local health food store ministry. Vibrant, multi-ethnic, local middle Tennessee conference church with K-8 school. Respected for 35 years in growing community. Potential track to ownership. *Contact info@naturesnuggets.net* [6]

HIGHLAND RIM TERRACE 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* [6] 🏠

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.* [6]

MISCELLANEOUS

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

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH Services helping authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. *Visit www.Infbooks.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.* [6-4]

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

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(including special education); and social work. Flexible completion times and in-person, hybrid, and fully-online formats may be available. Financial aid may be available. *For more information call 509-527-2290 or visit wallawalla.edu/grad-studies* [6]

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EGYPT TOUR: December 28, 2020 - January 6, 2021 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the Pyramids, the Valley of the Kings, the Exodus, a Nile cruise and much more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations \$2,565 plus airfare. *For information contact info@adventtours.org* [6]

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TYPES OF SIGNS AND MATS

- Highway Directional Signs - Helps others locate your church.
- Marquee Signs - Helps to identify your church.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE

Wholesale prices to Southern Union churches.
You cannot beat our prices!

FREE SERVICES TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

Sign Location - Assist with permits for signs to be erected.

Sign selection - Help determine which signs will work best in your locale.

Sign Maintenance - Upon request, the Sign Engineer will replace poles, vandalized or faded signs at cost to the church.

CALL 770-408-1800, X130 FOR FREE ESTIMATES

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE CHURCH IDENTIFICATION SERVICE
302 RESEARCH DRIVE PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA 30092



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

These are unprecedented times, and the world is facing uncertainty and fear.

ADRA remains committed to serving all humanity affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, as a humanitarian organization, we can't serve without you.

Help us provide continued support to help those most in need.

This crisis isn't affecting just some, but all.

Let's help each other, together.

Donate today at
ADRA.org/StopCovid.



EVENTS

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CHECK YOUR LOCAL CONFERENCE'S OR UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS.

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.

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

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.

SUNSET

	JUN 5	JUN 12	JUN 19	JUN 26	JUL 3	JUL 10
ATLANTA, GA	8:45	8:49	8:51	8:52	8:51	8:50
CHARLESTON, SC	8:25	8:28	8:30	8:31	8:31	8:30
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:35	8:38	8:41	8:42	8:41	8:39
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:51	8:55	8:57	8:58	8:58	8:56
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:56	7:59	8:01	8:02	8:02	8:00
JACKSON, MS	8:05	8:08	8:10	8:11	8:11	8:10
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:03	9:07	9:09	9:10	9:09	9:07
MEMPHIS, TN	8:12	8:15	8:17	8:18	8:18	8:16
MIAMI, FL	8:10	8:12	8:14	8:16	8:16	8:15
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:50	7:53	7:55	7:56	7:56	7:54
NASHVILLE, TN	8:01	8:05	8:07	8:08	8:08	8:06
ORLANDO, FL	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26
TAMPA, FL	8:24	8:26	8:28	8:30	8:30	8:29
WILMINGTON, NC	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:25

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

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Peace for Today and Hope for Tomorrow

During times of change and uncertainty, planning for the future will go a long way in bringing peace of mind.

- ▶ Don't delay. Contact your local conference's or university's planned giving department to establish legal documents that will not only give you peace of mind, but provide hope for your family and continue the values that you hold dear.



Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University

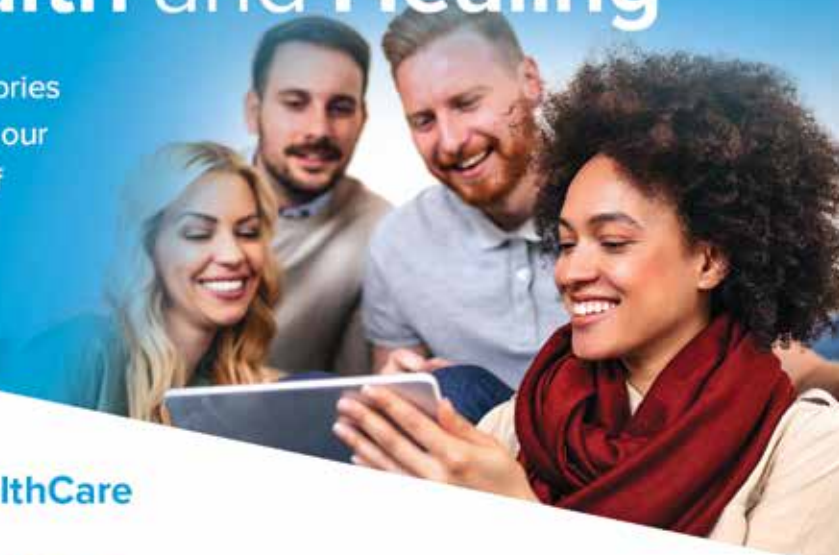
Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

Share the story of Adventist Health and Healing

AdventHealth is sharing the legacy and stories of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with our 80,000 team members through a series of inspirational videos and other resources.



Join us in the journey.
Watch the videos and learn more at:
AdventHealth.com/AdventistHealthCare



Getting to Know Adventists Toolkit

- ▶ Getting to Know Adventists
- ▶ Adventist Health Care Worldwide
- ▶ Adventist Mission Outreach
- ▶ Adventist Education



Legacy of Adventist Health Care Toolkit

- ▶ The Story of Whole Person Health
- ▶ Ellen and James White
- ▶ John Harvey Kellogg
- ▶ Growth of Sanitariums
- ▶ A Place for Learning
- ▶ Natural Remedies