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**MAY** 2020

EXTENDING THE HEALING MINISTRY OF CHRIST AMID THE

# COVID-19 CRISIS

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Advent Health

WHO IS MY BROTHER OR SISTER?

IT IS WRITTEN HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH ROGER DAVIS QUARTET FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

### Managing Anxiety



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

e anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God," Philippians 4:6.

Anxiety is often the by-product of a threat to something that an individual considers important. Anxiety frequently arises because one's life or well-being is threatened. Amidst this COVID-19 pandemic, we're fearful of a new concept of normal thrust upon us. The sudden set of circumstances that we are forced to grapple with is inclusive of securing adequate food and personal items, fulfilling financial obligations surrounding our sustenance, helplessly monitoring investments and retirement accounts, safely isolating ourselves and families from physical illness to avoid death, observing (through media) the physical and emotional ill fate of many, and a rising local and worldwide death toll.

The Bible gives unusually specific and clear directions for overcoming anxiety. In Philippians 4:6, we are instructed to stop being anxious and worried about stuff. It is appropriate to note that it is practically impossible to stop worrying by an act of will. Such deliberate effort directs our attention to the problem, and can increase anxiety instead of decreasing it. A better approach is to focus on activities and thoughts that reduce anxiety indirectly. The Bible shows how this can be done; and, in so doing, it gives a strategy that we can consider during this international crisis of an encroaching Coronavirus.

Firstly, let's rejoice. This is a directive in Philippians 4:4. It means to be "full of joy in the Lord." When the world is infected, chaotic, frightened, dark, and dreary, the Christian still can be joyful. This is because Jesus promised He would never leave us, that He would give us peace, that He will ultimately come to retrieve us from this world, that He will establish a new world with no infectious viral disease, and that, in the meantime, He would send the Wonderful Counselor to accompany us and our loved ones while reminding us of the precious promises we need to remember.

Secondly, be considerate. The Greek word means to let everybody see your kind, gentle, caring, and gracious attitude. This would be inclusive of staying home (as far as possible), washing your hands regularly, and sustaining a physical distancing regimen to protect yourself and others in this infected environment. Study the science of blessing others, and continuing your support for the Church of the Living God. These qualities do not come naturally. They come with the help of God as we work to control our tendencies to condemn others or to demand our rights. A negative condemning outlook on life builds anxiety; a gracious forbearing attitude reduces it.

Finally, pray. Philippians 4:6 gives instructions about prayer in times of anxiety. This kind of prayer is to be about everything (even a viral pandemic), it should include definite and precise petitions telling God what we need, and should involve thanksgiving for all God has done.

My brothers and sisters of the Southern Union, we will successfully get on the other side of our current trials. Zero in on God, Who has never let you down. If you do this, the Bible promises, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. Clearly, prayer is the answer to managing anxiety. –RCS

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SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE 302 Research Drive Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092 Mail Address P.O. Box 923868 Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868 Telephone 770-408-1800 www.southernunion.com

#### 000

EDITOR R. Steven Norman III MANAGING EDITOR Irisene Douce CIRCULATION Yaime Cordova **ADVERTISING Nathan Zinner LAYOUT Julie Burks** PRODUCTION College Press

#### **CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

ADVENTHEALTH

Ingrid Hernandez

ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY

Lisa Marie Esser CAROLINA

Rebecca Carpenter

FI ORIDA

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 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

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#### Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ

# AMID THE COVID-19 CRISIS

#### BY MARIO ROBERTS

s the coronavirus and COVID-19 loom over the United States, Americans are adapting to a new normal. Social distancing guidelines, empty shelves at grocery stores, and financial uncertainty have stoked the feelings of apprehension, trepidation, and fear of the known and unknown that have hijacked day-to-day life.

Like the rest of society, health care workers are feeling the effects of COVID-19, but their anxiety is understandably magnified. As hospitals face being overrun by virus-stricken patients, caregivers are doing their best to traverse the landscape with issues like the scarcity of personal

protective equipment (PPE) and burnout, putting their desire to save lives at odds with their own personal sense of well-being.

Brandon Bougard, who serves as assistant vice president of nursing services for AdventHealth Tampa, leads a team of more than 400 clinical staff. He remembers working on hospital floors during the Ebola and H1N1 outbreaks, and he is drawing from those experiences to help his team deal with life as a caregiver in the days of COVID-19.

"With Ebola, there were lots of changes with PPE. It is a learning process," said Bougard. "We have to be open-minded and flexible knowing that today things are this way, but tomorrow it's going to be different, and just be prepared for that."

Recognizing that there is some fear among health care workers at large, Bougard has an open-door policy, and is going the extra mile to ease any anxiety and serve as a sounding board for his team.

"This is new for them. A lot of them haven't been through H1N1 and Ebola. I tell them that if they have something on their minds, they can come talk to me, and they do," Bougard said.

Declared a pandemic in March by the World Health Organization, more





Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, records a video message from the corporate office updating team members on the organization's response to COVID-19.



Brandon Bougard (right), assistant vice president of nursing services for AdventHealth Tampa, checks in with clinical staff while rounding at AdventHealth Tampa.

than one million people across the globe have contracted COVID-19 at the time of this writing, including more than 300,000 in the United States alone. As the number of confirmed infections has grown across the country, health care providers are racing to keep pace.

One of the nation's largest faith-based health systems, AdventHealth is working tirelessly to address the challenges of today and those ahead. The health system serves more than five million patients annually, and has more than 80,000 team members. Its footprint spans nine states and nearly 50 hospitals, including dozens of hospitals that sit in or near population-dense areas where community spread of the virus is a major concern.

"COVID-19 is unlike anything we have seen in modern history," said Terry Shaw, president/CEO for AdventHealth. "This pandemic presents significant challenges to the country's health care infrastructure, but, as providers, we are steadfast in trying to meet the needs of those we care for."

As the pandemic continues to evolve, AdventHealth leaders are charting a course through its System Command Center, created to develop and implement a unified approach to manage the organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With leaders and team members representing clinical,

supply chain, human resources, and other functions, the command center is the hub for the creation and deployment of plans and strategies, as well as the agile and responsive decision-making and communications that are enabling the organization to serve and protect its patients, team members, and communities.

Supporting its workforce has been a focal point for the command center, and AdventHealth has leaned heavily into its service standards of "Keep Me Safe," "Love Me," "Make it Easy," and "Own It" to help its team members feel cared for during this difficult time. For instance, the organization has implemented measures to help bring security and peace of mind to team members by addressing things like the continuation of pay, remote work capabilities, workforce redeployment, and even childcare.

Not lost is the personal toll that the pandemic has had on caregivers. Across the country, health care workers have become increasingly more concerned about not only their exposure to COVID-19, but also possibly exposing their loved ones at home. AdventHealth has taken additional steps to provide a safety net from a lodging perspective, covering the cost of hotel stays for team members in the event they contract the virus, or who may not have the virus, but have concerns about being in close proximity to vulnerable family members.



An AdventHealth team member sanitizes a patient room.

"COVID-19
is unlike
anything we
have seen
in modern
history,"

Terry Shaw
President/Chief Executive Officer



Vincent Hsu, M.D. (middle), executive director of infection prevention for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division, is leveraging his expertise to support the health system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



AdventHealth Waterman Team members greet a local church that turned out to surround the hospital with prayer. Signs that read #JustPray were displayed as cars drove around the hospital seven times while the occupants prayed for protection of staff and patients and victory over the virus.

"We are making sure that patients aren't going through this alone,"

Joey Rivera

AVP Mission and Ministry



"Everything we have done for team members, whether from a financial or personal well-being perspective, is focused on caring for the whole person," said Olesea Azevedo, chief human resources officer for AdventHealth. "Our mission is Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, and we have an opportunity to show our mission and service standards to team members, and do for them everything we ask them to do for our patients."

Inside hospital walls, the organization took necessary steps aimed at reducing the risk of exposing patients and team members and maximizing its capacity and resources, including limiting visitations and cancelling elective surgeries. These efforts are among the many measures the organization is taking to protect caregivers and patients. For Shayla Bell, a nurse in AdventHealth Henderson-ville's emergency department, the organization's efforts are readily apparent.

"I think we've made a pretty aggressive stance on trying to minimize the amount of contact and spread between patients, team members, and visitors," she said.

At facilities across the AdventHealth footprint, chaplains are also playing a leading role in providing support, encouragement, and inspiration for caregivers, while also continuing to be a resource for patients.

"We have completely retooled how our chaplains are engaging," said Joey Rivera, assistant vice president of mission and ministry for AdventHealth's West Florida Division. "We are focusing a lot of time on supporting our frontline staff that are dealing with the intensity of what's going on."

This retooling of chaplaincy resources has manifested itself in a number of powerful and intuitive ways across the health system. From working to supply nurses with meals and toilet paper, to creating compassion cards, to leading multiple facilities in prayer simultaneously via live video chat, chaplains are leading with love to uplift caregivers.

A sobering byproduct of the pandemic is that many of the patients hospitalized with COVID-19 have to endure the effects of the virus without family or loved ones by their side due to the highly contagious nature of the virus. To help patients stay connected with their loved ones, AdventHealth instituted a plan to facilitate virtual visits via video chats. Chaplains also are being resourceful to help ensure that patients with the virus don't face the experience in solitude.

"We have had individuals to print letters that we take to patients. We've had individuals use their phones to FaceTime with family members. We are making sure that patients aren't going through this alone," Rivera added.



At Mission Control, a team member monitors real-time data and information across AdventHealth's central Florida hospitals.



Staff huddles reflect the new normal as the Coronavirus pandemic mitigation efforts encourage the use of protective gear by clinical staff.



Shayla Bell, R.N. at AdventHealth Hendersonville, Tennessee, cares for patients in the emergency department.

Keeping team members safe on the front lines of patient care with the necessary personal protective equipment continues to be a point of emphasis for the organization. But, a global supply shortage and increased worldwide demand has complicated the issue, forcing the organization to aggressively compete with providers across the world for the same materials. In the midst of this shortfall, AdventHealth moved to solidify its supply chain, vetting more than 100 new suppliers and investing millions outside of its regular supply channels to obtain the supplies needed to protect patients and clinicians.

"Manufacturing out of China was highly impacted over the last couple of months. We had disruptions in the amount of supplies that were able to come out of that country, as well as a massive increase in demand for these exact supplies, so there has been a gap in available supplies across the globe," said Marisa Farabaugh, chief supply chain officer for AdventHealth. "As we receive supplies, we are strategically shifting inventory across the system as needed so each facility is supported."

In addition, the health system has teams monitoring dynamic real-time dashboards for ventilators and other key equipment to keep a pulse on what is available, what is needed, and where resources can be more effectively allocated.

As the nation presses on in the fight against COVID-19, there is still a steep hill to climb. Increasing infections and subsequent fatalities could stretch some hospitals to their limits, with an uncertain road ahead. Hospital and health system leaders across the U.S. continue to wrestle with possible worst-case scenarios, ethical dilemmas, supply shortages, and surge capacity.

At AdventHealth Hendersonville, Shayla Bell, like countless clinicians across the country, is doing her best to filter out the noise.

"We know the worst-case scenario, but it is stressful trying to anticipate the unknown," said Bell. "We've never been in this situation before, so it's scary — the unknown. We try to take it day by day — all the changes — and we just roll with the punches."

\*\*Note: As circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic are changing rapidly, some information in this article may be out of date at the time of publication.\*\*

Mario Roberts is the senior communications specialist at AdventHealth.

# WHO IS

### My Brother or Sister?

#### BY WINSTON PEART

urricane Dorian became famous as the unwelcomed visitor that refused to go. It hovered above Abaco and Grand Bahama for several days while maintaining its strong category five on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

The expected aftermath seemed ominous as reports from meteorologists and the radar maps on television gave little hope of human survival. Abaco was severely damaged. Peter Kerr, Ph.D., Atlantic Caribbean Union president, reported: "All Adventist churches were destroyed or damaged. Members are worshiping in one school, which is also in need of repairs."

Many churches across Florida sent monies, food, clothing, generators, and other needed items through ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to the Bahamas. The local group, Hope for Humanity Worldwide, Inc., traveled to Freeport, Bahamas, one week after the Hurricane with six pallets of supplies, and to witness firsthand the scope of the relief as contributions were distributed to anyone and everyone in need.

After holding a benefit concert, church elders Winston Peart of Margate Church, Albert Daley of Ambassador Church, and Clinton Thompson of Lighthouse Church went to the Bahamas to deliver almost \$20,000 raised from the concert and from donations. They returned from the island even more motivated to finish the work.

The sad truth is that Abaco remains severely damaged, with lots of work still needing to be done. Members remain emotionally scarred, parents are still hoping to see their children who were washed away during the storm, and children are failing to adjust to living without parents. There is nothing more empowering to the human spirit than to witness acts of kindness. These little acts are medicine for depression as they give hope.



Loading supplies for Abaco Island are Winston Peart (left), chairman of Hope for Humanity Worldwide, Inc.; Rhonda Stephens, chief operations officer; Kadeen Thomas, executive secretary; and Pete Kennedy.



Elders involved in fundraising efforts from Broward County, Florida, were invited to the North Bahamas Convention 2020: Eric Clarke (left), president of North Bahamas Conference; Steven Gates, keynote speaker for Convention from Ephesus Church in West Palm Beach; Clinton Thompson, elder at Lighthouse Church; Jennifer and Peter Kerr, Ph.D., president of Atlantic Caribbean Union; Winston Peart, elder at Margate Church; Albert Daley, elder at Ambassador Church; and Andrew Burrows, secretary of North Bahamas Conference.

"I hope Dorian never visits again or anyone like him," said Winston Peart, elder of Margate Church, upon his return from visiting the devastation on Abaco Island. The Bahamians have shown great appreciation for our assistance. Eric D. Clarke, president of North Bahamas Conference, has demonstrated divine love in his care for the people.

Help is still needed. Plumbers, carpenters, masons, laborers, and electricians are needed. Join with the Broward County churches on one of their trips to bring aid and compassion to Abaco. White, black, Bahamian, Haitian, Indian, Asian, Christian, or Muslim — we are all one human family.

# It Is Written Honors BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### with Three Special Programs

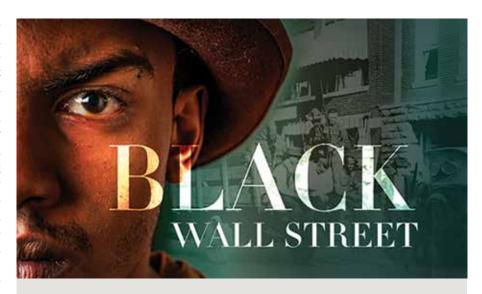
#### BY CASSIE MATCHIM HERNANDEZ

t Is Written aired three special programs in honor of Black History Month this past February. Two were new programs, and one was a rebroadcast of last year's "Black Wall Street," which won five Telly Awards.

"Black History Month is an important part of the American landscape," said John Bradshaw, president of It Is Written. "Last year we began filming programs specifically for Black History Month, realizing we had the opportunity to not only tell important stories from the history of this country, but also to draw powerful biblical principles from these stories."

In recent years, It Is Written has invested more time and energy into filming inspirational and uplifting programs on location, which has allowed for a greater and more diverse range of storytelling. "These on-location programs give us the opportunity to dig deeper into biblical themes, and present Christian principles, taken right from the Bible, with far greater effectiveness," said Michael Bell, It Is Written media production director.

The Black History Month programs cover important historical civil rights events. "The story of the Black Wall Street in Greenwood, Oklahoma, is barely known, in spite of it being one of the most shocking events in American

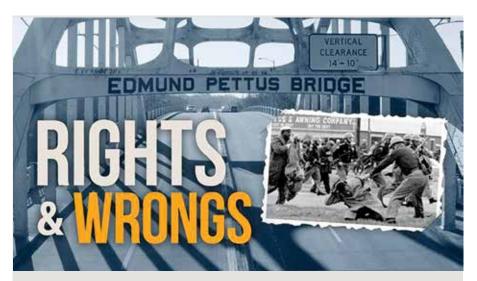


#### "Black Wall Street" (itiswritten.tv/wallstreet)

In 1921, more than 300 people were massacred, thousands were left homeless, and an entire town was destroyed when people turned on their fellow citizens — in the United States of America. Which raises an important question: What kind of person would do that? The answer is surprising. Join Pastor John Bradshaw on location in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as we look at the challenge faced by every person: the sinful heart.

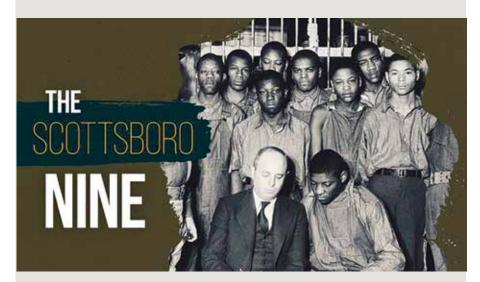
history," said Bradshaw. "The story of the Scottsboro Boys once gripped the country, but it's a story that's now all but forgotten. It shouldn't be. The story of what happened in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 is frequently retold and even reenacted, but for many people, it's history and little more. These stories can inform our todays in addition to reminding us of our yesterdays. We're not only remembering history, but we're also looking at that history through the lens of the Word of God."

The programs were well-received by



#### "Rights and Wrongs" (itiswritten.tv/selma)

In the 1960s, the civil rights movement made history as Americans took a stand against racial injustice. Join John Bradshaw on location in Selma, Alabama, as he examines the atrocities committed there and the bravery of those who stepped up to do what was right, even when it cost them their lives.



#### "The Scottsboro Nine" (itiswritten.tv/scottsboro)

It was a colossal miscarriage of justice: nine young men found guilty of a crime they didn't commit, and the deciding factor was the color of their skin. Join John Bradshaw in Scottsboro, Alabama, for this story of brutal discrimination, and learn why it's so important to serve a God who is just.

a diverse audience. One viewer wrote, "Thank you so much for your acknowledgment of Black history! Thanks for the courage to share the wrongs of the past!"

"We would like you to know how full of gratitude our hearts are for, not just the It Is Written program, but in particular, the 'Black Wall Street' broadcast," said another viewer. "We were not aware that this event ever took place. That is why we want you to know how thankful we are that you took the time to produce this program. This worldwide ministry is a blessing to us and so many others; it looks into things that most churches don't pay much attention to! In conclusion, we say to the entire staff and volunteers, keep up the great work. 'Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus,' Philippians 1:6."

"Thank you for producing these programs in recognition of the American history which involves African-Americans and our connection to the mission of Christ," wrote a third viewer. "When the Church speaks openly of issues (past and present), we learn how to speak with compassion and Christian love. Thank you again for your ministry!"

"I just watched it on TBN," another viewer wrote. "It made me cry. I'm from Mexico, and I owe Martin Luther King Jr. and so many others like him and Pastor Reeb for all they sacrificed, so I can now enjoy the freedom I have. God bless all who are still sacrificing so much for others. And I thank God for His Son that made the biggest sacrifice for us all."

"It's not just our viewers that have taken notice," said Bell. "Our peers are also praising our programs for their quality and excellence. Last year, 'Black Wall Street' won multiple Telly Awards, including those for writing, editing, and cinematography."

**Cassie Matchim Hernandez** is the marketing assistant at It Is Written in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

# Roger Davis Acapella Quartet Festival CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

BY NEALE DAVIS



Chanje wowed the audience in their final performance.

The late Roger Davis was the founder of the Acapella Quartet Festival.

f any popular event was built to last an unbroken 25 years, it's the Roger Davis Acapella Quartet Festival. This festival has successfully upheld the tradition of high quality acapella quartet music. The "Quartet Fest" as everyone calls it, is held annually on the last Sabbath afternoon in February at the New Hope Church in Ellenwood, Georgia. The festival, named after the late Roger Davis, founder/organizer of the festival and long-time minister of music and organist for the church, features renditions of acapella Negro spirituals from groups all over the South Atlantic Conference and the southeast.

Negro spirituals were initially an oral tradition that conveyed Christian values while also recounting the sufferings of slavery. Although recently a change occurred where one was more likely to hear spirituals sung by college choirs like the

Oakwood University Aeolians, the quartet fest brought many back to the days of male voices coming together to blend in perfect harmony, telling the world of the "Good News" Gospel in their own unique way. While praise and worship music has become very popular in modern churches, those who enjoy acapella quartet music in the Metro Atlanta area know they can look forward to the quartet fest every year.

Attendees enjoyed smooth melodies and complex harmonies as the soaring falsettos of the tenors and low tones of the basses blended with the medium timbre of the baritones to form acapella masterpieces. The group Chanje (pronounced Change), which has performed at almost every quartet fest, dazzled spectators with their last performance as they masterfully sang the gospel standards "Safety Zone," and a medley of "Come Along, Two

Wings," and "Building A Home." Many Metro Atlanta churches were represented by groups that included Men In Christ, Rising Generation, 4 A Glimpse, Testimony, Praize N Harmony, 4 Given, Men For Christ, N'Namdi Bryant, Faith Men's Chorale, Bethesda Male Group, Fayette Men's Chorale, and 4–The King.

At the end of the program, all the participants joined together in the quartet fest tradition to sing an impromptu rendering of "If We Ever Needed The Lord Before, We Sure Do Need Him Now." When one considers the state of the world during the pandemic, there couldn't be a more appropriate song. If you're in the Metro Atlanta area February 2021, mark your calendar for the last Sabbath, and make it your mission to attend the quartet fest. I promise that your soul will be lifted, and God's name will be praised!

### Oakwood University's Honda Team Wins Tournament

fter nearly six months preparation, the Ambassadors Oakwood University's team scholars — met their competition at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, on February 7, 2020, for the Honda Campus All Star Challenge (HCASC) National Qualifying Tournament (NQT). Teams from Allen University, Claffin University, Harris-Stowe State University, Paine College, and Oakwood University met in a face-off to answer an array of questions on topic areas including classic literature, science, the arts, and African-American culture.

The teams were given a few ground rules, and category names and descriptions before the games began for the day. The first three rounds are called Face-Off rounds, with two types of questions: Face-Offs, worth 10 points each; and Bonuses, worth 20 points. The fourth round is called the Ultimate Challenge. Each team gets a turn to play the Ultimate Challenge, and has 60 seconds to answer 10 questions in the category of its choice. Each correct answer is worth 25 points, for a total of 250 points. Each round has a category board with four categories.

Each team was anxious to answer as many questions as possible to lead their teammates to victory. When the final round concluded, Oakwood's Honda team emerged as the winners of the NQT held at Claflin. Because NQTs would also be played the following day (Saturday), it was requested that no one announce Friday's results until the results of both days could be announced simultaneously.

#### Oakwood's HCASC team members:

- Danielle Honoré sophomore biomedical science major (captain)
- Crosby Lambert junior communication major
- Jonas Clarke junior biology major
- Grayson Mejia junior applied mathematics major



Oakwood University's Honda NQT team includes Jonas Clarke (standing, left), junior biology major; Grayson Mejia, junior applied mathematics major; Crosby Lambert (seated, left), junior communication major; Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., coach and Communication Department chair; and Danielle Honoré, sophomore biomedical science major, captain.



#### Oakwood's Alternate HCASC team members:

- Jordan Seal freshman biochemistry major
- Miriam Duronville sophomore biology major
- Khaliah Patton freshman accounting major
- Nirvana Walton senior allied health major

R. Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., chair of Oakwood's Communication Department, also serves as Oakwood's HCASC coach.

With growing concern about the spread of COVID-19, Honda leadership made the decision to modify the 2020 HCASC National Championship Tournament (NCT). Instead of traveling to American Honda's campus in Torrance, Calif., for a live event spanning three or four days, 2020's NCT will be a virtual tournament, with each HBCU competing from locations of their choosing. Each team will compete online from their respective campus, requiring no travel.

"To say that we were looking forward to hosting everyone on our campus is an understatement, as we greatly anticipate the HCASC National Championship each year. However, safety is our top priority, which is why we are acting out of an abundance of caution," said Stephan Morikawa, vice president of corporate relations and social responsibility at American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

BY DEBBE MILLET, OAKWOOD MAGAZINE MANAGING EDITOR

#### Out With the Old, In With the New





Before After

Student Emmie Lee shares her perspective on the Mount Pisgah Academy girls' dorm renovations.

ne of my favorite parts of academy life at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) is living in the girls' dorm, Orchill Hall. I have gotten to know so many amazing girls by living with them, particularly the girls on my hall, most of them my own classmates. MPA has definitely become like a second home for me, and I credit that to the comfortable, homey experience I've had in the dorm. I honestly love dorm life, so I am naturally very excited about the renovations that have begun in Orchill Hall.

The years spent at MPA are often remembered fondly by alumni, especially the experience of making lifelong friends, growing academically and spiritually, and the time spent in the dorm. Because of the age of the girls' dorm, however, staff and students have felt a growing desire for renovation. Several years ago, the deans had a dream of making updates to the girls' dorm, keeping in mind that the residents are away from home and want to experience the comforts of home life during their time at MPA.

In the summer of 2019, the project began. Several alumni, parents, staff, and church members renovated four of the dorm rooms, all of which went to the resident assistants for the 2019-2020 school year. When residents of the dorm toured the four rooms at the beginning of the year, they were extremely impressed with the new look, and immediately began talking about how excited they were to have all the rooms in the dorm look the same way.

"The new dorm rooms are really awesome," Judeline Pineda ('20) stated. "They have a really nice modern touch to them."

"I love the update that has been done. I cannot wait for all the rooms to look like this," said Katherine Ashlock ('21).

The MPA staff have been prayerfully considering the renovation for several years. They have consulted with designers, engineers, and construction contractors about the new design to ensure that the updated rooms utilize the existing space effectively and are energy efficient. Multiple changes will occur in each room. The current closets will be removed and replaced with maple wood

cabinetry, which will add four feet of floor space to the rooms. New flooring will be installed, along with overhead lighting, reading lamps, and nightstands with USB charging units for iPads and phones. The doors and locks will also be replaced, and new desks and mirrors installed.

As a dorm student, I am very excited about the renovations that are being made. Living away from home is not easy, and it is important that the girls here feel the comforts of home. I believe that the updates being made in our dorm will make that possible. I cannot wait for the new look, and hope that the updates to the building will be exciting not just for our current students but for all the girls who will live here in the future. The dream of renovating Orchill Hall has existed for several years, and now, thanks to much support and extensive planning, that dream is becoming reality. Thank you for supporting the project financially, and making an impact in the lives of MPA girls! •

BY EMMIE LEE ('22)

# Columbia First Gives Unexpected Christmas Gift



PHOTO BY: AMY KUNTZ

fter reading the book *Adopted* for *Life*, Jason Belyeu, pastor, focused his 2019 Christmas sermon series on the Christian's response to orphan care. Each week, before studying the life of Joseph of Nazareth who adopted Jesus as his son, members of the Columbia, S.C., First Church watched an adoption story featuring families in the Carolina Conference.

Members were challenged to practice "pure and undefiled religion" (James 1:27) by giving generously to an offering which would bless four separate groups. Children of Epworth Children's Home, who await foster care placement, received Christmas gifts. A child who was recently adopted by a Columbia First family received sponsorship to Nosoca Pines Ranch for summer camp. A family who lost a spouse and two children in a tragic car accident received assistance for medical expenses. An Adventist family from the West Coast who recently adopted a child from the Carolinas received more than \$2,000 to relieve unexpected debt incurred in the adoption process.

"This offering was a Christmas miracle," exclaimed Belyeu, "considering how a church in the Carolinas blessed a West Coast family who adopted a child from the Carolinas!" This blessing started after Columbia First contacted Choice Adoptions, an adoption agency in Oregon that originated out of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Belyeu asked if the agency was working with any Adventist families in need of financial assistance with their adoption. Choice identified one Adventist family they worked with previously in an adoption that cost \$25,000. Choice was now helping that same family again with a second adoption. However, unexpected costs raised the second adoption to \$45,000. To provide a forever family for the second child, the Adventist family wiped out their savings and incurred \$16,000 of debt.

Columbia First contacted the pastor of the Adventist family whose adoption was finalized near Thanksgiving. Would the church during worship play a video to surprise this family with news of the

Columbia First's Christmas gift? The pastor replied that this request was providential because the adopted child would be dedicated to God on the Sabbath prior to Christmas. During that worship service, the family, along with their congregation, watched Columbia First's video with good tidings of great joy!

Grateful for their unexpected blessing, the family shared with Columbia First that their generous gift was a part of a larger miracle God had orchestrated. The family had prayed to God for help with their debt. The Lord answered that prayer the week prior to their adopted child's dedication. First, the husband received the largest Christmas bonus he had in all his years with his company! And then, the family received a Christmas gift from an Adventist church in the Carolinas, where they had no connections whatsoever. Between these two blessings, the family ended 2019 debt free and with seed money for their emergency fund! •

CONTRIBUTED

### Breaking Free Rally Attracts Media

ummit Boulevard in West Palm Beach, Fla., was covered by more than a thousand people from as many as 20 faith groups and churches, marching against gun violence, drugs, and other crimes. This grand event, this Breaking Free Rally, aimed at rallying the community around a common cause while pointing them to Jesus, was spearheaded by West Palm Beach First Church, in partnership with the Florida Conference Pathfinder and Youth departments and Southeastern Conference Youth Federation. The vision of such an undertaking, from Shane Vidal, Ph.D., West Palm Beach pastor, was born out of his desire to see the Adventist Church take a more visible role in leading the West Palm Beach community to Christ.

News media channels NBC, CBS, and FOX's local affiliates ran live coverage of the march. News coverage highlighted the fact that never before has a faith group in the Palm Beach County organized and executed an event of this magnitude. The recent school shootings in Florida, and other states, also made the event relevant and impactful for the community. Businesses, non-profits, state and local organizations, the Sheriff's office, and even first-day congregations were present and participated in the march. County Mayor Mack Bernard endorsed the event and also attended worship that day with his family.

Following the march, the community was invited back to the church grounds for a rally which showcased great singers and other talents. Samantha Grady, student survivor of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, shared her testimony of how God spared her life and continues to heal her emotional scars. The guest speaker for the rally, who was led by God to join the initiative, was world-renowned preacher and evangelist José Rojas. He encouraged the commu-



Young people from West Palm Beach First Church marched and played their instruments in the Breaking Free Rally.

nity to seek hope, not in man, but in the mighty God, Savior, and soon coming King.

After the close of Sabbath, the fellowship continued with food and lots of fun. Playground Ministries out of Miami hosted life-size games such as bouncing basketball, a bouncy house, an obstacle course, and much more.

A two-week crusade was strategically scheduled to follow the rally. Rojas delivered an astounding week of Bible truth. The subsequent week, New York-based evangelist David Newton picked up the baton. Many people were baptized into a life anew in Christ! West Palm Beach and surrounding communities will never be the same again. The members plan to continue this event every year in an effort to reach one of the most unchurched cities in the United States, according to Barna Research's 2017 study.

BY SHANELL FOSTER

## Plymouth-Sorrento Ministers Through Music

everal members from Plymouth-Sorrento Church of Apopka, Fla., arebringing joy and healing through music as they visit and minister once per month to the patients in AdventHealth Apopka.

The children in the group hand each patient a beautiful carnation. After a few songs, prayer is offered for not only the patient but their family as well, often bringing tears to their eyes.

There have been so many wonderful testimonies from the patients and nurses of what a blessing the songs are:

- One nurse requested they go sing to a patient under her care. After singing a few songs, the nurse said that she was blessed as much as her patient.
- Entering the room of a young girl, they found the mother holding her daughter's hand. As they sang, she told them she could feel her daughter relaxing her grip.
- One patient asked that she not be



The singing band from Plymouth-Sorrento Church brings joy and healing through music as they visit and minister once a month to patients in AdventHealth Apopka.

discharged because she knew the singing group was going to be there the next evening, and she wanted to be there to hear them.

This ministry is to bring comfort and

spiritual healing to the patients, but the group reports that it is such a blessing to each of them as well.

BY PAUL RAU

## John and Betty Kossick Celebrate 70th Anniversary



Betty and John Kossick reside at Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka, Florida. They were married April 23, 1950, and celebrated their 70th anniversary on April 23, 2020.

#### **Aging Together**

With the swiftness of the wind The years pass too fast away: Once I was a fair young bride Wasn't it just yesterday? Now I spy me in the glass An old great-grandmother now, Circled round by progeny, And grey hair upon my brow. Yet my husband will tell me That I'm still his precious bride, His eyesight may be fading Yet I feel his honest pride.

With both of us on our canes, And our knees weak like cotton, But when he glances at me I feel my hair's still golden. We say "I love you" daily, And we thank the Lord in prayer For providing us old age: This "growing grey" together.

BY BETTY KOSSICK

## Shirley Bush Celebrates 102nd Birthday





Shirley Bush is the oldest member of the Tellico Plains, Tenn., Church. She celebrated her 102nd birthday this past December.

hirley Bush is the oldest member of the Tellico Plains, Tenn., Church. Born Shirley Evans on December 26, 1917, she recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. As a young girl she had a dream where she saw Jesus coming. She saw clouds rolling and a Man sitting on a cloud with a sickle in His hand. She knew about sickles because her dad was a farmer.

When she was 9 years old, a woman named Edith Cross came to her house and gave her family Bible studies. In the Bible study book was a picture of Jesus coming just like what she had seen in her dream. She, along with her mother, continued the Bible studies and was baptized.

Shirley was an Adventurer in her younger days. She has memories of flying along with her sisters, with Homer Stockert, who was one of the pioneers of aviation. She loved telling people about Jesus. One time she was punished by her father for

staying out too late. Where was she? She was on a neighbor's porch telling him about Jesus.

As a teenager she had heard so many stories about Ellen White and Battle Creek, Mich., that she decided she needed to be in Battle Creek where the Seventh-day Adventist Church's roots were. She moved to Battle Creek and got a job as a nanny; she wanted to be near the action.

She has had many jobs, including working in an office for Singer Sewing Company. She worked for many years as a Bible worker. Later she worked at The Bon Marche.

One day she met Francis Bush, who was a pastor. They got married and spent many years ministering together.

She and "Fran" raised three daughters and two adopted sons. She has lived all across the country, including Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, Washington, North Carolina, Florida, and now with her daughter in Tennessee.

She checks the news every day on her iPad. Every morning she gets up, showers, dresses, does her hair, and eats a breakfast of fresh fruits and nuts. She has daily devotions and spends lots of time talking to her friend, Jesus.

A prayer warrior, she prays for her family, the Church, the neighbors, the country, and much more.

When asked about the secret to her long life, with a smile, she says, "I'm afraid to say. God is in charge of my life. I was the oldest of six. I'm not sure why I'm still here, and they are gone. God must still have something for me to do."

BY ANNETTE MICHAELS

## Hispanic Marriage Retreat Fuels Couples' Tanks

he Hispanic Marriage Retreat was held at Gatlinburg, Tenn., February 21-23, 2020. Sixty couples gathered at the River Terrace Resort for a very special weekend with the theme, "With the Fuel Tank Full." Nelson I. and Argenida Gonzalez were the guest speakers for the weekend and delivered a great message on the topic of emotions.

When asked what they liked most, attendees Rolfin and Ruth Nuñez shared, "We learned that God made us full of emotions, and those emotions will not leave us. Without emotions, we would be like robots. But, those emotions, well-guided and well-controlled by the Holy Spirit, make family the most important thing."

Each couple engaged so well with the emotions topic that they left with their "fuel tanks" full. Yamilet Hernandez said, "It was a huge blessing for me and my husband [Jose]. Everything was excellent. The guest speakers were very professional and helped us a lot. The workshops and activities were very nice. We had so much fun and a great time."

This retreat was one of the first events for both Adventist and community couples, who, at the end of the weekend, left not only with their tanks full, but with heartfelt gratitude. Francisco and Mary Urdaneta, with tears in their eyes, shared that as a couple it is very important to attend to marriage retreats because, "You share and realize many things that you do not put into practice. It is beautiful to share with so many people, because not all of us share the same concepts. We could have different concepts, but in the end we might come to the same purpose, which is to know the Bible and be closer to God. These workshops give so many tips to put into practice, that in the end you will have nothing but good results."

Happy and healthy married couples mean happy and healthy families. This is



Sixty couples gathered in Gatlinburg, Tenn., February 21-23, 2020, to attend the Hispanic Marriage Retreat. Nelson I. and Argenida Gonzalez were the guest speakers for the weekend with the topic, "With the Fuel Tank Full." The event invited both Adventists and community members.



Argenida Gonzalez addressed the attendees at the Hispanic Marriage Retreat in Gatlinburg, Tenn., in February. Couples focused on the topic of emotions and growing a strong, God-centered marriage.

the motivation that moves Hispanic Ministries when planning these events.

As Rolfin Nuñez also shared, "God wants healthy families. The enemy is working hard to demolish it, because by destroying families he destroys society and our children. Hispanic Ministries

within Georgia-Cumberland Conference works so Satan doesn't reign in our families or in our homes."

BY WALESKA GONZALEZ

#### Play Leads to Growth in Classroom



Students have fun working on a craft project.



Learning with tangible objects like shells has led to improvements in student understanding.



Fun can mean combining art and animals.

he students in the pre-K/kindergarten classroom at Mobile Junior Academy have been having a great school year. Play is an important work of the classroom. Whether it is playing independently or as a group, the students think creatively, increase their hand/eye coordination, and actively engage with their peers.

As the young students play together, they learn the art of sharing, not only toys, but

also space. They learn how to work out problems together, independent of adult intervention. The children aren't always happy in their play because the lessons are often hard to learn. But, their sense of accomplishment and satisfaction shows by their willingness to keep trying. And, eventually, they become a classroom that works and plays as a team.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and

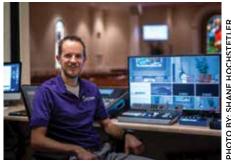
compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." If little ones are to learn this lesson, they must play and interact with each other. As famed educator Maria Montessori said, "Play is the work of the child."

BY JENNIFER GENNICK

# Church Airs Services on Television During COVID-19 Pandemic

t the end of 2019, the Community Church in Meridian, Miss., held its annual evangelism planning meeting. It was here that everyone was invited to bring their ideas on what the church could do to reach their area in 2020. Among the suggestions made was one to take the pastor's sermons and air them on the local television station, WTOK, an ABC affiliate. The idea was well-received, and they decided someone should look into the idea.

Samuel Riemersma, pastor, received a call from a station programmer about an opening they had on Sunday mornings to air 30-minute presentations. Negotiations continued into 2020, but it appeared that the deal couldn't be made, and the project wouldn't move forward.



Samuel Riemersma, pastor, prepares for the upcoming filming of their church service for their local television program.

Just over a year before, in August of 2018, the church had received a financial donation earmarked for A/V improvements

and renovations, including a multi-camera live-streaming upgrade. The church partnered with the Gulf States Conference, and the work was performed, improving the audio mixing capabilities, and adding video-production equipment, among other things. The church A/V team picked up immediately able to gain practice on the system and video production. The worship team meets every Friday to rehearse the Sabbath service, which allows everyone, including the media operators, to be better prepared for the following day.

Fast-forward to March of 2020, and the church's plans and travel were changed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Amidst the changes, Riemersma's wife, Amber, en-

couraged her husband to try to work with the television station again.

Sure enough, the Sunday morning spot was still open, 11:30-12 p.m. CST, every week, along with numerous 15-second commercials throughout the week. Riemersma worked with his church, A/V team, and the television station to iron out the necessary technical details, and secured evangelism funds to pay for the spots for several months in advance.

"Clearly, God was working out these details to improve our equipment, train our people, and keep the television spot open for us," said Riemersma. While he was speaking with the television representative on the phone, she became emotional and stated, "This program is exactly what Meridian needs during this time of crisis."

Riemersma is excited about the potential that the 30-minute program has, as many people are staying home during the

COVID-19 pandemic. "On Sundays, right when people are home and looking for their church service, they'll be hearing the message from the Community Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Riemersma. Along with the message, the church is also offering free materials viewers can request to have sent to them. •

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Conference Debuts New Community Services Vehicle

ommunity leaders and church members gathered at Dothan, Ala., First Church on Sabbath, February 29, 2020, to celebrate the launch of the new Shower+Laundry trailer. The trailer is part of a new initiative from the Gulf States Conference Adventist Community Services ministry. The air-conditioned, 21-foot trailer has two full bathrooms and a laundry room with two sets of commercial washers and dryers. It also features a standalone generator with a 400-gallon water tank for remote operation.

The goal for the trailer is to have it deployed throughout the territory of the Conference, which includes Mississippi, Alabama, and the western portion of the Florida panhandle. The trailer will be utilized by local Seventh-day Adventist churches and their Adventist Community Service ministries. Potential use cases include offering showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities for homeless populations, or in response to natural disasters such as hurricanes or tornadoes.

During the Sabbath event, Mark Saliba, mayor of Dothan, offered encouraging remarks to the church and Conference on their commitment to the betterment of the community. Gary Griffin, chair of the Houston county VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), spoke on the positive impact people can make when working together. Martin Fancher, Conference executive secretary



Community and church leaders, along with Gulf States representation, prepare to cut the ribbon on the new trailer.



Mark Saliba, center, prepares to present Martin Fancher, left, with a certificate of acknowledgemnt from the city of Dothan.

and ACS director, received accolades from the local leaders in response to the engagement displayed by the Conference. Following the opening preliminaries, Fancher presented the sermon. After church, everyone was directed outside for the ribbon-cutting of the trailer. Local television news reporters were present to cover the event and interview Fancher for their broadcasts.

The trailer was made possible by partnerships with the Gulf States Conference, Adventist Community Services, the Southern Union, and AdventHealth. The vehicle was built by Comforts of Home Services, Inc., in Aurora, Ill. For more information and a video tour, visit www.gscsda.org/acs. •

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

## 59th Music Fest Held at Highland Academy



Pegi Flynt, Ed.D., Conference education superintendent, interviews Phyllis Labrenz who attended the first Highland Academy Music Fest in 1961.



The band practice was led by Don Huff from Spring Valley Academy.

ighland Academy welcomed more than 350 visitors from 15 different schools, including homeschoolers, and four different conferences, for the 59th Annual Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Music Fest on March 5, 2020. They had 100 more participants than were present last year. Clinicians from Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, Florida, and California came to spend three days training and performing with the students.

Students in grades 6-12 were invited to participate in bells/chimes, band, strings, or choir. This year's theme was taken from Ephesians 4:4-6 and 1 Thessalonians 2:12. Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, opened the Friday night concert by reminding the group of the importance of all individuals standing together in unity of service to one God.

Chloe Young, student from Madison Campus Elementary, shared, "This week has been hard, but fun. My lips hurt from playing so long." Another student from Greenville shared that the best part of the weekend was performing: "It made

all the hard work worth it." The students performed many beautiful songs, ending with "Build My Life." Madison's music teacher, Michael Pichette, arranged the piece which included all five ensembles.

Among those present for the concerts on Friday and Saturday nights was Phyllis Labrenz. Pegi Flynt, Ed.D., Conference education superintendent, had the opportunity to meet with Labrenz, and asked her to share the special connection she has with the Music Fest. Saturday night Labrenz shared that she had the privilege of attending the first ever Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Music Fest in 1961. She stayed in a Camp Meeting cabin, while boys who attended stayed in tents. Labrenz also shared that the four vears she attended the Music Fest, from 1961 until she graduated from Highland Academy in 1964, were "life changing" for her, and played a part in her giving her life entirely over to Jesus, which remains her passion today.

The academy choir sounded especially pristine and angelic. This may be in part because of the new sound shells that the Conference and Madison Academy purchased this year. In the past, the shells were borrowed and transported from Southern Adventist University. The great sound may have also been thanks to the sound crew. Special thanks to Steve Keplinger and Barrett Mikkelsen for all their hard work.

On Sabbath morning, Highland Church hosted all the visitors and had a special joint Sabbath School. During the Sabbath School, individual schools shared musical numbers. Greg Taylor, Conference youth director and pastor, challenged the congregation to "Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Calling" by taking a look at the example of Peter. Afterwards, everyone was fed by the cafeteria staff at Highland Academy.

The music committee and Elaine Will are thanked for all the work they put into this event. Will has headed the committee for more than 25 years. Her hard work always pays off in an enjoyable and Christ-filled experience for all. •

BY KIM TAYLOR

## Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Introduces RENEW Concept

he RENEW concept was introduced Sabbath, February 29, 2020, to the local churches of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. This process, RE-NEW, includes Reflecting, Empowering, Nurturing, Evangelizing, and Witnessing. Each of these components is essential to a healthy, growing church.

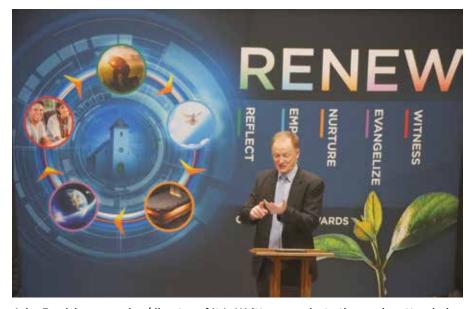
The Conference partnered with local churches and invited the It Is Written speaker/director, John Bradshaw, for an exciting Sabbath of inspiration and empowerment, as he shared dynamic and compelling reasons to share Seventh-day Adventist beliefs through evangelizing communities. He reminded all that evangelism must be through personal witness in everyday lives, and through public witness of preaching the Gospel of Christ and the beautiful message of the three angels in Revelation 14.

More than 20 churches from across the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference participated in the RENEW Evangelism livestream event that was simultaneously translated into Spanish for Hispanic members. Highland Church in Portland, Tenn., graciously hosted the event, sharing their beautiful facility and providing lunch for all who attended. The Conference thanks Highland Church members!

Steve Haley, president of Kentucky-Tennessee, commented, "It was exciting to see the participation of sister churches from across the Conference — north, south, east, and west — join us for this thrilling Sabbath. I know I personally was blessed by being present, and in being reminded of the necessity to be used of Jesus in the work of witness and ministry."

Thomas Day, local church elder, commented, "The messages were well received. May we be inspired to achieve greater things for God's Kingdom in Christ."

Several other churches participated by



 ${\bf John\ Bradshaw,\ speaker/director\ of\ It\ Is\ Written,\ speaks\ to\ those\ who\ attended\ RENEW.}$ 



Rebekah, Sarah, and Daniel Spencer simultaneously translated the presentations into Spanish.

using the recorded sermons on future Sabbaths. The presentations are archived under the "Livestream" tab at www.kytnrenew. net. The website offers more information about RENEW and how it can impact the local church and community. •

BY ROSEMARY MCKENZIE

## Indian Creek Camp Builds Horse Arena



Construction on the Indian Creek Camp horse barn begins.



The top of the new horse barn takes shape.

xciting things are happening at Indian
Creek Camp (ICC). Incredible progress has been made on the brand-new
covered horse arena. For several summers,
there has been a strong push for a new horse
arena at ICC. Due to the frequent rain and
hilly landscape, it was sometimes difficult to

run a horse program with the previous setup.

Thanks to the donations of many campers, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and constituents, construction on the 100' x 275' structure was approved. There has been no shortage of excitement watching the arena go up. Stalls, washing station, bathrooms, and

tack rooms are still needed, but this summer the riding arena will be ready for the campers. The camp thanks all who have supported this endeavor. To see more pictures, visit the ICC Facebook or Instagram page. •

BY KIM TAYLOR

# ICC Food Services Director Darlene White Retires

he end of March marked another transition for the staff at Indian Creek Camp (ICC), as Darlene "Dar" White retired from her role as ICC's food services director, a title she has carried for the past 35 years. Like her husband, Herb White, who transitioned from his service to ICC last year, Dar White has provided exemplary support to workers and guests, and the Indian Creek family will miss her greatly.

In reflecting on the past 3 ½ decades of ministry, White shares that she has seen many changes in the kitchen, as well as her job description. She experienced a cafeteria burning to the ground; cooked two times in the gymnasium, due to rebuilding the cafeteria and another construction project; worked with semi-trailer coolers and freezers and little barns as a pantry; and, through it all, still provided amazing food. A wonderful aspect of her servant



Darlene "Dar" White

leadership has been the willingness to be adaptable and take on whatever responsibilities were needed to help the ministry of the camp succeed.

She assumed the role of booking

groups, worked in laundry, was janitorial staff who cleaned the entire facility, and was town pick-up person for needs of the camp. A woman of many hats, she is best known for being a listening ear to the young people who have worked at camp; and for providing a shoulder to cry on, a hug, and homemade Christmas cookies. Through trial and error, she learned to prepare gourmet meals, and is known worldwide for "Dar's Granola." She will be greatly missed, but ICC is excited for her to take a rest and enjoy the life God now has planned for her and Herb. "Thank you, Dar, for all you have meant to this camp and the people who have attended ICC. We pray God's best as you move into a much-deserved chapter of life," expresses the ICC family. •

BY STEVE HALEY, PRESIDENT, KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE

# ACS DR Responds to Nashville Tornadoes





ACS DR perform during mobile distributions.

Middle Tennessee ACS DR response team

outh Central Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) volunteers provided disaster assistance to families impacted by the March 3, 2020, tornadoes that ripped through the Nashville, Tenn., area. The tornadoes and severe storms caused 25 weather-related fatalities, damaged or destroyed five public schools, left 101,521 residents without power, and closed the state's government offices.

The ACS DR team met at New Life Church in Nashville, where Christopher Hughes is the pastor, to sort and assemble hygiene kits for the survivors affected by the disaster. The hygiene kits included a hand towel, bath towel, bar of soap or bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a hair comb.

Christine Washington, president of Middle Tennessee ACS Federation; Regina Stevenson, Federation ACS DR coordinator; and their team members walked the streets of north Nashville performing mobile distribution in the affected areas. The team distributed hygiene kits, bottled water, and sack lunches to those who were

impacted by the tornado. Ronnie Forté, pastor, and members of the New Hope Church in Champmanboro, Tenn., provided sack lunches for north Nashville. Mobile distribution was used to deliver goods into areas that may have been cut off during the disaster or where no other services were provided.

Pastors James Owens and Forté provided grief counseling by praying with the survivors, and listening to their experiences caused by the tornado. After experiencing a disaster, stress and grief can be amplified by loss of life, homes, and destruction of one's local community. Disasters can cause survivors an incredible range of emotions. The pastors and ACS DR volunteers understand the most common coping tools are the abilities to listen, talk, pray, and support disaster survivors during a devastating loss. ACS is grateful for the opportunity the pastors had to uplift, pray, and support the community.

Stevenson stated, "The survivors were so grateful and appreciative for the team bringing the hygiene kits and other items, because it made them feel normal and clean. Also, the survivors felt help for them had been slow, and they thought they had been forgotten."

"I could not do what you are doing, being positive and having control of your emotions," one survivor stated to Stevenson. Although the survivors were thankful for the disaster team assistance, it meant more to Stevenson because it gave her the opportunity to be on the frontline helping a community that had been displaced by tragedy.

ACS DR believes strongly that when disasters occur and people and communities are hurting, they should always know they are not forgotten and they are loved.

Any who would like to donate to the disaster relief fund may send monetary donations to the South Central Conference Office at 715 Youngs Lane, Nashville, Tenn. 37207, and label them "ACS Disaster Nashville."

BY LILLIE BUCKINGHAM AND BARBARA BARNES, SOUTH CENTRAL ACS DIRECTORS

# ACS Institute Holds Annual Training

outh Central Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) held its annual ACS Institute Training in Huntsville, Ala., on Oakwood University's campus, March 6-7, 2020. This year, Adventist Community Services and the Alabama Fire College partnered to provide emergency services training to its volunteers. The workshops presented included "Hazardous Materials/WMD-Awareness" and "Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response."

Hazardous materials awareness was very helpful to the volunteers. Some may not think Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) handles hazardous materials in the warehouses, but they actually do. One of the most common potentially hazardous materials handled by ACS DR volunteers is common household bleach. A one-gallon container purchased for home use may not seem like it creates a hazmat situation, and normally it would not. However, if it were to be combined with another chemical, such as another cleaning product which contains ammonia, a hazmat situation immediately exists.

The active shooter/hostile event workshop taught the attendees how to be aware



ACS DR training class at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., teaches the volunteers innovative ideas.

of their surroundings, especially in places of worship. There must be a new way of thinking to protect everyone and better serve the visitors and congregation.

Dwayne Williams, south Mississippi ACS DR coordinator, thought the workshops were "awesome and timely." Vernon Giles, north Alabama ACS DR coordinator, stated, "The workshops were highly informative and interesting, and the pre-

senters provided good examples of how to protect ourselves." Wayne Blanding said he is following up with the active shooter workshop, and plans to utilize his knowledge at his church.

BY LILLIE BUCKINGHAM AND BARBARA BARNES

### Josette Paschal Accepts Army Antiterrorism Award

he U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command's (AMCOM) antiterrorism team received "Best Large Unit" award among the entire Army antiterrorism programs at the 2020 Annual Army Worldwide Antiterrorism Training Seminar on February 24-28, 2020. Brig. Gen. Duane Miller, the deputy provost marshall general and commanding general for U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, presented the award on February 25, at the Shades

of Green, in Lake BuenaVista, Fla.

Josette Holder Paschal, AMCOM's antiterrorism security program manager and alumna of Oakwood University, class of 1983 and 2012 (LEAP), accepted the award on behalf of Maj. Gen. Kenneth T. Royar, AMCOM commander at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. Her team's diligence and attention to security issues contributed to the overall achievement of the recognition. The Army's antiterrorism (AT)

program protects personnel, information, property, and facilities against acts of terrorism or any harm against the command.

"The AMCOM antiterrorism team was selected as the 'Best Large Unit' antiterrorism program in the Army — one of six competitive categories awarded at the event," said Paschal. "The team's tireless efforts to sustain and improve readiness; increase awareness; and safeguard the workforce, information, and facilities were



BJA-AT team includes Joshua Velasquez (front, left), William Marrero, Alfreda Alexander, Josette Paschal, Ryan Pickett, Eric Nelson (back, left), Paul Quintel, Beth Ward, Marc Lacy, Claudinette Purifoy-Fears, and Wes Slone.



Brig. Gen. Miller (left), AMCOM Award presenter; Josette Paschal; and the Command sergeant major

acknowledged with this award." AMCOM is one of the major subordinate commands that falls under Army Material Command (AMC), and is the senior command located at Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal.

The AMCOM AT team provides assistance to more than 25 AMCOM directorates and units at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama; Corpus Christi Army Depot in Texas; Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania; and

Aviation Command Logistics Center, Fort Rucker, in Alabama.

Paschal, Oakwood University alumna, is married to Bryan Paschal, and they have two sons, Bryan (Rishée) and Antonio (Shariece). She is a member of the Mt. Calvary Church in Huntsville, Ala., where Willie L. Taylor is the senior pastor. Many are proud of Paschal and her accomplishments with the federal government. Paschal

credits her success to God; her husband, Bryan; her sons and daughters-in-law for their support; and her mother, Alta Holder, for inspiring her to strive for excellence. She wants to continue to be a great witness for the Lord in her work place. •

BY ETTESO LAHC

# Oakwood Church Provides COVID-19 Food Bags

cts 20:35 says, "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Given this admonition from Paul, coupled with the COVID-19 global pandemic that has taken the lives of thousands, particularly senior adults and those with pre-existing medical conditions, Oakwood University Church has sought to assist this susceptible group by providing them with weekly grocery food bags, reducing their need to visit local supermarkets and minimizing their potential exposure to COVID-19. Additionally, the grocery gifts aid in lowering recipients' weekly grocery bills.

Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of Oakwood University Church, stated, "As



Oakwood University Church members prepare 50 to 75 food bags each week for their senior members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

unfortunate and devastating as the Coronavirus outbreak is, it doesn't absolve us of the responsibility to care for our most vulnerable church and community members.

If anything, it underscores that responsibility. We're committed to ensuring that our seniors and families in need are cared for."

Under the auspices of the church's "Heaven's Storehouse" food distribution ministry, 50 to 75 grocery food bags are prepared and delivered weekly to needy individuals, with the goal of providing this gift service during the current crisis. Many who have received the grocery bags have expressed their sincere thanks and shared warm smiles. One recipient said, "You can keep them coming."

The church looks to God to ensure the grocery bags will continue to be delivered to those in need. •

BY ERIN BLOUNT

## Southeastern Holds Haitian Leadership Event

eaders are made, not born.
Southeastern Conference believes
that leadership is a measurable,
learnable, and teachable set of behaviors,
and hence, the reason for the Haitian
leadership weekend. The Southeastern
Conference Haitian Ministries, under
the direction of Nicolas Louis, aims to
inspire, encourage, and develop the next
generation of leaders by liberating the
leader in everyone.

This annual 360-degree leadership weekend helps the Haitian churches build and create change towards a more motivated and productive church community. The training offers critical ministry skills needed to lead the church into a new culture of love and wholesome fellowship.

Bethel French Church, Riviera Beach, Fla., hosted the annual Haitian leadership training event on the first weekend of February 2020. Approximately 1,500 church officers of the Haitian community arrived from all over Florida. During the weekend, representatives from all 21 ministries of the Conference provided training geared to meet the needs of the church leadership.

In the words of Louis, "This year we were able to have training for the new officers of the churches again. We know that to have a spiritual and powerful Church, the leaders need to be trained. Therefore, this year we got together for some refreshing moments, leadership training, and fellowship. Remember that training is one of the factors contributing to the growth of the Church. Therefore, we put much emphasis on the training of our officers, and it gave outstanding results. To God be the glory!"



Gregory O. Mack (left), president, and Nicolas Louis, director of Haitian ministries, work together to inspire, encourage, and develop the next generation of church leaders in Southeastern.



Approximately 1,500 church officers of the Haitian community arrived from all over Florida. During the weekend, representatives from all 21 ministries of the Conference provided training geared to meet the needs of church leadership.

BY SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNICATION STAFF

## Southeastern Holds Annual Live, Love, Lead Well Leadership Training

he clock struck 3 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020, at the Hawthorne Campground, and registration began! The second annual Live, Love, Lead Well Leadership Training (3LW) for constituents of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) began with much excitement about networking and learning up-to-date ministry information. About 300 individuals attended the integrated, holistic, self-care training for mission-driven leaders and teams. The event was hosted by two SEC ministries that work side by side: family life ministries, which encompasses family, health, men, and singles ministries, led by Mark Brown, Ph.D.; and prayer and women's ministries, led by Mithra Williams.

A free biometric screening session offered attendees blood pressure, cholesterol, and other essential health screenings. The critical screening was a blessing to one person when a health concern was discovered, and they were admitted to the hospital the very same day. The group praised God that the issue was detected and they are doing well now.

As the sun rose on a very cool Sabbath morning, attendees met at the gazebos for the much-anticipated prayer walk around the lake. The prayer walk focused on self-care, and was an opportunity to nurture spiritual and physical health. Seventh-day Adventists are firm believers that if leaders are not well, it becomes harder to lead. The prayer walk began each day with devotions and stretching.

The Sabbath ended with praise and the circle of prayer as a symbol of unity. The circle of prayer then became unity in action when fitness instructor LaPlace Satterfield used a unity stick to demonstrate the power in unity. The stick glowed and beeped when the circle was complete: When the circle was broken, it ceased to function. After a full day of breakout sessions, demonstrations, and wholesome



Mithra Williams (left), Southeastern women's ministries director; Shavonne Jones, singles' ministries and associate treasurer; and Mark Brown, Ph.D., family ministries, partner for 3LW leadership training. 3LW connects personal awareness practices with increased capacity to be bold and effective multi-cultural leaders in the Church and to the world.



Jennifer Cooper, R.N. B.S.N. M.H.A., provided workshops on self-care techniques, part of the focus to nurture spiritual and physical health.



Edna Sankey, R.N., provided information on natural remedies.

food, the day ended with a fitness party which lasted about an hour.

The weekend culminated with the annual prayer breakfast. Through powerful prayer activities, each table prayed for a specific group such as children, clergy and their families, education, the Conference, and the nation. Attendees took part rotating through prayer stations, bringing every petition and care to the foot of the cross. Derrick Moffett, Th.D.CC, delivered a

timely word to encourage hearts.

The program's uniqueness is in its intersectional approach to leadership. Rather than focusing on either internal work or skill-building for external change, 3LW connects personal awareness practices with increased capacity to be bold and effective multi-cultural leaders in the Church and to the world.  $\blacksquare$ 

BY SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNICATION STAFF

PHOTO BY: SEC COMMUNICATION STAFF

# Students Gain Rare Hands-On Experience at National Archives



A group of Southern students gain rare experience conducting research at the National Archives.

n February, a group of history students from Southern had a special opportunity to visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. — not as tourists but as researchers. What they discovered made the rich experience even more memorable.

Most universities do not give undergraduate students the opportunity for hands-on research involving primary sources, so docents at the National Archives were reluctant to accommodate Southern's uncommon request. Fortunately, Kevin Burton, Ph.D., instructor in the History and Political Studies Department, knew some of the archive's employees and persuaded them to give his students a chance.

"They were very impressed with our students' professionalism, and amazed that Southern would invest in its students this way," Burton said. "Additionally, two Ph.D. candidates asked what school we were from, and said how lucky our students were to have such an opportunity!"

As they worked, the students developed "finding" aids for future researchers. The group will be able to include this experience on their résumés, giving them a meaningful advantage during job searches or when submitting graduate school applications.

Burton has been researching antislavery petitions, particularly cases with Seventh-day Adventist involvement. At the National Archives, his students assisted him in analyzing petitions, focusing on locations with a known Millerite or Adventist presence.

In the process, Xavier Snyder, sophomore history major, made a significant

discovery. He found a petition from 1862 that had been prepared, circulated, and signed by a group identifying themselves as the Seventh-day Adventists in Linn County, Iowa. That petition — the first one on record explicitly stating it was written by Seventh-day Adventists — called for abolition, saying that slavery was a sin. The document also said that if America didn't abolish slavery, then the country would feel God's wrath.

"It was beautiful to see Adventists who came before us taking a stand for something they believed in," Snyder said. "I hope what I found will be a part of a greater research project in the future that helps shape how we look at our denomination's history."

BY ANGELA BAERG

## Social Work Students Donate Duffle Bags to Children in Foster Care



Social Work Club officers Callie Dickson (left), Mia Chedalavada, Claire Ashcraft, Rachel Turner, and Caleb Olmedo, along with School of Social Work office manager Cheryl Craven, drop off donated duffle bags at the Department of Children's Services.

outhern's Social Work Club officers presented more than 400 duffle bags to the Hamilton County Department of Children's Services (DCS) in Chattanooga, Tenn., on March 1, 2020. The bags will be given to young people entering the foster care system.

The project began last fall when the club learned that children transitioning into DCS care usually receive a trash bag for transporting personal items. The social work students were inspired to get Southern's campus involved, and raised nearly \$2,200 through bake sales and appeals to local churches, community members, family, and friends. University employees and fellow students in other academic areas also pitched in to help.

According to Callie Dickson, junior so-



Junior social work majors Mia Chedalavada and Caleb Olmedo unload the compact duffle bags.

cial work major and social vice president for the club, this is one of the largest projects ever undertaken by the Social Work Club. The zippered, two-handled canvas duffle bags can also serve as backpacks, and each holds up to 20 gallons.

"Being taken away from your family is already a very traumatic event, plus being handed a trash bag gives you the sense that your stuff doesn't really mean anything," Dickson said. "Providing kids with these duffle bags hopefully gives them a sense of belonging and something sturdy in their lives that they know will stay around. We wanted to offer a little light at the end of the tunnel."

BY TINA SMITH

## Academic Dean Len Archer Retires

t the end of AdventHealth University's (AHU) spring academic term, Len Archer, Ph.D., retired after 27 years at AHU. His last role was as academic dean for undergraduate programs and vice president for academic administration, but he started in 1993 as an associate professor.

While finishing his Ph.D., at Indiana State University and teaching biology, Archer had interviewed with various higher education institutions, mostly in the northern part of the country. "My wife asked me, 'Can you find someplace warm?" Archer recalled with a laugh. Soon after, he received a call from a childhood friend, Sy Saliba, Ph.D., who had recently accepted a position as academic dean at a burgeoning healthcare university in Orlando, Fla., known at the time as Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences.

Archer enjoyed his visit and appreciated AHU's focus on spirituality, and bringing together people with diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds to work for the same purpose. "It has been one of the driving factors for me," he said about AHU's mission to develop healthcare professionals who live the healing values of Christ.

He also credited Saliba as a strong influence in his ultimate decision to accept the position. When Archer asked why Saliba left his position at Andrews University to go to a brand-new school, Saliba told him he appreciated the potential and vision of the institution. Archer agreed, liking the idea of getting in on the ground floor to help build an institution whose mission he believed in.

Archer was eventually promoted to chair of the Pre-Professional Studies Department in 2000 after his predecessor, Don Williams, Ph.D., became academic dean. Archer didn't start his career with ambitions to move up the executive ladder. His devotion to improving AHU and carry its mission forward led him to happily accept any responsibilities offered to him, and his expertise led many new initiatives and degrees to success.



Len Archer, Ph.D., served as faculty and an academic leader at Advent-Health Universaity for 27 years before his retirement.

Williams said, "Len Archer is a true gentle man...his honesty and [steady] hand on the tiller of whatever part of the organization he was leading have made [him] a beloved teacher, mentor, and administrator."

One of his initiatives was the development of the Health & Biomedical Sciences (HBS) Department, as well as the Foundation of the Healthcare Administration Department. Later, he would become assistant to Williams; when the Academic Administration Office reorganized, Archer became academic dean of undergraduate programs while Williams oversaw the graduate programs.

Although Archer was a guiding force in many of the University's initiatives, his true passion was always teaching. "I'd like to say I was a good teacher ... it's what I really love to do," said Archer.

He experienced the fruits of his teaching firsthand after he was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2007. Going in for his first round of chemotherapy, Archer discovered that a former student of his would now be his cancer care nurse.

She wasn't just a former student, though; she had nearly left her program due to personal troubles before Archer convinced her to continue. She did, and then, almost a decade later, she was working to save his life. She wasn't the only one. Several students he taught ended up being caregivers during

his illness. "It was a tough and, still is, an emotional experience for me," said Archer. "The people who I worked so diligently to develop professionally became the individuals who were caring for my life."

Archer has long been an advocate in the community as well. An avid cyclist, Archer sought ways to give back to the community with biking, especially after his cancer recovery. He chose to focus on diabetes research, a cause close to his heart as his wife had been diagnosed around the same time he was diagnosed with cancer. For the past decade, he participated in the yearly Tour de Cure ride, raising over \$20,000 for research.

Another important piece of Archer's legacy at AHU is the University's official song. "That's one thing I'm really proud of," said Archer. Prior to his illness, Archer was a vocalist who had sung semi-professionally. The song is a core part of AHU's campus spirit, with meaningful lyrics based on the University's four core values.

AHU's president, Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D., said, "Len Archer has been a core leader of this organization, whose vision and foresight helped shape AHU to what it is today. He's mentored countless students over the years, and many have returned to campus as professors and leaders. He's a strong advocate for Adventist Christian education, and has exemplified Christ's values in all his dealings."

Archer expressed his gratitude to David Greenlaw, D.Min., for giving him the opportunity to join AHU's faculty back in 1993. Reflecting on his years, he said, "I certainly haven't regretted it. I worked with a wonderful group of people with a clear vision of what healthcare education is about, and never thought of leaving."

Upon his retirement, Archer looks forward to spending more time with his "biggest fans" — his wife and children, who supported him through his many years of work. •

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



**FLYNN, PASTOR BRUCE EDWARD GEORGE**, 83, born in Kingston, Jamaica, next door to the famous North Street Seventh-day Adventist Church, died Aug. 23, 2019.

When he was 3 months old, his grandmother cared for him in Ballimoney, St. Ann, Jamaica. When he was 16 years old, he went back to Kingston to attend the Teacher Edwards School on Arnold Road. At age 7, the young Bruce had the proud ambition to become a minister of the Gospel. Through his struggles and disappointments, he never lost sight of his goal. He wanted to become a Literature Evangelist (Colporteur). Because of his gentle demeanor, he was discouraged to enter the book work field. However, he launched out on his own and he excelled, and was often called upon to groom others for the book work. After two years, he was recognized as a "promising evangelist" in any line of God's Work. He entered West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) in 1957. From high school through graduate school, he sold books during the summers to finance his education.

In 1963, after canvassing in Alberta, Canada, he entered Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), and graduated in 1965 with a B.A. in Religion. In the fall of 1964, he went out canvassing, and earned more than two scholarships to enter Andrews University. He was called by the Southwest Region Conference in Dallas, Texas, to be the principal of the Southwest Region Academy. He was next called by Dr. Adrian Westney, Allegheny West Conference education director, to be the principal of Ephesus Junior Academy in Columbus, Ohio. Before going to Columbus, he met and married the beautiful Pauline Turner of Morant Bay, St. Thomas. She worked as a secretary in the Allegheny West Conference office.

Determined to fulfill his lifelong goal, he decided to study at Andrews University Seminary. Graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, he was called by his good friend Dr. Adrian Westney, principal of Pine Forge Academy (PFA), Pine Forge, PA, called Pastor Flynn to head the Bible Department at PFA to teach Bible and history. Pauline Flynn taught secretarial science. Af-ter three years at Pine Forge, Pastor Flynn and Pauline received two calls — one from West Jamaica to be the Head Master of the Savana-Lamar High School in Savana-Lamar, Westmoreland, and the second from the Central Jamaica Conference to work as a pastor. Realizing his lifelong goal, he accepted the call from Central Jamaica Conference to be a pastor. After pastoring in the Vere Clarendon district of churches, he was then removed to Mandeville. There were many challenges at the Mandeville Church when he took over, but God saw him through, and he was supported by the entire district of churches: Mandeville, Dunsinane, Mike Town, Fairfield Mountain, and Cedar Grove. Pastor Flynn launched one of the biggest evangelistic tent meetings of that time. A new church was organized at Spur Tree with 135 newly baptized members who, we are told, is still doing well today. After returning to America, Pastor Flynn assisted Dr. Adrian Westney, Columbia Union associated education director and pastor of the Metropolitan Church. After one year, the General Conference asked Pastor Flynn to go to England to be the pastor of the Camphill Church in Birmingham in the North England Conference, the largest church in the Conference. After conducting many evangelistic campaigns, Pastor Flynn, joined by Pastor McFarline of the Answorth Church, the second largest church of the Conference, the duo conducted an Birmingham evangelistic campaign. In the first baptism they baptized IO6 people, and many more baptisms followed. After three years, Pastor Flynn was called to be the executive secretary and Sabbath School director of the North England Conference. This assignment took him all over North England and Scotland, and with the assistance of Professor Crowe of Newbold College, he held many Sabbath School seminars for adults and children. While working in those offices, he conducted an evangelistic campaign in the Nottingham Church, where he baptized 45 people, special mention was made of it by the Northern European Division. Pastor Flynn then went into the town of Derby for another campaign, and a new church was established. Pastor Flynn was instrumental in getting the Conference to set aside funds for a school in Birmingham; a school which was realized after he returned to America.

Retiring and moving to Florida, the Florida Conference hired him as an interim pastor, and he pastored several churches. After 43 years of devoted service, he finally retired and moved to Naples, FL, where he served as an elder at the Golden Gate All Nations Church, and supported his longtime friend Dr. Walter Douglas.

Pastor Flynn's motto has always been, "Lord, if You can use me, here I am." He no longer thinks of riding into the sunset at retirement, and he used to say, "I will ride into the Gleams of the Golden Morning." He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Pauline; two children: Karl Anthony Flynn and Donna Faye Flynn; and four grandchildren: Jay, Nakia, Nadia, and Ayanna.

**PIERSON, MAY M.**, 99, born May 4, 1921 in Jewel, OH, died Feb.13, 2020 in Sebring, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church for 25 years.

From 1959 to 1960, she was a teacher of grades 1-8 in Dalton, GA; from 1953 to 1967, she was an RN in the Public Health Department in Chattanooga, TN; and then from 1968 to 1993, she was the director of nurses in Whitewell, TN.

She is survived by her two sons: William (Karen) Sue of Chattanooga, and John Phil (Pat) Sue of Avon Park; one daughter, Sharon Turner of Indio, CA; 10 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Emil and Ruth Moldrik in Collegedale, TN, the interment was in Collegedale.



#### •••• obituaries

**HOWARD, HAROLD J.**, 90, born April 20, 1929 in Marshfield, WI; died Feb. 8, 2020 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 22 years.

He was the owner/administrator of the Bethel Nursing Home which became Mid-America Nursing home. He pastored in Arizona at Camp Verde, Sedona, Globe, and Payson. Next, he was an associate to the president and stewardship secretary at the Michigan Conference. He retired in 1996, and became the visitation pastor at Forest Lake Church in Apopka. After seven years, he retired from that position but continued visiting.

He is survived by his wife of 21½ years, Gwen; four sons: Michael Howard of Marshfield, WI, Terrance (Carol) Howard of Arpin, WI, Gregory (Nadine) Offenback of Sodus, MI, and Mark (Cindy) Offenback of Apopka; one daughter, Peggy (Tommy) Howard of Springlake, MI; nine grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

A service was conducted by Pastors Geoff Patterson and Barbara McCoy at Forest Lake Church. Interment was in the Howard plot in Arpin, WI.





**PETRIK, PASTOR IMRE**, 88, born Oct. 21, 1931 in a small town in Yugoslavia called Subotica, died Jan. 17, 2020 in North Port, FL.

He was raised by a devoted Catholic family. As he grew, his mother introduced him to the Adventist Church, thus sparking his lifelong passion for God's Word. He was baptized on Dec. 28, 1948 into the Adventist Church, and decided to further pursue his future ministry by attending the seminary in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

After graduation, he pastored his first church, and his ministry grew to numerous churches in the area. He traveled by bicycle, and eventually upgraded to a motorcycle which became his favorite mode of transportation. You could still find him in his 80s zipping around on his bright yellow moped. He built a new church in Hajdukovo, Vajdasag, Hungary, which remained one of his favorite churches for the rest of his life. He returned there with his whole family to the celebrate the church's 50th anniversary.

In 1973, Pastor Petrik moved his family to the United States. In 1976, he formed the Chicago Hungarian Church, followed by churches in New York and New Jersey. He created a weekly radio ministry called "The Voice of Hope," and an American/Hungarian journal with the same name. As a result, he was sought out by many for advice and counsel. He also wrote several books. On June 25, 2005, he became a member of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church.

The funeral service was conducted by Pastors Robert Boggess and Grigore Leordean at the Venice Church. He was an amazing man, and tribute was paid to all the people he pastored, and the thousands he baptized. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Irene; two daughters: Lilly and Sylvia; and two grandchildren.

**GENTRY, ROBERT V.**, 86, born July 9, 1933 in Chattanooga, TN, died in his sleep on Jan. 28, 2020 at his son's home in Loma Linda, CA.

Robert was a research physicist whose area of expertise was the geophysical phenomena of radioactive halos. For 13 years, he was a visiting scientist in the Chemistry Division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD. After completing a Master of Science degree in physics at the University of Florida in 1956, he spent several years in the defense industry in Fort Worth, TX (Convair), and Orlando, FL (The Martin Company).

It was while in Orlando that Robert was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the It Is Written television ministry, and baptized following an evangelistic series by George Vandeman. He subsequently joined the physics departments of Walla Walla College and Columbia Union College.

Robert authored numerous scientific publications in journals including Science and Nature. He was a member of the American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement

of Science, American Geophysical Union, Sigma Xi, and the New York Academy of Sciences, and was listed in Who's Who in America. He authored Creation's Tiny Mystery and collaborated with the Adventist Media Center in the production of Fingerprints of Creation, The Young Age of the Earth and Center of the Universe.

One his favorite Bible verses, Daniel 12:3, captured his desire to be found among the faithful who will stand at the last day. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Patricia of Loma Linda; one daughter, Patti Guthrie of Mt. Shasta, CA; and two sons: Michael of Norfolk, VA, and David of Loma Linda.

A memorial service was held Feb. 14, 2020 at the Monticeto Memorial Park and Mortuary in Colton, CA. A second memorial service was held March 7, 2020 at the Knoxville First Church in Tennessee.



**WILLIAMS, CHARLES (CHUCK) L.**, 76, born Feb. 4, 1943 in Madison, TN, died Dec. 27, 2019 in Kissimmee, FL. He grew up in central Florida. He attended Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL, and Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN.

He served as publishing director in several conferences and unions in the U.S. and overseas in the Africa-Indian Ocean, Far Eastern, and Asia Pacific Divisions. His ministry also included working at the Review and Herald Publishing Association. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1974. He served as a pastor in the Kentucky-Tennessee and Oregon conferences prior to his retirement. He was a pilot, and enjoyed golf and water skiing.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth of Kissimmee; three daughters: Marci (Karl) Hare of Washougal, WA, Amber Adema of Denver, CO, and Ginger Williams of Denver; one sister, Delores (Tim) Francis of Atlanta, GA; and three grandchildren.



**ARANY, BARBARA LEE**, 76, born Nov. 16, 1943 in Wisconsin, died Dec. 1, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of Arden SDA Church. She's survived by her husband, Tom Arany; one sister, Carol Meert; two sons: Steve and Ken Arany; and three grandchildren: Alex, Spencer, and Lydia Arany.

BARTLETT, JOAN "LORETTA," 83, born April 21, 1936 to the late Latimero and Inez Eileen King Pires in Bermuda, died Dec. 29, 2019 in Asheville, NC. She was member of Asheville North SDA Church. She is survived by her son, Charles Tomas (Judy Eva) Bartlett Jr.; her brother, Michael Pires; and three grandchildren: Anna Marie, Emily Joan, and Charles Thomas Bartlett III. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Thomas "Tom" Sr., and her brother, Richard Pires.

**GRAY, ODELL D**., 94, born March 6, 1925 in Chokoloskee, FL, died Dec. 9, 2019 in Tallahassee, FL. He was a longstanding member of the Crawfordville, FL, Church. He was a retired US Navy Veteran who served as the coxswain on a 50-foot landing craft medium (LCM) where he survived the largest and deadliest Battle of D-Day on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Dell served true to his word and dedicated his life to the Lord for saving him during that horrific battle. He is survived by his son, Kenneth (Debbie) Gray; one brother, Jake Gray; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Leon Ringering at the Crawfordville Church. Interment was at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

**GUDOVSKIS, VALERA**, 27, born Jan. 10, 1992 in Riga, Latvia, died Nov. 19, 2019

in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Community Church in Meridian, MS. She is survived by her mother, Ruslana Staff; stepfather, Joel Staff; father, Valerijs Gudovskis; sister, Olesja Allen; and sons: Jayden and Laken Gudovskis. A memorial service was conducted by Samuel Riemersma and John Sweeny at the Magnolia Cemetery.

HULSEY, MYRTLE LEE EZELL, 92, born April 2, 1927 in Okeechobee, FL, died Jan. 13, 2020. Myrtle moved to Collegedale, TN, in 1951 with her husband, William (Bill) Hulsey, and their three children for Bill to attend and later graduate from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). She was a homemaker and loving, supportive wife and mother, assisting in their family businesses. She had a great love for children and spent her life caring for them, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren while babysitting others. She had many varied interests, among them being music, painting/drawing, and gardening. She enjoyed finding humor in her life daily, and enjoyed laughter as a good medicine for the soul. She had a great faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and longed to instill her godly faith in her family. She is survived by two daughters: Donna (John) Harold of Olathe, CO, and Barbara Rodgers of Collegedale, TN; one son, Steve (Cynthia) Hulsey of Greenback, TN; one brother, Norman Ezell of Deland, FL; seven grandchildren: John William (Karla) Harold, David (Lynett) Harold, Joseph Harold, Brandi Rodgers, Jodi Rodgers (Eric) Trigg, Travis (Amy) Hulsey, and Justin Hulsey; 10 great-grandchildren; many cherished nieces; nephews; and numerous beloved family friends. She was preceded in death by her parents: Ulmer J. Ezell and Pansy Mae Newton Ezell; her loving husband, William

(Bill) J. Hulsey; two brothers: Jackson Ezell and Lemoyne Ezell; and one sister, Yvonne Ezell Chapman. A memorial service was held Jan. 26, 2020 at the McDonald Road Church in Tennessee, with Pastors Fred Fuller and Dwight Herod officiating. A private interment followed at Collegedale Memorial Park.

**KEEFE, LOIS DODD**, 98, born Jan. 31, 1921 in Columbia, SC, to the late William and Viney Dodd, died June 26, 2019. She was an active member of Columbia First SDA Church for 70 years. She is survived by her children: Van Stephen Keefe, Chuck (Charleen) Keefe, Kitty L. (Sam Nunamaker) Keefe; one brother, William (Sandra) Dodd Jr.; three grandchildren: Terry (Clay) Gains, Sherri (Matt) Campbell, Dustin (Angie) Keefe; four great-grandchildren: Brittany Gains, Bethany Gains, Tucker Campbell, and Owen Campbell. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Charles Edward Keefe.

LABRENZ, WALTER W., 76, born Feb. 14, 1943 in Bridgeport, CT, died Oct. 17, 2019 in Murfreesboro, TN, at the Veterans Hospital from complications of Parkinson's dementia. He was a member of the Highland Church in Portland, TN. Walter served the Church for many years as maintenance director for Madison Academy in Madison, TN, and Highland Manor in Portland. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; one daughter, Heather; and one son, William.

**LANG, M.D., ROBERT D.**, 83, born Aug. 12, 1936, died Oct. 29, 2019. Robert fell asleep in Jesus after falling from a ladder and sustaining a severe brain injury. He was the husband of Wretha (Griffin) Lang; father of Dr. Todd (Lucinda) Lang, Rob (Velvet) Lang,

Mauri (Paul) Mateychak, and Chris Lang, grandfather of Kaleigh (Kyle) Benge, Breck Lang, Aubrey (Evan) Taylor, Colton Lang, Julia Lang, Anna Mateychak, Tyler Mateychak, and Molly Mateychak, great-grandfather of Loraya Benge; and brother of Kathy (Duane) McKey and Janice Olsen. A Celebration of Life Service was held Nov. 23, 2019 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.

MATHEWSON SR., DAVID "DAVE" M., 87, born Sept. 17, 1932 in Medina, OH, died Oct. 9, 2019 in Arcadia, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church for 31½ years. He was employed as owner of Dave's Locksmith Company in Arcadia for 20 years, operated Standard Oil Service Station in Arcadia, Game Warden with Florida Game Commission, and served as a lieutenant for 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marjorie; two sons: David (LeAnn) Mathewson of Port Charlotte, and Rick Mathewson of Gainesville, FL; one daughter, Susan (Bruce) Newcomer of Arcadia; two sisters: Deloris Hearn of Gainesville, and Nellie Troutman of Gainesville; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, and five sisters. The service was conducted by Elder C. Lee Huff in Arcadia, and the interment was at the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Arcadia.

MCCOLLOUGH, ROY D., 74, born Feb 23, 1945 in Mobile, AL, died June 21, 2019 in Matherville, MS. He was a member of the Quitman Church in Florida. Roy worked as a self-employed row crop farmer with his wife and their five sons. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Elsie Smith McCollough; two brothers; and his five children: Roy Lynn (Chrissie) McCollough of Waynesboro, MS; Larry D. (Amy) McCollough of Cleveland, TN; Lee E. (Dixie) McCollough of Waynesboro, MS; Luke (Christina) McCollough of Millry, AL; and Lonnie (Rachel) McCollough of Waynesboro, MS; 17 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a host of nieces; nephews; other relative; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Emmit and Madeleine McCollough.

**MEISTER III, ADAM G.**, 68, born May 24, 1951 in Sarasota, FL, to the late Adam "George" Meister II and Edwina Meister Miller West, died June 12, 2019 at his home

in Bluffton, SC. He attended the Hilton Head SDA Church, Hilton Head, SC. Most of his growing up years were spent in Apopka, FL, where he attended Forest Lake Elementary School and Forest Lake Academy his freshman year. Due to a family move to La Sierra, CA, his sophomore and junior years were spent at La Sierra Academy, but he returned to Forest Lake Academy to finish his senior year with his friends, and graduated in May 1970. He attended Southern Missionary College his freshman year, and then transferred to Newbold College in England for his sophomore year. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Legere Meister, Hendersonville, NC; daughter, Ashley (Ty) Tumlin; and two grandchildren: Madison Tumlin and Raymond "Chip" Tumlin, all of Georgia; three sisters: Joni (Howard) Andersen of Florida; Jeannie (Terry) Dietrich of Washington: and Jane (Don) Schmitt of Indiana; one brother, Bob (Carolyn) Meister of California; mother and father-in-law: Mabel and Joseph Legere of North Carolina; and one sister-in-law, Lisa Legere (Ted) Struntz of Michigan.

MILHOLM, JANIS GAY (COX), 81, born Oct. 7, 1937 in Luling, TX, died peacefully on Sept. 22, 2019 at her home in Ooltewah, TN. She attended Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, TX, and Union College in Lincoln, NE. She married Richard L. "Dick" Milholm in August 1958, and willingly worked to support him as he finished his schooling at Union College and then Loma Linda University. She lived for 21 years in Hendersonville, NC, where she raised two boys and worked as needed in Dick's medical practice. In 1987, they moved to Orlando, FL, and lived there until 2002 when, after retirement, they moved to Ooltewah, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. She was feisty, determined, and courageously fought to live, despite her leukemia diagnosis, and, in fact, outlived her prognosis by many years. In her final months, she was cared for in her home by her husband, family, and Hospice caregivers. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dr. Richard L. Milholm; two sons: John "Jack" (Donna) Milholm of Rossville, GA, and Joseph (Dana) Milholm of McDonald, TN; one brother, Gary Cox of Arizona; and eight grandchildren: Jesseca Milholm, Devon (Nicholas) Valenzuela, John Milholm, Derek (Katherine) Milholm, Mathew Milholm, Darla Milholm, Michael Milholm, and A.J. Milholm. Janis was preceded in death by her parents: Truman and Corinne Cox; and an infant son, Steven Ray Milholm. A memorial service was held Oct. 6, 2019, at the McDonald Road Church.

NATZKE, NETA PRICE, 72, born Nov. 13, 1946 in Little Rock, AK, died Oct. 13, 2019 in Cowpens, SC. She was member of Union SDA Church. She's survived by two sons: Daniel Natzke (Betty) of Cowpens and Richard Natzke (Sue) of Chattanooga, TN; two brothers: Carl Price and Larry Price of Michigan; two sisters: Evelyn Willauer of Berrien Springs, MI, and Jane Kublick of Berrien Springs; one grandchild, Houston Natzke; one step-granddaughter, Lasinda T. Gilbert; two step-great-grandchildren: Anna Grace Turner and Issac Turner; numerous nieces; and nephews.

#### NORWOOD, CELIA TOWNSEND, 93,

born July 29, 1926 to the late Joe and Geneva Townsend in Banner Elk, NC, died Sept. 29, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She was a wonderful mother, best mother-in-law, loving, and spoiling grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was kind, thoughtful, and very easy to love. She is survived by one son, Bill Norwood, and his wife, Annetta, of Hendersonville, TN; one granddaughter, Jennifer Norwood Zepeda, and her husband, Albert, of Collegedale, TN; and one grandson, David Norwood, and his wife, Bethany, of Hendersonville; three great-grandsons: Brandon Zepeda, Benjamin Zepeda, and Brody Zepeda; two great-granddaughters: Airlie Norwood and Brianna Zepeda; two brothers: Floyd Townsend, and his wife, Edna, of Banner Elk; and Jimmy Townsend, and his wife, Ruby, of Wilson, NC; and three sisters: Ethel Norwood, Barbara Ann Ward, and her husband, Cecil, of Banner Elk; and Mary Townsend, and her husband, Junior, of Piney Creek, NC. Celia was preceded in death by her husband, J.B. Norwood; four brothers: Buster, Kenneth, Vernon, and Dayton Townsend; and two sisters: Lucy Sword and Mildred Ramsey.

**PANGMAN, JOHN RUSSELL**, 79, born Sept. 18, 1940 in Hinsdale, IL, died Dec. 22, 2019. He was the son of the late Russell Edson and Floy Millicent Marks Pangman. John lived in Downers Grove, IL, attending kinder-

garten and first grade at the local elementary school. In 1947, the family, which now included younger brother, George, moved to Cedar Lake, MI. John attended the Cedar Lake Adventist Elementary School, taught by Mr. and Mrs. Charles LaCount, graduating from the 8th grade in 1954. While at Cedar Lake Academy, he was in the ROTC training program that was led by Desmond Doss. In 1958, John began dating Rachel Drier. She was the love of his life, and they continued their relationship while attending Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), and in December 1960, they were married in the little Jackson Church. The newlyweds moved to Berrien Springs, where John continued his schooling, graduating with his Bachelor of Arts degree from Emmanuel Missionary College in 1964. During summer vacations, John would go home to Cedar Lake and work as a painter with his dad. They continued living in the area for several years while he taught junior high and coached in Millburg. In 1969, the family moved to Battle Creek, MI, and John joined the faculty at Battle Creek Academy teaching physical education. John completed his Master of Arts degree in 1971 from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. That summer, the family returned to Berrien Springs, where John joined the faculty of Andrews University as the intramural director and teacher of physical education. He spent many years building up the program, recruiting, and promoting health and wellness. He also worked with the Physical Therapy Department teaching exercise physiology classes. John believed in living what he taught. He played all the sports with his students-including donkey basketball. While teaching at Andrews, he continued his studies and completed his doctorate from the University of Indiana Bloomington in 1982. After many years teaching in the Physical Education Department at Andrews, John was asked to be the department chair and worked tirelessly to incorporate a health-and-wellnessbalanced program to the department. He was department chair for a time, and then decided to return to what he loved most: teaching and closer interaction with his students. In 2003, he received a call from a former student, Rick Swartz, that Southern Adventist University had an opening in the Physical Education Department. Phil Garver, department chair, offered him the position that gave John the opportunity to teach, emphasizing the health and wellness that he was so passionate about, and

coordinating the intramural program. He retired from full-time teaching in 2007, and they honored him by hanging his reffing jersey on the wall in the gym. He remained active with the University intramurals, reffing games, and continued to contract teach his fly-fishing class until he fully retired in 2013. Although an avid outdoorsman, John had a passion for teaching others about health, wellness, and physical education, allowing Jesus to shine through him to his students. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 59 years, Rachel; two daughters: Rachelle Pangman of Niles, MI, and Heather Pangman of Ooltewah, TN; and one adopted granddaughter, Alaina Burke.

PARMAN, SANDRA ANNETTE, 64, born March 19, 1955 in Boulder, CO, died Oct. 5, 2019 in Atlanta, GA, following an extended illness. Sandy was the daughter of the late Carlos Marion Parman and Laura Belle Self Parman, and was a veteran of the United States Air Force, where she achieved the rank of captain. She was a member of the Calhoun, GA, Church. She is survived by her son, Chris Denham; one brother, Terre (Lynnette) Parman; one granddaughter, Krista Denham; and two nephews: Michael and Andrew Parman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Daniel K. Denham; and her sister, Debbie Parman. Services were held at the Calhoun Church.

PIERSON, DON ROGER, 87, born Aug. 20, 1932, died Dec. 29, 2019. He worked at Collegedale Casework for more than 40 years, and was a lifetime member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He is survived by his son, Dennis (Gail) Pierson; one daughter, Robbi (Duane) Anderson; four grandchildren: Ryan, Elizabeth, Nathan, and Matthew; four step-grandchildren: April, Jason, May, and June; and four step-great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held Jan. 10, 2020 at the Collegedale Church. Interment followed in Collegedale Memorial Park.

**POMMER, DOROTHY M.**, 93, born in Nov. 14, 1925, died Sept. 22, 2019. She was a member and one of the founders of the North Lake Church in Leesburg, FL.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at the North Lake Church.

**RUMSEY, RAY LYLE**, 92, born May 25, 1927 in Potterville, MI, died Nov. 9, 2019 in

Ooltewah, TN. He was the son of O.V. and Ethel Rumsey. As a farm boy, Ray learned the value of wholesome outdoor work. After high school, his grandmother, Cora Carman Rumsey, introduced him to Verginia Fae Griffith, whom he married on June 26, 1949, in Lansing, MI. The couple welcomed the births of their sons, Greg and Mark, in 1951 and 1957. After Ray received an engineering degree from Walla Walla College, the family moved to Wichita, KS, where he began a successful 33-year career as a technical writer for Boeing in Wichita and Seattle, WA. Ray served for many years as an elder and Sabbath School teacher in the Wichita Church. He loved the outdoors, and his hobbies included hiking, fishing, and piloting small planes. Ray and Verginia relished time spent with their five grandchildren: Tim, Laura, Michael, Matthew, and David, The couple spent the last two decades of retirement in Charlotte, NC, and in later years, Ray served as a devoted caregiver to his wife of 70 years. After moving to an assisted living community in Ooltewah, they shared visits and meals during Ray's final weeks. Ray's integrity, congeniality, generosity, and gentlemanly influence reached deep into the hearts of his family and friends. Ray is survived by his wife, Verginia; two sons: Greg (Shirley) and Mark (Susan); five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Clifford; and his sister, Rosalie. Services were held Jan. 11, 2020 in the Charlotte Sharon Church and Feb. 1, 2020 in the Collegedale, TN, Church, with interment planned for a later date in Charlotte, NC.

SCHEFFLER, DANIEL G., 82, born Oct. 5, 1937 in Benton Harbor, MI, died Jan. 13, 2020 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for three years. He was employed as an auxiliary equipment engineer, as a cook at Heath Company, and as a farmer. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Cynthia; one son, Daniel (Lori) Scheffler of Southgate, MI; one daughter, Debra Scheffler of Grand Rapids, MI; three brothers: Fred (Sharon) of Auburndale, Edward (Lois) of LaBelle, and David (Bridget) of St. Joseph, MI; and four sisters: Edythe Hedman of St. Joseph, MI, Eileen Perkins of Lansing, MI, Sandra Frobel of Florida, and Esther Heuerman of South Haven, MI. His funeral service was conducted by Pastor Jim

King, and interment was in Apopka.

SMITH, MARY ELLEN, 81, born Oct. 12, 1938 in Campaign, TN, to the late Robert and Ola Young, died Dec. 22, 2019. Ellen was a faithful member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. She was a homemaker most of her life, and her family brought her more joy than anything else in the world. She adored spending time with her sisters, and she loved being a "Grancie" to her three grandsons. Anytime she got the opportunity to babysit, she was all over it. In her younger years, she very much enjoyed gardening and sewing as well. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Waldon "Sonny" Smith; two daughters: Shannon (Tim) Prow, and Kimberly (Donald) Allen; three grandsons: Caleb Prow, Ethan Prow, and Donovan Allen. In addition to her parents. Ellen was preceded in death by her five sisters: Naomi Oettinger, Virginia Turner, JoEtta Taylor, Bobbie Yates, and Ethel Jean Young.

**SPIVA, LYLE EDWARD**, 70, born Jan. 12, 1949 in Brawley, CA, died Dec. 25, 2019 at his home in Collegedale, TN. He was the husband of Sondra, and father of three children: Ryan (Marlana) Spiva, Heather (Greg) Steinke, and Heidi (Jason) McGill. The funeral service was held Jan. 5, 2020 in the church sanctuary.

SUMPTER, CEDRIC GERARD, 49, born Aug. 17, 1970 at a whopping 10lbs., 2oz., in Tallahassee, FL, to the late Dr. Ward and Mary Sumpter, he passed unexpectedly on Dec. 5, 2019. Initially, the doctors thought he was one of two babies, but this bright-eyed, curly haired baby was just a "Big Boy," hence, the nickname, "Big Boy." Cedric always tried to keep up with his older sister, Shernanda. In fact, at the age of 10 months, Cedric started sleeping on a twin bed pushed against the wall in Shernanda's room, just to be near her. He was determined to be a "Big Boy." Cedric was an avid lover of dogs at the age of three. In the backyard, he would scamper with the dogs under the shrubs, and would lay on the grass with them. The adoration of these furry babies didn't end. Cedric rescued dogs at the Varsity, Clayton State University, and Piedmont Park. The dogs eventually became part of the family. Cedric's kind heart to God's creatures wasn't unnoticed because many family members asked him for puppies. Cedric's cousin, Paul Wilson, would frequently request Cedric to dog sit for him while he was out of town. The smartest dog that Cedric ever had was Champ, a German Shepherd, given to the family by the late Uncle Henry and Lois Barbour. Cedric taught Champ to jump on basketball opponents to distract them from making a shot to the hoop, as was experienced by family friend, Dr. Carlton Byrd. Cedric gave his tender soul to Christ and was baptized at the age of eight by his father, the late Dr. Ward Sumpter, with friends Rodrick Patterson and Mike Watkins at the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta, GA. He was a charter member of the Decatur Seventh-day Adventist Church, Decatur, GA, where he served as a Pathfinder. He attended Berean Jr. Academy, Mt. Calvary Academy, and Becker Seventh-day Adventist schools. Cedric lettered in Varsity Basketball for the Atlanta Adventist Academy Aardvarks, played 2nd chair trumpet for the school band, achieved the long jump record, and served as the senior vice president for the Class of 1988. After high school graduation, he enrolled into Oakwood University. He joyfully immersed himself into campus life. Cedric toyed with the idea of auditioning for the world-renowned Aeolians, but the frequent weekend option of visiting home with friends changed his mind. Cedric intentions were to obtain a degree in Computer Science, but God seemed to have a different plan for him. He became an electrician and plumber apprentice, and worked for Coca-Cola, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and Dekalb County Sheriff's Department. Although often hindered by health challenges, Cedric faced each day with optimism, perseverance, and a funny video or two to lighten the mood. He would often reminisce of his trips to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, and the Keys. Besides his enduring faith, Cedric cherished family, politics, and fishing. He was a good listener and conversationalist, which was peppered every now and then with his witty sense of humor. He gained new friends quickly, especially on his motorcycle, a Harley Davidson Road Glide. He was a beloved son, brother, generous uncle, cousin, good friend, and a self-taught whiz with computers and technology. Cedric passed after fighting a long illness at his home in Atlanta. He is survived by his devoted sister, Shernanda (Berry) Peterson; his grandmother, Mary Jeanette Nelloms; aunts; uncles; cousins;

two nephews: Brad and Trey; and many dear friends who were like family to him.

SUTTON, HOWARD CORLIS, 75, born Jan. 2, 1944 in Gurley, AL, died Nov. 19, 2019 in Goodlettsville, TN. He was the owner/operator of Sutton Printing Company. He is survived by his wife, Esther Minesinger Sutton; one son, Howard Corlis "Cory" (Nicole) Sutton Jr.; one daughter, Carol Ruth (Paul) Kilroy; three brothers: Richard O. (Patricia) Sutton, Robert T. Sutton, and Daniel J. Sutton; two sisters: Charlotte Ann Robertson and Carolyn (Benny) Gass; three grandchildren: Sarah Kilroy, Seamus Kilroy, and Rowan Kilroy. He is preceded in death by his parents: Francis Orland and Edna Ruth Bottoms Sutton.

**THARP, MARIAN (CARSIE)**, 71, born May 5, 1948, died Sept. 24, 2019 in Holiday, FL. She was a member of the New Port Richey, FL, Church for 12 years. She is survived by her husband of seven years, Kevin.

TOWNSEND NORWOOD, CELIA, 93, born July 29, 1926 to the late Joe and Geneva Townsend in Banner Elk, NC, died Sept. 29, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She was a wonderful mother, best mother-in-law, loving, and spoiling grandmother and great-grandmother. She was kind, thoughtful, and very easy to love. She is survived by one son, Bill Norwood, and his wife, Annetta, of Hendersonville, TN; one granddaughter, Jennifer Norwood Zepeda, and her husband, Albert, of Collegedale, TN; and one grandson, David Norwood, and his wife, Bethany, of Hendersonville; three great-grandsons: Brandon Zepeda, Benjamin Zepeda, and Brody Zepeda; two great-granddaughters: Airlie Norwood and Brianna Zepeda; two brothers: Floyd Townsend, and his wife, Edna, of Banner Elk; and Jimmy Townsend, and his wife, Ruby, of Wilson, NC; and three sisters: Ethel Norwood, Barbara Ann Ward, and her husband, Cecil, of Banner Elk; and Mary Townsend, and her husband, Junior, of Piney Creek, NC. Celia was preceded in death by her husband, J.B. Norwood; four brothers: Buster, Kenneth, Vernon, and Dayton Townsend; and two sisters: Lucy Sword and Mildred Ramsey.

TRAMMELL, GLEN LINDELL, 89, born

Dec. 6, 1929 in Revelo, KY, to the late Luther Trammell and Golda Mae Stephens Trammell, died Nov. 23, 2019 at Jean Waddle Care Center in Somerset, KY. Lindell was a chemical operator with Sterling Drugs in Cincinnati for 31 years, and managed apartments before his retirement. He served as a speaker for Dial-A-Prayer for 20 years. He was a member of the Stearns Church in Whitley City, KY, and served as the first elder. He enjoyed classical music, studying the Bible, and especially his walk with the Lord. He is survived by two sisters: Joyce Lewis, Shirley Wright; husband: Dillard Trammell; several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Glen was preceded in death by his wife, Bertha Mae Trammell; one brother, Dwayne Trammell; and four infant siblings.

## UNDERWOOD, THEODORE ROOS-

**EVELT**, born Nov. 19, 1924 in Bainbridge, GA, to the late Reverend Hardie Mamon Underwood Sr. and Addie Hardnett Underwood, died peacefully on Dec. 21, 2019 in Orlando, FL. There were 10 children born to his parents; Theodore was the eighth child. Addie Hardnett Underwood, Theodore's mother, passed in 1932, leaving five young children to be cared for. His sister, Marie, who was nine years old, helped her father care for the younger children until their older sister, Ethel Penn, sent for them in 1937 to come live with her and her husband, Will Penn, in Perry, FL. Theodore's sisters, Marie and Ethel, became surrogate mothers nurturing, loving, and guiding him. Theodore enrolled into Jerkins High School in Perry, in 1937. He loved going to school learning, making friends and playing sports. There he met his close friends James Golden Jr. and Earl Williams. They became lifelong friends. Later, Theodore enrolled at Florida A&M College (now University) in Tallahassee, FL, and completed a trade in wood working in Dec. 1942, and electric welding in March 1943. The United States Army drafted Theodore, and he entered into active service on April 3, 1943. He served during World War II, and he served with the 4068th Quartermaster Service Company. His unit provided service and support for the front line. He served in the European African Middle Eastern Theater of Operations, serving in Oran, Algeria, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Le Harve, France, and Frankfurt, Germany. PFC Theodore Underwood received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on Dec. 17, 1945, earning the EAMETO Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Theodore was introduced to a young girl by his friend James Golden Jr., who would later become his wife; her name was Elouise Williams. Theodore thought that she was so pretty and could really dance; he thought they were a good match. Theodore married Elouise on June 10, 1946 in Quitman, GA. They moved to Tampa, FL, in 1947, for a better future. To this union three children were born.

At an early age, Theodore was taught about Jesus by his mother and father. His parents taught him how to pray his bedtime prayers and bless his food. He would attend church every Sunday with his family, participating in praise and worship service and listening to his father preach. God led Theodore to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1958, in Tampa, FL, during an evangelistic series under the leadership of evangelist Elder Eric C. Ward. He was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Elder Theus Young at Mt. Calvary SDA Church in Tampa. Theodore was a faithful, active member of the Westside Community SDA Church. He was part of a small group of members from Mt. Calvary who lived in West Tampa, Carver City, and Lincoln Gardens, and helped to organize the Westside Community SDA Church. Whatever needed to be done at church or for the church, he was willing to do it. Theodore was an ordained deacon. He also worked in various departments at the church: Treasury Department, Community Services Department, and the Sabbath School Department. He was coordinator of transportation—driving the church van on Wednesday nights, picking up members who wanted to come to Prayer Meeting, and picking of members who wanted to come to Sabbath School and Divine worship service. Theodore was also the church custodian; keeping the inside of the church clean. He was thankful that he was able to worship and fellowship with his church family. Theodore was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his loving, devoted wife of 73 years, Elouise Underwood of Tampa; three daughters: Mary Winslow of Clarkston, GA; Cynthia Underwood and Theodosia Underwood of Winter Park, FL; two grandsons: Christopher Winslow of Marietta, GA; Ro-

man Davis of Clarkston; one sister, Marie Phillips of Burlington, NJ; one sister-in-law, Clara Williams of Tampa; a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents: Reverend Hardie Mamon and Addie Hardnett Underwood Sr.; three brothers: Willie Clefort Underwood, Hardie Mamon Underwood Jr., and Frank Henry Underwood; six sisters: Ethel Penn, Alberta Howard, Eddie Lee McOueen, Eloise Wilson, Josephine Hinson, and Flora Mae Stallworth; his four wives and their descendants as told by his grandchildren: Marie, Flora Mae, Josephine, and Theodore. The life of Theodore Underwood and his family is featured in the book, Underwood Recollections: Memories of Frank Underwood, written by his daughter, Cynthia M. Underwood.

WILLIAMS, EDWARD "EDDY," 88, born Feb. 11, 1931, died Nov. 28, 2019 on Thanksgiving morning, at a hospital in Alabama. Eddy's parents were Sam P. Williams and Laura Murray. He was always proud to be a Cherokee Indian. He was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. Around 1990, he moved into Cumberland View Towers in Madison, where he loved living and made many friends. He moved to Harbert Hills Nursing Home in Savannah, TN, in the fall of 2019. In the midst of Eddy's struggles growing up, he found Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, and spent his life dedicated to ministry through his poems/lyrics or witnessing with literature while shopping at Kroger, H.G. Hills, or his doctor's appointments. He never left home without his tracks. Eddy's favorite pastime was eating Morning Star Spicy Black Bean Burgers and, of course, writing poems which some he later turned into songs. He can be found in the Who's Who of Poetry. He penned most of his poetry by typing away on a Smith Corona electric typewriter, and played his guitar when writing the melody lines of a song. Eddy read his Bible daily and memorized many passages, and loved books by E.G. White. A huge follower of 3ABN lead him to write a poem at age 84, about how much 3ABN meant to him, and the great work they were doing. Eddy and his talents will be missed, but he would want everyone to share in the blessed hope of the Second Coming. He was always homesick for Heaven.

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**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* [5, 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 [5, 6]

MECHANIC NEEDED - Laurelbrook Academy is looking for a highly skilled and motivated individual who has both the passion and the calling to serve God by repairing vehicles and machinery. Must apply on www.laurelbrook.org/employment [5, 6]

### SCHOOL SECRETARY NEEDED

- Laurelbrook Academy is looking for highly skilled and motivated individual who has both the passion and the calling to serve God in a secretary capacity. Must apply on www.laurelbrook.org/employment [5, 6]

**COUPLE NEEDED** as **Assistant Managers** for cottage rentals. Located near Hendersonville, NC. Housekeeping, laundy, reservations, maintenance and construction knowledge. Free housing & utilities. Some duties are paid. Supplemental income necessary. Ideal for early retirees. 828-693-5174. [5]

**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* [5, 6]

HIGHLAND RIM TERRACE in Portland, Tennessee, seeks Administrator. This 52 apartment HUD Section 8 independent living facility owned the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, is seeking a qualified candidate to administer the dayto-day needs of the residents the plant. This position requires both keen business skills and а 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 [5, 6] **a** 

## **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 [5-12]

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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 [5]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in biology; cinema, religion, and worldview; education (including special education); and social work. Flexible completion times and in-person, hybrid, and fully-online formats may be available. Financial aid may be available. For more information call 509-527-2290 or visit wallawalla.edu/grad-studies [5, 6]

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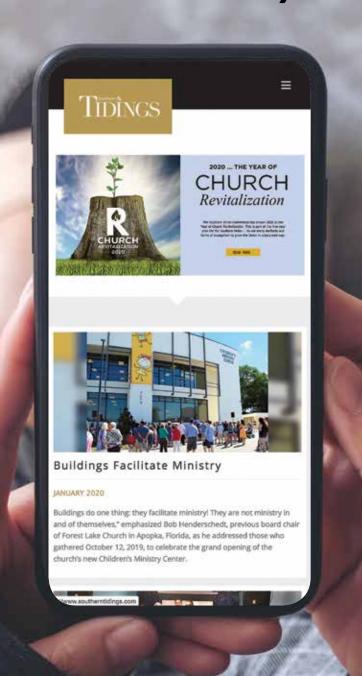
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EGYPT TOUR: December 28, 2020 - January 6, 2021 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the Pyramids ,the Valley of the Kings, the Exodus, a Nile cruise and much more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations \$2,565 plus airfare. For information contact info@adventtours.org [5, 6]

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI** WEEKEND - Scheduled for April 24, 25, has been rescheduled for Oct. 2, 3. Mark your calendars, call your classmates, and start planning now! Honor classes:1950, 1960,1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, and 2000. To be held at N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, IL. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch, and afternoon musical program. All ideas and information are welcomed. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Send questions or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com, or call Dale Rollins at: 224-407-0233. For more information, visit: www. broadviewacademy.org.

"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.

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR CHIL-DREN AND YOUTH: Being a child is hard enough. Being a child and sheltering-in-place away from your friends, school, and routines is even harder. Find useful resources to help make you and your child's lives a little easier during this difficult time: www.southernunion.com/ CovidYouthResources.

**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.



		SI	JNSE	T		
	MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29	JUN 5
ATLANTA, GA	8:21	8:27	8:32	8:37	8:41	8:45
CHARLESTON, SC	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:21	8:25
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:10	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:31	8:35
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:26	8:32	8:37	8:43	8:47	8:51
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:31	7:37	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:56
JACKSON, MS	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:01	8:05
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:35	8:41	8:48	8:53	8:59	9:03
MEMPHIS, TN	7:46	7:52	7:58	8:03	8:08	8:12
MIAMI, FL	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:03	8:07	8:10
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:27	7:32	7:37	7:41	7:46	7:50
NASHVILLE, TN	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:01
ORLANDO, FL	8:01	8:05	8:09	8:13	8:17	8:21
TAMPA, FL	8:04	8:08	8:13	8:17	8:20	8:24
WILMINGTON, NC	7:56	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:21





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## 2020 CAMP MEETING SCHEDULES

DUE TO COVID-19, THE 2020 CAMP MEETING SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. VISIT YOUR CONFERENCE'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

CAROLINA - www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting
ALL CAMP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE – www.kytn.net STREAMED LIVE

**FLORIDA** 

RAD Camps

Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17) .....

floridaconference.com/campmeeting floridaconference.com/campestre

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND - www.gccsda.com ALL CAMP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

GULF STATES - www.gscsda.org/campmeeting ALL CAMP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

SOUTH ATLANTIC
CAMP MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

SOUTH CENTRAL - www.scc-adventist.org
ALL CAMP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

SOUTHEASTERN - www.secsda.org
ALL CAMP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

## 2020 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

## CHECK YOUR CONFERENCE'S WEBSITE FOR UPDATED 2020 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

CAROLINA		Dissiple Trail Cores (except 15, 10)	luna 7 20
Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC		DiscipleTrek Camp (ages 15-18) Paintball Camp II & Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17)	
Register online at www.nosoca.org		S.I.T. Camp (ages 15-18)	
Adventure Camp (ages 7-11)	luno 14 21	RAD Horse Trip & Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17)	
Junior Camp (ages 10-13)		C.I.T. Camp (ages 15-18)	
Teen Camp (ages 13-16)		Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17)	
Family Camp (all ages)		Lifeguard Camp (ages 15-18)	
Specialty Camps	July 13-17	Basketball Camp & Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17)	Julie 26-July 5
Lifeguard Camp (ages 15-40)	May 71 June F	Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17)	
SIT Camp (ages 16-17)		WIT Camp (ages 15-18, every week except June 21-28)	
Horsemanship Camp I (ages 12-16)		Will Callip (ages 15-16, every week except Julie 21-26)	Julie 7-July 19
Horsemanship Camp II (ages 12-16)			
Water Sports Camp (ages 13-16)		GULF STATES	
water sports camp (ages is-ib)	July 5-12	Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL	
		Details: www.campalamisco.org	
FLORIDA		Aquatics Camp (ages 13-17)	July 12 10
Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL		Teen Camp (ages 12-16)	
Details: campkulaqua.com		Adventure Camp (ages 7-11)	
Cub Camp (ages 7-9)	May 1 Juna 7	Junior Camp (ages 10-13)	
Junior Camp (ages 10-12)		Junior Camp (ages 10-15)	July 19-26
Teen Camp (ages 13-17)		WENTHER WITCH	
Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16)		KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE	
Cub Camp (ages 7-9)		Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN	
Junior Camp (ages 10-12)		Please watch for announcements concerning Summer Camps tha	t may be released
Teen Camp (ages 13-17)		in the near future.	
Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16)			
Cub Camp (ages 7-9)			
Junior Camp (ages 10-12)		SOUTH ATLANTIC	
Teen Camp (ages 13-17)		River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC	TDD
Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16)		Junior Bible/Summer Camp (ages 8-17)	IBD
Family Camp	Sept. 4-7		
		SOUTH CENTRAL	
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND		Camp Thunderbird, Chattanooga, TN	
Cohutta Springs Youth Camps, Crandall, GA		Orientation/registration/details: www.scc-adventist.org/summerc	amp
Online registration and details at www.cs-yc.com		Camp Staff Training	TBD
Camp Staff Training	May 28-June 7	Cub Camp (ages 6-12)	TBD
Regular Camps	-	Friendship Camp (ages 8-17)	TBD
Adventurers (ages 7-9)	June 21-26	Sports Camp (ages 7-17)	TBD
Junior I (ages 10-12)	June 7-14		
Junior II (ages 10-12)	June 14-21		
Junior/Tween (ages 10-13)	June 28-July 5	SOUTHEASTERN	
Teen I (ages 13-17)		Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL	
Teen II (ages 13-17)	July 12-19	Junior/Summer Camp	TBD
Family Camp (all ages)	July 21-26	•	

....June 7-14



## TUITION

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