

T Southern IDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Literature Ministry in 2020:

MORE THAN JUST A BOOK



YOUTH REVIVAL
GOES VIRAL

PHYSICIAN
BROTHERS ON THE
FRONT LINES OF
COVID-19 FIGHT

SUMMER CAMPERS
HONE SKILLS AT
PHOTO/JOURNALISM
CAMP

RECONNECTING
IN RESPONSE TO
CRISIS

A Liberating Word



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

“And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out,” Luke 4:36.

The guest speaker at church was Jesus, a most controversial Person. About halfway through the sermon, He was severely heckled by one in the midst of the congregation. What the man said revealed that he was controlled by a diabolical power that spoke through him. He shouted out, “Ah! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know Who you are, the Holy One of God,” (verse 34, RSV).

Jesus was not in the least perturbed. He commanded the evil spirit to be quiet and to come out of the man. After a terrible but short struggle, in which the poor fellow was violently hurled to the ground, the evil spirit was vanquished. Dr. Luke points out that the man was not injured from the fall.

The insight given to us through the Spirit of Prophecy reveals that intemperance and self-indulgence had so perverted this man’s nature that Satan eventually gained full control over him. In this helpless condition, he longed for deliverance. And, although Satan had led him to the synagogue for the purpose of disturbing Christ’s work, something the Savior said penetrated his enslaved mind. The Lord “read between the lines,” as it were, and delivered the victim from demon possession.

The text introducing this Vantage Point editorial is vitally important. It reveals the reaction of the people. Amazement came over them at the Word and authority of Christ. They were astonished at His doctrine: for His Word was with power.

We need to understand this point. Our minds are constantly distracted from the Word to everything else. Yet our power to overcome Satan is found in the Word. Our difficulty is in setting up a system of values that puts the Word first. When our minds grasp that Word and appropriate it to our lives, deliverance from evil is just as certain as it was for the man who disturbed the Capernaum church service 2,000 years ago. The same One Who preached in that service is still speaking from the pulpit of His Word to us today. I implore you to listen to Him carefully and attentively.

The Word from Jesus as you read this editorial is simple and succinct. He declares to this post-modern, post-Christian, and COVID-19 generation the emancipating words: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” It is possible to do what the apostle Peter did while walking toward Jesus in the midst of a boisterous storm on a body of water. The Word from Jesus was, “COME.” Peter was successful as long as he walked on the Word; however, he began to sink as he focused on the winds. The authority and power of God’s Word are liberating in your health, family, business, ministry, and personal spiritual journey. Let’s be set free by that Word. --RCS

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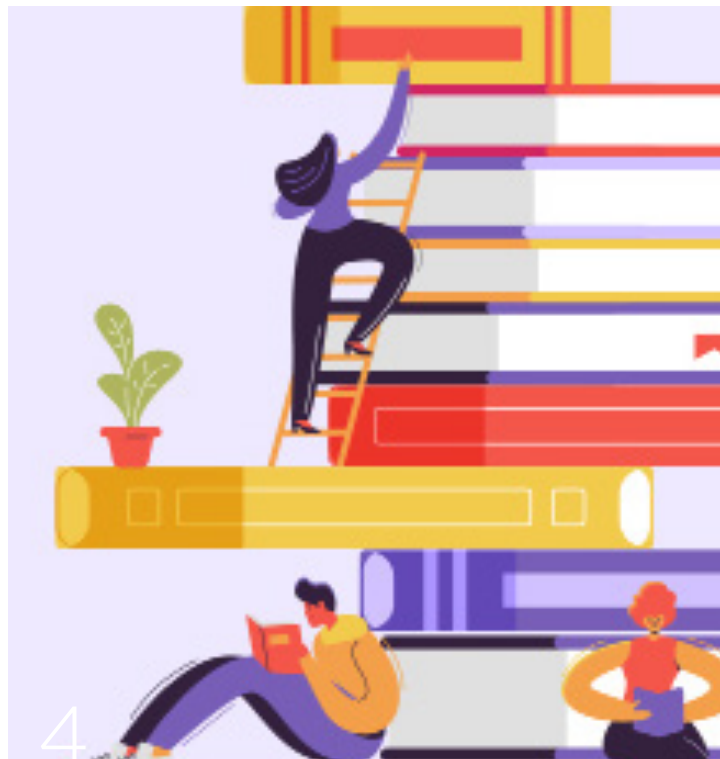
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Literature Ministry in 2020: MORE THAN JUST A BOOK

BY WILLIAM SMITH

In 2020, members involved in literature ministry in the Southern Union Conference are coming up with new and creative ways to use literature to share Jesus' message of hope and wholeness. Literature ministry is so much more than simply books and tracts, and their actions broaden its scope.

It's Hope

Harold Brooks, pastor in Southeastern Conference, was inspired to start a literature ministry project called, "Mission Possible." He found out he could mail a package of 10 tract packs containing five GLOW Tracts each for just \$7. He decided to first pray over and then send these packages to church and family members he knew around the country, and invested his personal funds to push forward this outreach project. He included a letter designed to motivate them to reach people they knew with the hope-filled tracts. One woman received the package and distributed a pack to a community pastor she knew. The pastor gave it to a young man who was contemplating taking his life. After reading the GLOW Tract "Where is God When I'm Hurting," he was encouraged, and decided to live. The pastor who gave the young man the tracts was so

excited, she ordered more tract packs to distribute. Brooks comments that, "Literature evangelism is the secret weapon of the Adventist Church."

It's a Meal

Beverly Perry, Southern Union Publishing Ministries administrative assistant, has been serving literature evangelists for more than 20 years. Recently, her excitement has grown, as she has become involved in distributing hundreds of hope-filled books and tracts herself. Her church, First Lithonia in Lithonia, Georgia, has a team of more than 60 members offering boxes and bags of food to community members. On a recent Sabbath, more than 220 cars drove through the eight stations set up in the church's parking lot. At each station, the church members placed pre-packed boxes of food and household goods into the cars' trunks. At the last station, people were blessed with food and free literature — a spiritual meal — to compliment the physical meals given. "By linking with the Community Services and Personal Ministries departments, we offered both physical and spiritual food," says Perry. We thank God for all those churches throughout the Southern Union that are doing an out-

"By linking with the Community Services and Personal Ministries departments, we offered both physical and spiritual food."

Beverly Perry

standing job feeding the hungry in their communities during this time of crisis.

It's Going Above and Beyond

Grace Crawford, from Augusta, Georgia, was not satisfied sitting home, without witnessing, while the pandemic lingered on. She prayed and looked for ways she could reach her community family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ during these stressful times. Willing to invest her personal funds in a literature outreach project, she sent more than 40,000 Christ-centered, COVID-19 pamphlets filled with hope and encouragement to homes in her city. She is already working on another mass mailing to the Augusta, Georgia, area, as she goes above and beyond the call of duty. If you would like to participate in a mass mailing project for your community, call the Publishing Ministries Department at the Southern Union Conference at 770-408-1800.

"There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by our publications — the books, papers, and tracts filled with the Bible truths that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be

sown beside all waters; for we know not which will prosper, this, or that," Manuscript 127, 1903.

It's Appreciation

Clint Williams, a member from Cleveland, Mississippi, owns a successful printing business. Amid the health crisis caused by the pandemic, he prayed for ways to reach the community. The thought came to him to give appreciation to the medical providers and first responders in his city by giving them care packages that included hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and hope-filled literature. The gift packages were warmly received and front-line workers were encouraged on their mission of mercy.

It's Collaboration

The NFL Super Bowl game was held in Miami, Florida, on February 2, 2020. More than 35 churches in the Southeastern and Florida conferences, in collaboration with the Southern Union Publishing Ministries Department, received and distributed one million GLOW Tracts. These tracts were printed in Spanish, French, and English. Hundreds of members enthusiastically took thousands of tracts and distributed them throughout the area the week before

the big game. Tens of thousands of visitors came for the Super Bowl week activities, and many were blessed with great literature to help them win at the game of life.

It's a Phone Call

Many student canvassers, used to going from door to door to share the Gospel and earn scholarships, were restricted by social distancing requirements this year. Yet, they found another way to reach tens of thousands of souls who need to know Jesus. Like Moses, they used what they had — telephone and computer technology. For a number of weeks, they called thousands of church and family members, asking them to sponsor copies of *Steps to Christ* to be given away in communities. They also prayed for and with the persons they called. Church and family members logged on to their computers and gave generously on the Mission 2020-Youth Summit website. The students received enough donations to distribute more than 40,000 books, while earning scholarship funds to obtain a Christian education.

It's a Balloon

State fairs are places attended by millions of people throughout the South. Tad



PHOTO BY: VLASTA HYBL

Jared Freeman, a Southern Adventist University student, reviews his mission ideas with Johnathan Ryan, Youth Summit program leader. Instead of going door to door due to social distancing requirements, students distributed more than 40,000 books using creative approaches which included phone calls, social media, and websites.



Tad Stauffer, a full-time literature evangelist in the Carolina Conference, engages Fair attendees with balloon animals and swords. This leads to inviting the parents to learn more about the new Children's Century Classics Bible Story set.



Medical providers at Shaw Family Medical, a small clinic in rural Shaw, Mississippi, receive care packages that include hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and hope-filled literature. Small clinics sometimes go unnoticed, and these front-line workers were encouraged on their mission of mercy.

Stauffer, a full-time literature evangelist from the Carolina Conference, found a unique way to engage people attending these fairs. He rented a booth, set up his book display, and blew up animal and sword shaped balloons for the children, while inviting the parents to check out the new Children's Century Classics Bible Story set. He received hundreds of leads from parents and has made ties with families that they will never forget. When the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, you can be sure Tad will be back at the fairs bringing smiles to children and parents alike. To find out more about the new Bible Story set go to <https://childrenscenturyclassics.com/>.

"We should improve every such opportunity as that presented by the St. Louis Fair. At all such gatherings there should be present men whom God can use. Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn," Letter 296, 1904.

It's a Visit Behind Bars

These days, more and more Seventh-day Adventist ministers are serving in key positions as prison chaplains. In Memphis, Tennessee, Joe Mitchell, chaplain, ministers to hundreds of men, women, boys, and girls weekly. He has found that there are many there who have

a great hunger and thirst for the Word of God. While sharing the spoken Word, he also offers hope-filled literature, which many eagerly receive. These silent messengers can go where we cannot go and minister to the hearts of people in ways that we cannot imagine. Mitchell says, "The big question inmates ask is, 'Does the Lord still love me in spite of what I've done?'" He assures them that the answer is always, "Yes!" Mitchell has always loved the literature ministry, and has used it as a means to bring more than 60 souls to the Lord. The phrase he shares wherever he goes is, "Stay with the Word!"

It's a Soul

Oliverio Hernández is a successful businessman in Norcross, Georgia. Recently, one of our Light America Mission canvassers, Edwin Ruiz, visited Hernández and his wife, Hilda, in their home. He presented and sold a Remnant Bible. During their conversation, Ruiz discovered that the couple, fans of soccer, were having Bible studies online with a famous soccer player in Mexico, Flipi. For years, Flipi was a player and now is one of the coaches of Club America, a professional soccer club based in Mexico City. It so happens that Flipi is also a Seventh-day Adventist. He has been studying the faith of Jesus with Oliverio and Hilda for more

than a month. They are very impressed by this new light, and are looking for an Adventist church to assist them. Edwin and Mynor, his leader, are now visiting the couple regularly, and answering hundreds of questions. Oliverio and Hilda are making plans to visit the Metropolitan Spanish Church, keep the Sabbath, and prepare for baptism! They also bought another Bible and more literature when the men visited.

"Take the books to businessmen, to teachers of the Gospel, whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time. The message is to be given 'in the highways,' — to men who take an active part in the world's work, to the teachers and leaders of the people. Thousands can be reached in the most simple, humble way," The Review and Herald, January 20, 1903.

It's an Opportunity

What a joy it is to see how a handful of members have found exciting ways to share hope and wholeness with so many.

If you have questions on how you can get involved using your own unique gifts, contact the Southern Union Publishing Department or your local conference's publishing director. 📖

William Smith is the Southern Union publishing director.

Physician Brothers ON FRONT LINES OF COVID-19 FIGHT

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Adventist doctors Eric and Wayne Moore are among the countless health care professionals around the world who are on the front lines in the fight against the novel coronavirus and resulting COVID-19.

Wayne, an emergency medicine physician, is the CEO and founder of Moore Life Health Care, which includes two Urgent Care Centers in middle Tennessee. He also has extensive experience in bioterrorism, pandemic prevention, and mitigation. In 1996, he was part of a Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST) the U.S. government assembled to mitigate bioterrorism attacks and pandemics. In 2005, he served as co-medical director of a bioterrorism program for the state of Tennessee that developed a system to help track the availability of intensive care unit (ICU) beds and ventilators during a terrorist attack or pandemic. Tennessee health officials have updated the system and are using it during the current pandemic.

At a time when people may not be able to get to a physician, Wayne says his company's telehealth service has been very beneficial. The service utilizes nine physicians in the Moore family (one family member is scheduled to start medical school this year).



Eric Moore, M.D.



Wayne Moore III, M.D.

"We're all over the country," says Wayne Moore, whose expertise has made him a go to for commentary. "Because of COVID-19, we can work across state lines and get prescriptions to patients' pharmacies electronically."

One of the doctors is his brother, Eric. He owns Moore Medical Group, based in Orlando, Florida, which provides services in psychiatric hospitals in Florida and North Carolina. He is also the medical director of Advent-

Health Hospice Care in Orlando.

Both brothers have been working directly with patients infected with COVID-19, and are doing what they can to help treat them, or, for those who are dying, make them as comfortable as possible.

At the time this article was written, hospitals and most health care facilities were still prohibiting patients from receiving visitors to prevent the spread of COVID-19, except for ex-

tenuating circumstances, like a person dying. And even in that case, visitation is challenging.

“If they don’t get a chance to say goodbye ... we know that it’s going to be a very difficult road ahead for that family,” says Eric. “So, we’re trying to be on the cautious side with not allowing people to flood the unit and contract the virus themselves, but at the same time, allowing them to say goodbye.”

A couple of years ago, the brothers said goodbye to their father, Earl Moore, who passed away at age 93. A full-time pastor and community services director for the Southern Union, Earl Moore has been an inspiration to the brothers and their family.

The brothers say their father, a World War II veteran, converted an old recreational vehicle into a medical van, and used it to travel to impoverished areas to provide screenings for things like high blood pressure and diabetes. He also went to disaster areas where a hurricane or tornado may have hit, and attended large public events, like the Poor People’s March on Washington in 1968.

“We need to take the message to the people, don’t wait for the people to come to us,” Wayne recalls his father saying.

In a sense, the brothers have continued to do just that as they care for patients during the pandemic and in general. Wayne is currently organizing a team of medical professionals to evaluate a potential therapy for COVID-19 that involves UV-C light to kill viruses in the lungs.

“Not only are we treating patients, but Eric and I ... are on the cutting edge of technology,” says Wayne. “We hope to utilize our knowledge and relationships to help mitigate this [COVID-19] in the communities that need help the most.” ●

Lucas L. Johnson II

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



Wayne Moore III, M.D., in the Emergency Department at Nashville General Hospital.

Former Breath of Life Speaker/Director, WALTER L. PEARSON JR., PASSES

BY BREATH OF LIFE MINISTRIES



Walter L. Pearson Jr.

Walter Leonard Pearson Jr., 74, was born November 11, 1945, in Mobile, Alabama, to the late Walter Leonard Pearson Sr. and Bernice Davis Pearson. His brother, Edward Luther, was born 18 months later. His mother was a church school educator, and his father was a contractor. In the rural South in the mid-1940s, Church school teachers were making less than minimum wage, working long hours, and teaching several grade levels. His mother was a dedicated educator, but it brought little compensation. His father, although an excellent craftsman, found it difficult to earn consistent wages because of his color and the racist system that undercut his bidding for jobs. As a

result, the Pearson family moved often to find ways to support and protect their boys.

Pearson would often confess in his sermons that, if the demographers had their way, they would have said that two little Black boys growing up in the projects in South America, which is what he called Mobile, would have little or no chance of success. But, God had another plan. The family settled in Savannah, Georgia, which brought opportunities only the Lord could have inspired. His mother again worked as a church school teacher, his father traveled as a part-time colporteur to make ends meet, and money was scraped together to send the boys to Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania. Although Pearson's family was very poor and the years at Pine Forge Academy were very lean, his matriculation at Pine Forge proved that Adventist Christian education pays off. Pearson graduated and then went off to Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama.

While at Oakwood, Pearson's leadership skills were recognized and developed. He admits that he sometimes went against the grain and got in trouble because of it. Under the presidency of the late Frank Hale Jr., Ph.D., Pearson became president of the United Student Movement (student government of Oakwood). Hale, in his book, *Angels Watching Over Me*, described him as "a young man divinely endowed and superbly equipped with talents that would carry him far. One could predict his fu-

ture fortune because of his eagerness, his sense of purpose, his ability to articulate his goals, and because of his dynamic personality that was always bubbling over with a sense of enthusiasm." Pearson graduated from Oakwood with a degree in religion and theology.

In 1967, he married the former Sandra L. Holland, shortly after their graduation from Oakwood, and they pledged to blend their gifts and talents to win souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. He later engaged in graduate studies at the University of Kentucky and Georgia State University.

Pearson entered the Adventist ministry in 1969 as an associate pastor of the Glenville Church in Cleveland, Ohio. He was blessed to be a protege of the late Harold L. Cleveland Sr., who was the senior pastor of Glenville. Pearson was ordained in 1971 at the Allegheny West Conference Camp Meeting, and his next assignment took him to northwestern Virginia as a district pastor serving Charlottesville, Gordonsville, and Staunton. Here, Pearson conducted his first solo evangelistic effort which exposed him to the joyous challenge of soul-winning. The Conference committee then voted to send him to Dayton, Ohio. The membership in Dayton increased significantly as his gift for soul-winning blossomed.

From the start of his ministry, Pearson demonstrated an affinity for young people. His youthful charisma and God-given ability to communicate with young people and get them involved in every facet of



Church ministries was noticed, and he was asked to be youth director and director of urban ministries for Allegheny West Conference.

Under the mentorship of Harold L. Cleveland and the influence of extraordinary local preachers, Pearson's preaching gift and ability to make the Word of God live in the minds of his audience was enhanced. Becoming active in the local ministerial alliance, he was invited to preach in area Adventist churches as well as various churches of other denominations.

In the mid-1970s, Pearson accepted a call from the Allegheny East Conference to serve as senior pastor of the North Philadelphia Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Within the five years he served this congregation, the church had more than 1,500 members and was the second largest congregation in the conference. He was also executive director/speaker for the television program "Daybreak" in Philadelphia.

In 1985, he accepted an invitation from the South Atlantic Conference to serve as the senior pastor of the 2,100-member Berean Church in Atlanta, Georgia. During his eight years in Atlanta, Pearson was a member of the Executive Board of Mayor Maynard H. Jackson's Atlanta Religious Mobilization Against Crime (AR-MAC), and a volunteer chaplain for two law enforcement agencies. Pearson participated in services at the historic Ebenezer

Baptist Church in Atlanta for the first national celebration of the late Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in 1986. His benediction, delivered as that congregation of notables sang "We Shall Overcome," was aired on national and international news broadcasts for days. On three separate occasions, in two local conferences, he was designated "Pastor of the Year" by his peers. In 1991, he became the first Seventh-day Adventist member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2005, he received a "Legacy of the Dreamer Award" from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He received more than 100 other awards from religious, academic, civic, and community organizations; and four honorary doctorate degrees.

Pearson came to the Church's World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, to join the Ellen G. White Estates, where he was the first African-American to serve as an associate director. Next, he was invited to serve as director for evangelism and church growth for the General Conference Ministerial Association. While in this capacity, Pearson received the invitation to become speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Ministries, while concurrently serving as a general field secretary for the North American Division (NAD).

He conducted successful evangelis-

tic crusades annually at home, as well as others in Kingston, Jamaica; Tema, Ghana; Warsaw, Poland; Nairobi, Kenya; and three in London, England. His zeal to communicate the Gospel took him to 67 countries on six continents and the island nations of the sea. The Lord honored his faith with more than 25,000 baptisms, including more than 5,000 baptisms in one day at the end of "NET 2004," a satellite evangelistic initiative sponsored by the NAD.

Pearson survived a stroke in 2006. For 42 years he and Sandra served together to win souls, until her death in 2009. After his stroke and Sandra's passing, Pearson asked that a search be initiated for a new speaker/director.

Eventually, God guided Pearson to Patricia Patterson, an educational administrator who had also experienced the loss of her spouse. Patricia repeatedly encouraged Pearson to "get back to work." They were married in 2011, and together they commenced work for the salvation of lost souls.

Pearson retired from active pastoral ministry in June 2016, after serving as pastor of the Beacon Light Church in Annapolis, Maryland, and he and Patricia moved to Jonesboro, Georgia.

Early Sunday morning, June 7, 2020, after nightly routines, prayer, and "I love you's" were tenderly exchanged, Patricia told Walter she would stay with him until he fell asleep. Ten minutes later, upon checking on him, he had fallen into a sleep that Jesus Himself would awaken him from. He now awaits the trump and voice of the Lord awakening him into eternal life. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; their blended families of three adult children, Ericca, Walter III, and Mia-Liani; five grandsons, Devroux (Cody) Paige Jr., Walter IV (Pierce), Gabriel Alexander, Robert Chester Crawford III (Tre), and Pearson Gault Paige (Diesel); one granddaughter, Caila Serenity Griffith; his brother, Edward Luther Pearson; brother-in-law, Walter L. Daniely; the Holland family; and countless other family and friends. 🕊

Summer Campers Hone Skills At PHOTO/JOURNALISM BOOT CAMP

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Despite the unexpected changes caused by COVID-19, the School of Journalism and Communication (SJC) at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, hosted its annual photo/journalism summer camp. After moving online, the three-day program attracted campers from around the country for virtual instruction on the art of multimedia storytelling.

The program started on Monday, June 15, 2020, with a video featuring student journalists at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the location of an infamous 2018 mass shooting. The mini-documentary, produced by *The Washington Post*, documented the students' efforts to memorialize their slain schoolmates in a special issue of the school newspaper. After watching the video, campers discussed what it means to be a journalist in today's society.

"To me, it was just really interesting to see how photography plays a heavy role in journalism, and how you have to be responsible with the stories you tell," said Maiya Banks, an incoming SJC freshman who eventually produced a photo essay titled "Sisterhood" as part of the summer program.

From the start, instructors divided campers into two groups — those focused on producing photo essays and those interested in writing articles. The groups were led by SJC professors



The Campbell sisters, Karalee (left), 15; Teja, 19; Evah, 12; and Alayna, 20, are a close unit. Often, Teja's and Alayna's room is a central hub for the girls to hang out, laugh, or even comfort one another.



Nearby her hometown of Cleburne, Texas, Emily Verela found this very attentive and curious cow in a pasture.

Stephen Ruf and Alva James-Johnson, respectively. Participants chose their own projects, with topics such as "A Fire Survivor's Story," "A Day in the Life of a Literature Evangelist," and "White Coats for Black Lives."

"The virtual Photo/Journalism Boot Camp is an opportunity to equip talented high school students with the skills they need to become powerful storytellers in today's rapidly changing world," said James-Johnson, who led the writing workshops, in a press release issued by Southern. "We want to help them take their creative talents to the next level."

In addition to the two instructors, campers met other SJC professors who presented during morning sessions, exposing campers to the wide range of majors available in the communication field.

From mass communication to media production, journalism to public relations, campers learned of the different career paths possible with a communication degree. The group also learned about the ethics of journalism.

Ruf, who worked with photography campers, said he was impressed with the quality of work produced by the



As soon as the literature evangelists wake up, they gather chairs in a circle and start a worship session, with one of the teenagers leading with a word of prayer.

students at such young ages.

“Several of our student photographers weren’t satisfied with just the first round of pictures,” he said. “They went back to their subjects to explore new angles, capture different lighting, and dig deeper into the lives of their subjects. In all, their work exceeded my expectations for what high school students could accomplish in just a few days of photojournalism camp.”

The three-day camp ended with “Show & Tell,” which provided campers with an opportunity to present their final projects. Seven campers won \$100 prizes from the Southern Union Conference for projects that will be published at southerntidings.com.

“[I think] I can become a better writer because of the many lessons presented,” said high school sophomore Hannah Loudon, who won one of the prizes. For her final project, she co-wrote an article about AdventHealth’s role in helping venues such as Disney Springs and Daytona Speedway reopen amid COVID-19.

“It was interesting,” she said. “I felt like I accomplished something big that I never thought that I could do.”

The other contest winners are Maiya Banks, of Chattanooga, Tennessee;



During the raging wildfire, Kathy packed up all that she could in this RV and evacuated. Leaving her home, which was taken, to the mercy of the wildfire, she was lucky to have this RV to live in.

T’Ana Moore of Harrison City, Pennsylvania; Ashley Bloemetjie of Huntsville, Alabama; Amelia Ashcraft of Portland, Tennessee; Brenna Richards of Healdsburg, California; and Cecila Moreno of Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Moreno co-wrote the AdventHealth story with Loudon and took photos for the multimedia project.

“This is the second time I joined the camp, and I am happy I did,” Banks said. “I feel like you always learn something new. I’m definitely going to apply these skills when I go to college.” 📖

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Youth Revival GOES VIRAL

BY ANDREW AND NICOLE LOITEN



Speaking participants for the revival Teshawna Tomlinson (left), Lorenzo Hernandez, Kaivon Miller, and Shaqueena Danvers (not pictured) who spoke by video from the Cayman Islands, received thank-you gifts from children's ministries leaders Andrew and Nicole Loiten.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine 1,000 people from all over the world gathered together over a video conferencing platform to hear about the love of Jesus and the message of salvation. This was the case in June when the Children's Ministries Department of the Plantation, Florida, Church, in collaboration with Florida Conference, hosted their first virtual revival, themed "Jesus Is Coming Again."

Enthusiasm filled the air each night as children and adults from as far away as Africa logged onto their devices in anticipation of worship and to enjoy the powerful and captivating sermons preached by children. Viewers were also blessed with children presenting angel-

ic worship music, uplifting testimonies, well-choreographed presentations, and fervent prayers.

The three-night revival culminated with an anointed, Holy Spirit-led Sabbath service in which 10 individuals were saved. "We praise God for the souls that were won and the hundreds of lives transformed as a result of this revival," said Andrew and Nicole Loiten, children's ministry leaders.

Every night was abuzz with excitement for the giveaway segment. Some prizes were based on answers to questions from the previous night's worship service. "I'm so happy; this is amazing," said Teshawna Tomlinson after winning a laptop for inviting the most visitors. More than 100 of her invitees were in attendance, some all the way from Jamaica and Canada.

Joseph Salajan, senior pastor, along with other pastors and elders, provided

support to ensure the event was carried out successfully. "For many years, we have been praying for more children to come to our church. Now look what the Lord has done," exclaimed Joanna Reider, children's ministry elder. "It is such an awesome program. I love it," said Judy Smith, Florida Conference children's ministry director, as she expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the event.

As the theme stated, Jesus is indeed coming again, and the signs of the times are everywhere. While we continue to live on this Earth, the mandate of Matthew 28:19 will forever be etched in our hearts: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." 🕊



A virtual praise and worship team led music for youth revival at Plantation Church in Florida.

Reconnecting in RESPONSE TO CRISIS

BY ASHLEY NOONAN FOX

After countless attempted phone calls and much prayer, Yaniz (Seely) Rodriguez, '18, finally arranged to serve as a nurse on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City (NYC) this spring. Leaving the comfort of her home in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she took on the challenge. Yet, like many other nurses, she was not prepared for what she would witness.

Despite the efforts of medical professionals, patients of all ages succumbed to COVID-19 right before her eyes. Additionally, Rodriguez watched as her co-workers contracted the same disease that they were in New York to fight.

"Some days it felt like we were working in hospice, not a hospital," Rodriguez said. "I was scared to go to New York, but I felt very strongly that I was needed, and I still feel that way."

Even before her 21-day contract ended, she agreed to extend her time working in NYC, and she wasn't alone. Amid the regular heartaches and 15-hour days, Rodriguez found herself surrounded by fellow Southern Adventist University nursing alumni from across the country. Like Rodriguez, they left their daily routines at home to answer the call for help.

At the hospital in NYC, Rodriguez reconnected with Jocelin (Morales) Esparra, '17. They first met as students on campus and completed Southern's Soul-winning and Leadership Training (SALT) program together. After graduating, Esparra spent the next year as a missionary in India. When the pandemic began, Esparra had only been working as a nurse for 10 months. Although concerned that she did



After first meeting on a Southern Adventist University mission trip, Katarina Day (left) and Jocelin Esparra reconnected as nurses fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in New York.

not have sufficient experience to help in this crisis, Esparra felt God calling her to serve.

Esparra was the only Spanish-speaking bi-lingual nurse in her unit, and many of her patients spoke very little English. She often served as both nurse and translator. Like Rodriguez, Esparra was not prepared for the heartbreak she encountered.

One of Esparra's patients, who only spoke Spanish, was sobbing inconsolably despite the nurses' best efforts to comfort him. He desperately wanted to communicate with his family, whom he had not seen or spoken to in days. Due to hospital policy, family members were not allowed in the building, and the patient's room in a temporary overflow location for COVID-19 patients did not have a telephone. Esparra knew she had

to do something. Using her personal cell phone, she called the patient's family, and as peace and joy spread across his face, she felt God's presence in the room.

While attending Southern, Esparra had participated in a medical mission trip to Brazil in 2017. Serving in the Amazon, she worked alongside Southern attendee Katarina (Monteagudo) Day. Three years later, they were now certified nurses and unexpectedly reconnected in NYC, serving together again — albeit in a very different environment.

"Working here, you feel like you're back in the mission field," Day explained. "There's a lack of supplies, the equipment is older, and you really have to improvise."

Before the beginning of each new shift, her unit gathered together to pray for their patients' safety — as well as their own. Despite the setbacks, Day said her time in NYC strengthened her relationship with God, and she feels like she truly made a difference.

When Rodriguez, Esparra, and Day headed to New York, these Southern alumni had no idea they would reconnect in a city far from where they first met. The friendships they formed as students on campus provided a much-needed support system years later, bringing them closer to each other and to God during a dark time. ●

Ashley Noonan Fox is assistant director for Alumni Relations at Southern Adventist University, where she graduated in 2015.

Hope in the MIDST OF COVID-19

BY ROGER ALVAREZ

Roger Alvarez shares highlights from the "Hope Caravan."

In the struggles and the trials, the church continues to move on..." These are the lyrics of a song written in Spanish that convey our experience through COVID-19.

Astonished by the news, and in disbelief of what was happening, signs were placed on our church doors: "We are

rays of hope to hospitals, firefighters, and the homeless, giving them food and sharing the love of Christ. The idea born in the Emmanuel Spanish Church in Tampa, Florida, rapidly spread throughout our churches. Soon we were celebrating birthdays, supporting our brothers and sisters through their times of loss, going to funeral homes, celebrating graduations, distributing flowers for

people in the Church like never before. The circle of interaction among church members has expanded; people are truly looking out for each other, praying for each other, and truly being "their brother's keeper."

The Lord has truly blessed us with committed members, putting God's work before their own needs, calling their pastors to find out how to return their tithe, even when they didn't have enough to pay their own rent. To God be the glory!

Through the Holy Spirit, we developed a strategy and created new ways to minister to our communities in very uncertain and tumultuous circumstances. Like the angel of Revelation, with technology on our side, the YouTube signal reached literally thousands of people around the world. An average of 82,000 people from more than 60 countries have been blessed every week since we began the quarantine. People have surrendered their lives to Christ, and 19 new individuals have been baptized so far into our congregations since the beginning of this pandemic. We give God the praise!

Eight of our members were affected by the virus, including an entire family of four. We suffered one death. In spite of the agony and death surrounding us, hope always prevailed.

Jesús Cabrera shares his testimony about God's amazing grace.

Hello, my name is Jesús Cabrera. For those who do not know me, my wife,



PHOTO BY: ROGER ALVAREZ

Josue Parker (right), pastor of Silver Palms Spanish Church in Miami, Florida, baptizes Jesús Cabrera on Sabbath, June 6, 2020.

closed, due to the pandemic." With aching hearts and fearing the unknown, we entered into uncharted territory; we began our journey into the quarantine trusting in the Almighty for guidance and safety.

The "Hope Caravan" from different churches throughout our territory took

Mother's Day, and simply letting them know that we care. Every Sabbath since the quarantine began, the Hope Caravan, in some churches, distributes food to the needy members of our congregations. In some cases, members donate funds to purchase food to support this effort. Different chat groups have connected



PHOTO BY: ROGER ALVAREZ

The Hope Caravan Pilgrims deliver food to the firefighters.



PHOTO BY: ROGER ALVAREZ

Jesús Cabrera, commercial pilot, and his wife, Jacqueline Cabrera

Jacqueline, has been a Seventh-day Adventist for 12 years. Many of you might know I am a commercial pilot. On March 28, 2020, my whole life changed. On one of my flights that day, several of my passengers became contaminated with COVID-19, and even though I took the necessary precautions, I too became infected with the virus. It was quite shocking to receive such news.

The first question that went through my mind was, "What's going to happen to my wife and my entire family in

case I die?" I knew I was not ready to die, and I also wondered how my family would survive. I know that many of you reading this may say to yourself, "I am ready to die," because you have given your lives to Christ, but I couldn't say the same because I had not given my life to the One that gave me life. I had frequently visited my wife's church, Silver Palms, Miami, Florida, and you would think saying "yes" would have been simple for me to say. Something always held me back.

Fearful of dying without surrendering my life to Christ, I poured out my heart to God, pleading for Him to be merciful to me and allow me to be reborn in Jesus Christ, and promising that I would commit my life to serving Him. Only those who have been infected with COVID-19 and have survived know the horrible symptoms that you can experience. During my time of anguish, my wife's pastor, Josue Parker, called me without knowing my situation and offered to pray for me. At that moment, I knew that it was God answering my prayer. I am certain that it was God's grace alone. He heard my cry, and that same day my symptoms were gone. Praise God! He has given me the opportunity to be a better man, husband, and son; and, now

it's up to me to do my part.

I ... surrendered my life to Christ on Sabbath, June 6, 2020, and I will no longer have any fear in facing tomorrow, for I will live and serve Jesus Christ now and until His coming.

Brother Jesús Cabrera is a living testimony of God's love, and a reminder of His great faithfulness.

The Hispanic community has hosted 40 Days of Prayer; Weeks of Prayer; and seminars related to prophecy, mental health, nutrition, marriage counseling, and "surviving the quarantine." As a result, motivation and inspiration has been reaching people more than ever.

Matthew 24:14 says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations ..." To that end, we tirelessly work. It is our motto, our sacred mission. The enemy meant this for evil, but the Lord used it to save many, and lives have been touched with the transforming power of the Gospel. Maranatha! 🕊

Roger Alvarez is a pastor and the Hispanic ministries coordinator for the Southeastern Conference.

Groundbreaking Technology Allows “Dead” Hearts to be Transplanted

The AdventHealth Transplant Institute cardiothoracic program performed the first heart transplant in Florida through a process known as Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD). The team utilized a donor heart that was no longer beating and was evaluated via a groundbreaking process under a clinical U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigation.

DCD heart transplantation gives hope to patients and physicians faced with a growing organ shortage across America. These heart transplants are made possible by a clinical trial using the Transmedics Organ Care System, a machine that keeps a heart which was stopped prior to donation viable for hours. AdventHealth is one of 12 transplant centers in the country participating in a clinical trial for the process. The transplant was a team effort in partnership with AdventHealth Translational Research Institute and the organ procurement agency OurLegacy.

“There are far more people in this country who need heart transplants than there are heart donors,” said Donald Botta, M.D., surgical director of the heart transplant program at AdventHealth. “We’re excited to have another tool in our arsenal that can help us save lives. These kinds of transplants could expand the donor pool by thousands.”

George Martin, 46, had been awaiting a transplant since 2018, when a severe case of influenza attacked his heart muscle. The Belleview resident had twice before been told a donor heart was available only to later learn that the organ was not viable.

In mid-June, the AdventHealth Transplant Institute team traveled out-of-state to the donor’s location, procured the

heart for Martin after the donor was removed from the ventilator, and connected it to the machine to support it with blood from the donor. The team returned to Orlando with the heart, where it was transplanted into Martin.

“The next day I was up walking,” Martin, a Navy veteran and an engineer for Lockheed Martin, said. “From an engineering standpoint, the technology was

the Transmedics clinical trial at AdventHealth. “Instead, they’ll save lives of people like George Martin, and hopefully many more central Florida residents.”

“Organ donors, such as Martin’s, are heroes who deserve our gratitude and respect,” said Ginny McBride, executive director of OurLegacy, central Florida’s organ procurement organization. “This new technology will allow donors and



something that appealed to me. It’s just a blessing.”

Nearly 110,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list, and, according to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, more than 3,000 of those are waiting for a heart. Twenty people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.

“The hearts that will be transplanted as a result of this technology would have been buried before,” said Scott Silvestry, M.D., surgical director for thoracic transplant at the AdventHealth Transplant Institute and the principal investigator for

their families to touch even more lives through their generosity. We are humbled to be stewards of these life-saving gifts.”

Signing up to be an organ donor is quick and easy. Anyone can be a donor regardless of age, religion, race, and nationality. To learn more, visit AdventHealthTransplantInstitute.com/About-Us/Ways-You-Can-Help. ①

BY JEFF GRAINGER, MANAGER OF
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR
ADVENTHEALTH’S CENTRAL FLORIDA
DIVISION

AHU Launches New Master's Degree in Spiritual Care

AdventHealth University (AHU) is adding a new degree to its online department in collaboration with AdventHealth (AH). The Master of Science in Spiritual Care (MSSC) program will launch in January 2021, and begins accepting applications on September 1, 2020. This is the first theological degree from the University. Its mission-focused curriculum will prepare graduates to provide whole-person spiritual care.

AdventHealth employs more than 150 chaplains across its healthcare system. Over the next five years, AH anticipates a growing need for more chaplains as some retire and chaplaincy roles expand within an already growing healthcare system.

In his letter of support for MSSC's accreditation, Terry Shaw, president/CEO of AdventHealth, wrote, "The planning of the [MSSC] has been a collaborative effort on behalf of the University and the healthcare system. University officials and faculty have worked closely with spiritual care and chaplaincy leaders from the healthcare system to design this program. We believe it will be a significant compliment to whole person care, and that it will provide well-trained chaplains and leaders to sustain our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ."

Only two schools in the North American Division prepare chaplains specifically for hospital ministry, which "is simply not adequate to fulfill the current and future needs of AdventHealth," according to Stan Dobias, D.Min., MSSC Program director. He led a committee of AH leaders and AHU faculty in its development.

Dobias said, "The MSSC was envisioned a little more than five years ago as an opportunity for AHU and AdventHealth to collaborate in more connected ways by bringing the excellence and resources of graduate education, online platforms, and academic experts, along with



Hospital chaplains provide spiritual care to patients as well as staff and visitors.

the expertise of clinical providers, in preparing chaplains who will serve in and out of AdventHealth."

For almost 30 years, AH has sponsored an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program offering theological education for ministry of all types taught in a clinical setting. The CPE's integration into the MSSC program offers the experiential aspect of chaplaincy preparation from a robust program with a legacy for educating board-certified chaplains.

AH has five accredited CPE centers across five states, including its Orlando, Fla., campus. Additionally, there are more than 300 APCE accredited centers in the U.S., allowing MSSC students to access CPE training wherever they live while completing their coursework online.

Ted Hamilton, Ph.D., chief mission integration officer and senior vice president; Jay Perez, vice president for mission and ministry; and Ramona Reynolds, executive director of ministry education and research, were named as key AH members who played an instrumental role in developing and launching the program.

Reynolds said, "AHU's program also welcomes students from all faiths, and will be developing specialties that allow

students to supplement their learning with specialties in bioethics, mission leadership, and healthcare administration — leveraging the academic expertise that already exists at AHU."

Students preparing for employment within AdventHealth facilities will take classes in Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, and participate in pastoral mentoring programs that will provide congregational connection and experience.

Edwin I. Hernández, president of AHU, said, "This degree will serve both Adventists and candidates from other faith traditions, creating a powerful learning environment to advance the mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ."

AH promises wholeness in healing to its patients. Spiritual care is key to meeting a patient's needs outside of just their physical pain. By understanding the importance of spiritual and mental wellness to a person's overall health, AHU's graduates are better prepared to become practitioners and advocates of whole-person care. ❶

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Virtual Easter Communion Draws Increased Attendance

The Arden, N.C., Church was determined to hold an Easter communion service in spite of the quarantine due to the coronavirus. Eric Bates, senior pastor; Devin Lilly, associate pastor; and Whitney Barron, church secretary, prepared “to-go communion packages” and delivered them to the homes of 187 members. Packed with doubly sealed and manufactured juice and wafers, Sabbath School materials, and handwritten notes, these packages allowed members to participate in communion together via Zoom.

With gloves on, the three personally drove to each home and dropped off the packages to the members’ front steps, and in some cases were even able to wave “hello” and wish them well through windows and screen doors.

This year, the attendance was higher for the Zoom communion service than

most in-person services. Coming together online allowed members who might otherwise be inhibited, or uncomfortable with partaking in all aspects of communion, such as foot washing, to join and fellowship.

“COVID-19 has not hijacked our joy, our purpose, our hope, or Easter, and what it means for our lives as Christians,” said Lilly. “If anything has been hijacked, it was the grave that was borrowed for three days before Jesus rose again. People were really appreciative of being met where they are, literally. It was so special to see families in their homes (via Zoom), and to gather together, especially for communion.”

With Easter happening in the first phase of the novel coronavirus lockdown, this creative communion service set the tone for how Arden members



PHOTO BY: WHITNEY BARRON

The Arden Church staff created “take-out” communion kits so their members could participate at home during a Zoom communion service.

continues to gather together as a church family during the pandemic. 📌

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

Recovered Member Runs for Jesus

Mandy Smith was preparing the 2013 Christmas dinner for her family in Flat Rock, N.C., in the middle of a blizzard. In a hurry, she darted across the street to her parents’ house to pick up her daughter, Arielle Lynch, and in her rush back home she slipped and fell in the snow, and her legs flew out from under her. She twisted her left knee under her right leg, breaking her ankle and shattering her knee. Smith’s daughter picked her up, carried her inside, and waited for the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit to arrive. The snow was so heavy that night, it took more than an hour for help to arrive.

“I had been traveling down a rocky road, way away from Jesus for nearly 13 years,” said Smith. “While waiting for the EMS, my daughter and I felt so much



PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED

peace for the first time in years watching the snow fall.”

In the months to follow, Smith waited for a donor in a fitted brace from her ankle up to her thigh. Still unsure of what place God had in her life, Smith felt she saw His

compassion in the acts of others during her time waiting for a donor. The brace made it difficult to move around.

“It was during this time of waiting that I saw the true character of complete strangers,” said Smith. “People went out of their

way to hold doors and wait for my crutches to slowly cross the road. My daughter would carry me on her back. Slowly my barriers were breaking down.”

After a donor was selected, Smith went into surgery knowing that the knee replacement saved her from the possibilities of amputation or being crippled. Post-surgery, Smith was provided with the opportunity to anonymously thank the family for her “new” knee. In that process, she felt God speaking to her heart.

“While I was writing a letter to the family thanking them for their gift and for checking the box to be an organ donor, I

heard an audible voice that reverberated through my whole body say, ‘I checked that box for you, too,’” said Smith. “I thought I had grieved the Holy Spirit away, but instead I heard His voice! He was calling me back; my ice-cold heart still belonged to Him! I cried a lot and re-dedicated my life to Jesus.”

Since her recovery, Smith has been running a 5K at Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting every summer to commemorate her surgery and her conversion. This year, due to the cancellation of Camp Meeting brought on by the novel coronavirus pandemic, Smith ran the full length

of a 5K in her own neighborhood!

“I owe everything to God; my daughter, Arielle Lynch; Toby Tyler and his special friendship; and my church family and friends for pouring their never-tiring love and patience to me,” said Smith.

Smith was rebaptized after studying the Bible for about a year, and is now an active member at the Upward Church in Flat Rock, N.C. ●

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

Students Create Day Camp at Asheville-Pisgah Christian School



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY JIMENEZ



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY JIMENEZ

When COVID-19 derailed Jake Miller’s summer internship plans, the junior business major at Southern Adventist University decided to use his experience to fill the need of childcare in his local Asheville community. A veteran staff member at Nosoca Pines Ranch, Miller called upon three camp friends, Caleb Raymond, and Nicole and Katie Robinson, to help him launch a day camp at Asheville-Pisgah Christian School (APCS).

“Getting this idea off the ground was such a learning experiencing,” said Miller. “There were so many steps I had to make sure I did right so the kids would be safe

with the social distancing requirements.”

Miller’s home church, Foster Church, Asheville, N.C., generously donated funds to cover the insurance, and they also partnered with Nosoca Pines Ranch for worship resources. The camp had its first day on June 15, 2020, with about 10 children. Miller and the staff rotated the children between socially distanced activities like worship, crafts, treasure hunts, and sports like kickball and dodgeball. All four staff members volunteered their time, and agreed to work without knowing whether they would be able to make an income. Some even paid out of pocket to provide materials for the

various crafts and games, and APCS donated supplies they had on hand.

“I have such a capable staff. We all had to do some heavy lifting before camp started, and I’m so glad I’m working with people I can trust,” said Miller.

Parents can register their children, ages 6-12, for a day at a time or for the entire week from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-Friday. The aim was to keep the camp running for four weeks, and if they received adequate funding, they would continue running for a total of seven weeks. ●

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

Food Distribution Brings Soul to Christ



Dedicated volunteers help weekly with the giveaway food program at South Orlando Church.

The South Orlando, Fla., Church food program was originally started 20 years ago in a little room in the church and helped 20 families,” says Wilton Campbell, community services leader, who is in charge of the food program. “The good Lord helps us with food,” he says.

Apryl Dixon started attending the weekly food giveaway program whenever she needed food. “One day when I came, I met Brother Campbell, and he was telling me about his church.” Because he was so nice, Dixon told him, “One day, I am coming to your church.”

Dixon made good on her promise, and not only visited Campbell’s church, but she started attending regularly. “I went, and it sure was a great church. I got baptized and became a member.” Now, she works with Campbell as one of his volunteers, because “it is such a good program,” Dixon says. She has enjoyed being there ever since. What a blessing



Because Wilton Campbell (left), in charge of the food program, talked about his church and was so nice, Apryl Dixon was baptized and joined South Orlando Church.

one dedicated Christian made in the life of Dixon.

Alex Vaz, pastor, says that usually the church supplies 50 to 60 families with a box of food every week. Because of COVID-19, there are now more than 120 families coming each Friday to receive a

box of food. “Many thanks goes to the great team of volunteers,” says Vaz.

The people are so appreciative for the food and for the prayers offered for and with them. The visitors are handed books from a display, including *The Great Hope* and *The Great Controversy*. ❶

Florida Conference Holds iRedZone



Enjoying iRedZone in their tent at home are the Gonzalez brothers, Malachi, Malik, and Makyhi, from the Cape Coral Flames Adventure Club.



One of the administrative assistants, Marina Acevedo, is shown monitoring four screens throughout the programs.

Pathfinders and Adventurers from all across the state of Florida came together online to celebrate the closing of another year in club ministries, May 22-24, 2020.

Typically, thousands of children and adults gather at Camp Kulaqua for Red Zone each May to end the ministries year. This year, due to COVID-19, the committee voted to cancel the physical gathering. However, the committee didn't want to disappoint so many children and cancel one more thing after the children had already lost school, church, and Adventurer and Pathfinder meetings. The question was raised about what could be done.

A digital version of the event, iRedZone was born. Worship services were streamed live on Zoom, Facebook, and Instagram. Awards, honors, and activities were all taught online. In addition, the office team found a whole library of awards/honors that had already been posted by others online. They put all this together on a special web site, floridaconference.com/iRedZone, and



Jay and Max are showing off their iRedZone shirts: "I am Loved...and Heaven Bound."

soon the "dream" became a reality.

Two administrative assistants spent the weekend monitoring and troubleshooting online issues with four screens set up

to track all that was going on. With God's help and a lot of work from the team, the event was conducted to give the children and families an unforgettable experience.

It was a thrill to watch families camping together in backyards, living rooms, or some even by pools. The goal was to give families an opportunity to do things together. Whether it was watching a worship service, doing an online scavenger hunt, working on a craft, or participating in an award or honor, there was something for everyone.

The theme for the weekend was, "I Am Loved ... and Heaven Bound." This goal was to remind everyone that in life it doesn't always go as one would like it to. This was a timely reminder of what it is like to live life with confidence, no matter what, because all can know there is a God Who loves each person and has prepared a place for everyone to spend forever with Him. 🙏

BY PEDRO PEREZ

Conference Does Kingdom Growth, One Person at a Time

The Personal Ministries, Information Technology, and Communication departments at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference recently rebranded an online witnessing tool called Bible Research, www.bibleresearch.info. Equipped with a new website and updated outreach materials, the program offers online video Bible lessons with teacher E. W. Dempsey, a written correspondence Bible program with retired teacher Beth Ray Dempsey, as well as DVDs and CDs of the video Bible lessons.

These written lessons have the highest percentage of completion, and about 45 percent of the requests come from the Bible Research website. Since January 2020, 696 students have taken these Bible lessons, with 225 finishing, for a completion rate of 32 percent. For individuals who do not wish to study online, a total of 2,899 DVDs and CDs have been mailed since January 1.

As the director for Bible Research, Dempsey often receives questions concerning his Bible lessons. In one phone call, a man from Virginia who had found Bible Research online said, "I have a company that advertises free religious material on the internet. Can I include a link to your website?"



PHOTO BY: BRIAN YOUNG

E.W. Dempsey, adult ministries director, has recorded 53 video Bible lessons on bibleresearch.info. He encourages members to give out the Bible Research business cards to share Jesus. The Bible Research website was recently updated with plans to also include 10-minute devotionals for busy professionals.

As a result of those free video studies, the man requested free written Bible study lessons, and was tremendously impressed by the book *Passion of Love* by Ellen G. White.

Michael, a Methodist Episcopal pastor, recently called to say that he, too, was inspired by *Passion of Love*. He even took time to study the materials in preparation for sharing this book with his

church study group.

A Bible student named Betty called to ask if we could help her understand the following questions:

1. What day is truly God's Sabbath?
2. What is the truth about the rapture and Christ's return?
3. What really happens when you die?

In prison ministries, seven inmates in a federal prison started a Sabbath service and needed resources. Bible Research gave them books for their library. They also received Bibles and support for the church members who lead prison ministries programs.

Bible Research impacts people all over the globe. Reaching out with Bible Research is as simple as handing someone a business card. Anyone can witness. If you would like to receive a box of Bible Research business cards, call E. W. Dempsey at 423-667-5420 or Becky Campbell at 800-567-1844, ext. 348. ❶



BY E.W. DEMPSEY

Collegedale Academy Graduates National Merit Scholar



SUBMITTED BY: ANGI HOWELL

Ryan Howell, 2020 Collegedale Academy senior, is a National Merit Scholarship recipient, making him eligible for numerous college scholarships.



SUBMITTED BY: ANGI HOWELL

Ryan Howell and Tyler Vaudreuil, both Collegedale Academy seniors, used to voluntarily go to downtown Chattanooga, Tenn., to pray with anyone who desired prayer on Sabbath afternoons.

Collegedale Academy (CA) is proud to announce that a class of 2020 senior, Ryan Howell, has been awarded the honor of being a National Merit Scholar.

"This honor takes a lot of hard work and academic skill to accomplish. Ryan is the first National Merit Scholar we've had in a number of years," says Brent Baldwin, CA principal. "Additionally, Ryan is involved; has a genuine, helpful spirit; and aims to be a friend to all."

Howell notes that his goals in high school included to be involved in as much as possible, in addition being engaged in class and keeping his grades high. "My sister was my 'crash course' for high school. She went through it all two years ahead of me, and she taught me the tricks of the trade. One that she emphasized above the rest was that I needed to keep my GPA high, so, with some gentle, pointed encouragement from my parents, I did. My sister also encouraged me to get involved, which may've been the most important thing I needed to hear. I tried just about everything Collegedale Academy has to offer, and I loved almost all of it. I joined groups I never imagined I'd be interested in, but they be-

came some of my favorite parts of school. My high school experience would've been drastically different if I hadn't been encouraged to try a bit of everything."

Incredibly, Howell shares that he's always enjoyed taking standardized tests. "It's fun! It's a constant 'go, go, go,' and I'm energized when I find the right answers. My mind feels like it's working a mile-a-minute, and a part of it is just enjoying the rush."

To qualify to be a National Merit Scholar, a student must pass the PSAT with a certain score. Collegedale Academy provides the PSAT to all sophomores. If a high enough score is obtained, a student is invited back to take the PSAT again. Many juniors at CA are regularly invited back and opt to take the second PSAT test. When the second set of national PSAT scores are compiled, there is a threshold score in each state that qualifies a student to be selected as a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Next, the student applies to the National Merit organization and submits his or her ACT/SAT score, and the student's school submits a recommendation noting his or her academic history and student involvement. Students are notified in February of their senior year if they have obtained the honor.

Many colleges across the nation view this achievement as "scholarship worthy." Most National Merit Scholars have the opportunity to have at least their tuition and general fee covered by a scholarship at a large number of universities across the nation.

Howell applied and was accepted to several colleges and chose to attend Southern Adventist University, where he plans to study chemistry with a computer science minor, potentially pursuing a path to medicine, to chemical engineering, or "through other doors God opens."

Howell reflects on many parts of his life that aided in his achievement, a significant one being his family. "My parents made sure both my sister and I were on top of our studies, as well as encouraged and allowed us to pursue extra things in our lives — spiritual activities, music, sports, acting, student leadership, etc. The main determinants on how much we could do were our grades and attitudes. Our parents made sure we had our priorities in line, and, without them, I would've lost myself in everything I wanted to be a part of." 📌

BY ANGI HOWELL AND
TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

David Livermore Retires from Gulf States

David Livermore, president of Gulf States Conference, concluded his service on September 1, 2020, during a regularly scheduled executive committee meeting. Livermore announced his plans to retire several months prior, and had served as president for Gulf States since 2015. Before this, he joined the Conference as the executive secretary in 2013. In total, Livermore has served in various ministerial roles for more than 30 years, beginning in 1988 as a pastor for the Wisconsin Conference.

Livermore's journey began while working for the Soo Line Railroad for 16 years. He started his relationship with Jesus near the end of that term. It started when a neighbor offered Livermore's wife, Teresa, in-home Bible studies with her and the children. Eventually, Livermore joined the studies and visited an Adventist church.

When Livermore arrived, he was embraced with a bear hug from the greeter, someone he had never met before. "I never heard a word the preacher preached, because all I was thinking was 'How am I going to get out of here without being hugged by her again,'" says Livermore, "I have never been a huggy type of guy." His experience changed as he was attempting to exit through a side door. As he walked through a narrow hallway, an elderly woman approached him and said, "You're Teresa's husband, Dave? I've been praying for you." Livermore recounts her countenance and voice as being so kind, that it must have been the Lord working through her. She gently took Livermore's hand in hers and said, "Would you come back and join us again?" "I went back the next week because of her," Livermore says.

Livermore faced Sabbath-related work issues with the railroad and had his position changed. During these conflicts, he truly felt that the Holy Spirit was with him



Dave Livermore, Gulf States president, is excited for the potential that churches have in Gulf States.

as he gave the answers to their questions regarding religious rights. A few years later, an opportunity came up to participate in prison ministries. "I quickly developed a desire to work with people instead of boxcars," says Livermore. Through a connection at the prison, Livermore was encouraged to go to college, which he did, initially to work as a social worker. Still, ultimately he changed gears to pastoral ministries. It was Teresa who suggested that his real desire was for ministry, not social work.

Livermore worked steadfastly and acquired a bachelor's degree from Andrews University in just seven quarters. Livermore then participated in the North American Division Evangelism Institute's (NADEI) practical program in Chicago for six months before taking his first pastoral district in Wisconsin at age 36. "I was driven, I wanted to change the world for Jesus," said Livermore about his pastoral start. "I made a lot of

mistakes, but it didn't change my drive and passion."

After two years, Livermore took a call to the Hawaii Conference, where he met success through evangelism and community outreach. He then took a call to the Oregon Conference. At his interview with the Kelso-Longview Church in Kelso, Wash., Livermore was asked how he saw church in the future. "I want to build a church that my kids would be happy to stay in. I don't want to just add on to what you're doing here. I want to be impactful in the community, not just in the church body," responded Livermore. Livermore served the Oregon Conference for 12 years, during which time the Kelso-Longview Church was among the fastest-growing Adventist churches in North America. Livermore gives credit to the success of the church to God. He also credits the volunteers who determined only to do what they could do with excellence. Rather than going through the traditional paces in the order of service, they crafted a worship experience that utilized the spiritual gifts of the leaders and volunteers. "Nobody was sleeping, and nobody was yawning," says Livermore of their church services, "kids were coming in excited for church."

During his time in Oregon, other pastors came to train with Livermore. Neighboring Upper Columbia Conference would send about 10 pastors at a time to work with him for several days, culminating on a Sabbath at the church. Eventually, Upper Columbia called Livermore to discuss a position as director of personal evangelism. Teresa overheard the phone call and told him later, "Boy, that's got your name written all over it." Later, Livermore was informed that the Conference officially offered the position to someone else. However, his wife was unphased: "You're going to get that call." Livermore did get that call the next week

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

when the first candidate turned them down.

Livermore worked in Upper Columbia on a variety of projects, but his favorites were pastoral cluster meetings. These meetings brought several area pastors together to discuss assigned reading, and help support each other through conversation and sharing. Livermore was thriving in this ministry area when he got the call that his name was submitted for the presidency at the Minnesota Conference. Shortly after that, he received a call from Mel Eisele, former president for Gulf States, that Livermore's name was added to a list of 60 people for executive secretary. While Livermore was happy where he was, he recalls praying to the Lord, "Maybe you're not done with me yet."

Eisele called Livermore a few months later to inform him that he was among the top five and was being called for an interview. "I didn't know where Gulf States was, and I didn't know anybody

in Gulf States. In fact, I could honestly tell you I'd never heard of it," says Livermore. "I was so fulfilled in Spokane, Wash. I loved the work there. But, I knew I didn't want to live there forever, and I wouldn't retire there. I didn't like the weather," Livermore recounts. "So, I did pray at some point, 'Lord, if it's in your will, I wouldn't mind a warmer climate to retire in.' Little did I know how warm it would be!" said Livermore. The call was extended, and he accepted it in 2013.

When asked what the greatest need in local churches is, Livermore states that "we could get better at relationships with one another; we're so hard on each other, and hard on visitors We should treat people at church the same as if we invited them to our home; we clean it up, make it the best we can, anticipate their arrival, and be ready for them There is also a lot of good music that isn't played here; even Southern gospel is great, and so little

of it is used We should read more and get more fresh ideas. I think our message is solid, but we haven't been the best messengers," says Livermore. "I do regret that I didn't do more for our teachers in our schools. I'm sure they feel that I didn't do as much I could have, and I am truly sorry for that. I wish I could have done more for them. They deserve it."

Regarding the future for Gulf States, "We have many churches with incredible potential, I pray they keep dreaming and taking action If there is anything I feel like I leave behind, it's the best pastor group I've ever seen. They're gifted, driven, and smart, and I'm excited about their positive impact on our Conference."

Livermore's retirement program aired on August 30, 2020, and can be viewed at gscsda.org/livermore. ①

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Huntsville Reaches Out Despite COVID-19

Huntsville Central Church in Huntsville, Ala., is finding ways to carry on its activities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The church building is open for both Sabbath worship service and mid-week service. While physical attendees are few in number, those who feel safer staying at home can view both services via live stream on YouTube. Their Pathfinder Club, Huntsville Spacewalkers, took advantage of the Zoom app to finish out the Pathfinder year and to have Investiture. The Club normally takes the summer off, but this summer they have had virtual get-togethers via Zoom to work on honors and socialize. The TLTs (Teen Leadership Training youth) helped distribute food to the needy, and assisted with the Kindergarten Zoom Sabbath School classes.

Church members have also been engaged in reaching out to the community. A small group of Huntsville Central members, including some youth, joined with members of the Huntsville First Church to do a drive-by food distribution. Central helped pay for the food, and First Church organized the event. More than 400 boxes of food were given out. Additionally, a small group of Central members purchased cookies and pizza, which they delivered to the police precinct which serves and protects their church property, to show their appreciation for their service to the community.

Meanwhile, volunteers have been sprucing up the Big Cove Christian Academy property in anticipation of the school opening on schedule and to prepare for the incoming students. The school hopes



Young people from Huntsville Central Church deliver pizza and snacks to the local police precinct.

to conduct the graduation ceremony for last year's eighth-graders soon. ①

BY KATHY LAMSON

God Sends Bible Students

Carmen Cole's life was a landscape of peaks and valleys. It was during a valley experience that she began searching for God's next plan for her life. She opened her heart to God completely and asked Him to use her in whatever way He wanted. She had no idea what this would lead to.

A few months later, God opened the door for Cole. He led her to a family that asked if she would be willing to give their children baptismal classes. She was surprised because she had never conducted baptismal classes before. As she prayed about it, she came to believe that this was the ministry God had provided for her, so she agreed. They met once a week using the book *It's My Choice*, by Steve and Marit Case. When they completed the book, two young people were baptized.

A few months later, another family



Jonathan Bagoyado, Carmen Cole, and Danielle Alfonzo



Junior Guzman (left) and Adrian Guzman



Jack Parobek, Isabel Parobek, Noah Anderson, Farrah Gomez, Margaret Lucas, and Emylia Gomez

mentioned that their daughter had been baptized earlier, but had never taken the baptismal course. They wanted Cole to take her and her sister through the course, and Cole agreed. Then three more families wanted their children included, which made six students.

The group was about halfway through the course when the church closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The classes were transitioned and completed on Zoom. Along the way, the Lord added one

more family with two brothers. The students just kept coming!

In the last year and a half, six students have been baptized, and three more plan to be baptized as soon as arrangements can be made. Now they have incorporated a regular Friday night Bible study via Zoom, and several students have joined in.

God also sent a very special person who wanted Bible studies to Cole. It was her own mother-in-law. Her mother-

in-law asked if she would be willing to teach her about the Bible.

Cole said, "I never expected this rich experience and I don't know where it goes from here, but I know God always has a plan and He will include you in it if you ask!" 📞

BY GAIL MCKENZIE,
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Students Blessed During Pandemic



Curt Dewitt (left), pastor; Daniel Brobrov; and Bob Wint, pastor

What are you doing Sabbath afternoon?" Steve Dickman asked Bob Wint. Not sure what to say, Wint asked, "Why? What do you have in mind?" Dickman responded, "We have a number of students ready for baptism, and would like

to have a baptism this Sabbath afternoon." "That's certainly what I will be doing Sabbath afternoon," said Wint.

Curt Dewitt had been studying with the students at Harbert Hills Academy (HHA) in Bible class. Some students made a decision to be baptized

because of that class and an inspiring Week of Prayer. Others sensed an urgent need to make their commitment to Christ because they were awakened by COVID-19 that Jesus is coming soon. They wanted to be ready and help others be ready for His soon return.

That Sabbath, May 16, 2020, there was a beautiful baptism held in a creek near HHA. Students and staff gathered on the bridge and provided wonderful music while God provided a soothing breeze and a songbird choir. Seven students were baptized, and two staff members were rebaptized. It was a real blessing and refreshing pause during a pandemic. 🕊



Curt DeWitt (front), pastor; Ziel Choul Gew (front, left); Fraol Kebede; Lensa Hashim; Rowena DeWitt; Fraol Kadir (back, left); Gustavo Rojas; and Daniel Brobrov

BY BOB WINT

Camp Meeting 2020 Provides Virtual Experience



PHOTO BY: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, D.MIN.

Benjamin Jones, president of South Central Conference, delivers the evening message.



PHOTO BY: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, D.MIN.

The ordination candidates and their families

The spread of COVID-19 has changed the way people interact with friends and family. It has changed how many attend church, closed businesses and schools, and completely altered the usual way of life. One thing the deadly virus has not ended are the worship services. It may have changed how worship is done, but it will never stop it. This past July, South Central Conference hosted its first-ever virtual Camp Meeting with the theme, “Even So, Come Lord Jesus.” With more than 30,000 individuals and families virtually in attendance worldwide, it was indeed a fantastic experience.

The virtual weekend program consisted of a powerful Friday evening message delivered by Michael B. Kelly, pastor of Mount Rubidoux Church. In his sermon he addressed the recent events of injustice to individuals of color. He expressed that as a Church, members cannot keep silent, and they must reach out and help this broken world. On Sabbath, Toussaint Williams, Ph.D., delivered the Sabbath School lesson, followed by a sermon from Benjamin Jones Jr., president of South

Central Conference.

Camp Meeting included an exceptional ordination evening service in which Paul Shongwe, D.Litt. et Phil., president of the Trans-Orange Conference of South Africa, was the ordination speaker. His message was to encourage as he commissioned the ordainees to continue the work entrusted to them by God to prepare hearts for His soon return. The ordainees include John Brooks Sr., pastor; Janice Brown, Ph.D.; William Enoch Burgess, chaplain; Rayner Edwards, chaplain; Donald Henderson, pastor; Mark Hyde, pastor; Celeve Izean, pastor; and Marcus McIntyre, pastor. Each of these individuals were ordained and honored while still practicing social distancing.

Camp Meeting also featured another unique program for the youth. South Central youth directors Michael Polite and Kimberly Mann, pastor, organized a fantastic virtual discussion forum called “Chop-It-Up 2020.” The program featured celebrity guests Kelontae Gavin, recording artist; Ezekiel Azonwu, spoken word; and Keyla Richardson, recording artist. The panel spoke on injustice and

other topics related to the youth of today. The forum was conducted during the entire weekend program and received terrific feedback from the youth as they enjoyed the subject matter and activities.

As many continue to endure the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide social injustice after this Spirit-filled Camp Meeting, they must remember that church is not a building. Additionally, the wise words of the late Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” should be remembered. Camp Meeting weekend was a hopeful reminder that although the circumstances have changed and injustice is still alive, and the shadows of death have come near many, God is still in control. He turns curses into blessings that will not cease, and His hands continue to guide as He guided Noah and his family in the Ark through a raging storm. Comfort one another with these words: “Even So, Come, Lord Jesus.” ●

BY ANTHONY CHORNES II

Southeastern Conference Television Launched

As part of its mission-driven initiative, the administrators and members of the Executive Committee of Southeastern Conference (SEC) had a vision of launching a television station that would assist in bringing its message of hope and wholeness to the Southeastern territory, and “the everlasting gospel ... unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people,” Revelation 14:6 KJV.

This initiative was scheduled to be launched in the second quarter of 2020. However, with the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic, life as all know it changed. A state of national emergency was declared on March 13, and stay-at-home orders subsequently were issued. Through the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control, all Conference churches and schools were closed. Swift action was needed to keep the members connected and engaged. As a Conference, the staff sprung to action. It was “all

hands on deck,” and on March 21, SECTv hit the airwaves. As a result of the administration’s creative thinking and forward planning, SECTv was in place to provide quality programming to meet the needs of its members and the wider community during a time of unforeseen crisis.

SEC Worship from Home provides various programs for Sabbath where the viewers can experience a full day of worship right from the comfort of their homes, beginning at 9 a.m., and ending at 7:30 p.m. The divine hour service is presented in the three major languages (English, French, and Spanish) in the Southeastern Conference, so all the members can be a part of the experience.

The ability to provide these quality programs is due to the work of a dedicated team of hosts, producers, directors, program directors, streaming technicians, camera crew, video editors, and other support staff.

SECTv can be accessed through the

YouTube channel (Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists), and also through the website at www.secsda.org.

SECTv is a growing success. There are about 1,000 views for each show, and more than 8,000 subscribers to the Facebook page and YouTube channel, and it continues to grow each day.

The Conference is excited about the future of SECTv. Through SECTv, Southeastern can stay connected with its members, and reach the people within the territory and far beyond with the message of the Lord’s soon return. Jesus will be coming soon, and God is using this medium to reach His children near and far to be assured of Him during this time of uncertainty. Stay tuned and be a part of this effort to reach communities with a Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness. ❶

BY NOEL V. GRANT

Myrtice Benefield Celebrates 100th Birthday



PHOTO BY: HENRY PEARSON

Myrtice Benefield has served the Mt. Olive Church in Apopka, Fla., for more than 68 years.

The oldest church member currently attending the Mt. Olive Church in Apopka, Fla., is Myrtice Benefield. Benefield celebrated her 100th birthday on June 18, 2020. She was born June 18, 1920, in Lee County, Ala., the youngest of 10 children born to the late Robert and Lucy Hightower.

Benefield moved to Apopka in 1941, joined the Mt. Olive Church shortly after it was organized in 1952, and has been a faithful member for the past 68 years. She has served the church as usher, deaconess, community services leader, and hospitality leader.

Benefield still lives alone doing her own shopping, cleaning, and cooking. She has been known for many years as the “world’s best maker of sweet potato pies.” She tells anyone who will listen that she talks to Jesus every day: when she gets up, during the day, and before she goes to bed at night. Benefield says Jesus is her friend. ❶

BY HENRY PEARSON

Radio Station Takes on Increased Academic Role

Classical 90.5 WSMC has served a variety of purposes at Southern Adventist University and in the community since it first began broadcasting nearly 60 years ago. The 100,000-watt radio station is transitioning to new governance under Southern's School of Journalism and Communication this fall, a move that provides increased opportunities for students from multiple majors to learn both technical and soft skills.

"Our focus remains delighting our classical music audience — that's who we are — but increased student involvement will be a key difference," said Scott Kornblum, general manager for the station since 2009. "We'll look for more class projects involving the radio station, and other ways to create practical learning."

With the transition, professors now have more direct opportunities to integrate WSMC into a wide range of curriculum: public relations, public speaking, social media, and audio editing are just a few. Southern students already enjoy



Scott Kornblum looks forward to utilizing Southern's radio station for more educational opportunities.

a wealth of hands-on media training, such as the weekly student newspaper, campus television station, and podcasts produced by the School of Journalism and Communication. However, WSMC brings unique value to that mix as a result of its size and audience; the station has a 180-mile broadcast radius and

20,000 to 25,000 weekly listeners.

In an additional effort to boost student involvement, Southern's School of Music will involve some of its majors on air as program hosts as well as by sharing original pieces from faculty and students with listeners.

One of the newest School of Journalism and Communication faculty members will function as a liaison between the academic and business sides of the station. Victoria Joiner, Ed.D., associate professor, brings considerable broadcasting experience to Southern, including more than two decades with Oakwood University's radio station, where she worked in administration, production, underwriting, and as vocal talent.

"I'm here to support and affirm Kornblum's management," Joiner said. "I pray that our academic contributions will help the station grow and prosper."

For more information about the station, or to listen live, visit wsmc.org. 📻

BY STAFF WRITER

Computing Students Help Create Commercial Software

The Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC) at Southern Adventist University recently developed its first public commercial software product, DotPurple. Run by the School of Computing, CIRC provides opportunities for Southern's computing students to gain valuable job experience by working on real-world software development projects. Primarily, CIRC collaborates with businesses, ministries, and church organizations to create a variety of projects such as web, desktop, and mobile applications.

DotPurple is the first software that CIRC has developed and released on its own. This desktop software tool, available through Windows, macOS, and Linux, makes workflow simpler and more efficient for software developers who are building cross platform applications.

The DotPurple Twitter account and website have received attention from the broader industry, including Scott Hanselman, Microsoft's technology evangelist and tech author. As this software continues to grow, Michael Babienico, CIRC programmer and the main

developer of DotPurple, hopes to provide additional features and improvements.

"We want to make people's lives easier with this software," Babienico said. "There is potential for computing professors to use it in their classrooms or for students to use it to help manage their programming projects within their School of Computing classes. Additionally, DotPurple will directly help us employ and work with students to give them practical experience in the industry." 📺

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT



BOVA, JOAN G., 71, born May 9, 1949, died July 16, 2020 in Florida. She was a member of the Florida Conference Church.

Joan was born into the hard-working family of James and Juanita McAllister who adored her and two older brothers, Jimmy Glenn and Robert (Bobby) Erwin. She ran and played, and she did all that children do with no limitations or fear. She had an unbridled sense of energy and an infectious humor. When Joan was 12-years-old, she was struck by a debilitating disease, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. The disease tried to control her life, but it was in for a rude awakening as no one or thing could impose limits on this little force of nature.

She attended Harry-Anna Crippled Children's Home in Umatilla, FL, from age 14 until she aged out at 21. Joan endured painful physical therapy treatments to keep her joints viable as long as possible, and learned to walk short distances with crutches.

After receiving her degree from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University), Joan became a career woman in helping other disabled people live independent lives. She helped write the American's with Disabilities Act, and was well sought after as a speaker and trainer on behalf of ADA. She founded the disability ministries within the Church, starting in Florida, expanded in the Southern Union, and then became part of the North American Division. She received the Adventist Woman of the Year award in 2011.

She was a published author, member of several corporate boards, and a motivational speaker who traveled across the country changing lives forever. The source of her strength was bolstered by her church family, and she faithfully served the Lord as founder and director of her church's disabilities department, women's ministries director, and served as an elder.

Throughout the years and her travels, Joan made friends everywhere she went. Her magnetic personality drew people to her. Once you met her, she was your friend for life and will be sadly missed by the many friends she made over the years.

On August 8, 1982, Joan married the love of her life, Phil Bova. This dynamic duo began working together as they complemented each other. While Phil was part of the Disability Awareness Team, he also helped create Jewish ministries with the Adventist Church. Phil was born on July 25, 1941, and passed away on April 22, 2020.

Joan is survived by two daughters: Angela Marie Bova and Kristina (Troy) Conway; five grandchildren: Kalie Grace, Halie Faith, James, Anthony, and Sophia; two sisters-in-law: Joyce Watt and Linda McCallister; nieces; great-nieces; great-greatnieces; one great nephew; and great-greatnephews.

The service was conducted at Brewer and Sons Funeral Home, Clermont Chapel, FL. Interment was at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Gotha, FL.



MIDDAG, BARBARA JEAN, 90, born July 4, 1930 in Franklin Park, IL, fell asleep in Jesus surrounded by her family on July 7, 2020 at her home in Apopka, FL. She suffered a fall resulting in a brain bleed. The family was able to celebrate her 90th birthday with her on the 4th of July this year. She brought many smiles through the years as she would share with people, "I was born on the 4th of July, and my maiden name is Popp."

Her denominational employment include Battle Creek Academy in Battle Creek, MI, as the French and secretarial studies teacher from 1954 to 1957; at Adelpian Academy in Adelpian, MI, as the typing teacher from 1957 to 1959; at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL, as the part-time typing teacher from 1966 to 1975; at Potomac Conference in the youth and presidential offices from 1974 to 1979; at the General Conference Communication Department from 1980 to 1981, and the presidential office from 1982 to 2001.

She was the wife of Norman Middag for 68 years; mother of David (Patricia) of Apopka; Loren (Joy) of Redlands, CA, and Renee (John) Brownlow of Apopka. She showered love on her six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; other family members; and many others. Before passing she shared, "I'll see you in Heaven; make sure you're there too."

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For the first time ever, join the celebration online! Join us for an inspirational two-hour program on Sabbath afternoon, plus optional Sunday activities.

Choose from these weekends:

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2020

OCTOBER 24-25, 2020

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2020

Registration slots are limited and first-come, first-serve, so save your spot by registering today.

[HOPETV.ORG/CELEBRATIONOFHOPE](https://hopetv.org/celebrationofhope)

SCHEDULE

A VISIT

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One size doesn't fit all, so when it comes to checking out Southern, we're giving you options:

- **Virtual visits** allow you to see campus and get your questions answered from the comfort of home.
- **In-person visits** give you an immersive experience of walking around campus and meeting people face-to-face. Special precautions such as masks, temperature checks, social distancing, and limited group size will make your visit as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



[SUSDAGift.org](https://www.SUSDAGift.org)

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

ELDER'S CONSORTIUM TALK with G. Alexander Bryant, NAD President

- Sept. 12, 4 p.m. Online at www.gccsda.com.

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - theme

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

HEALTH RALLIES with speaker E. W. Dempsey, adult ministries director, for the latest in health information:

Sept. 19. Warner Robins, GA, Church. Sept. 19. Ellijay, GA, Church.

Oct 3. Mountain City, TN, Church.

Oct. 17. Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga, TN.

ENGAGE LEADERSHIP LEARNING

- Sept. 25. Engage is sharing numerous resources for youth and young adults online.

CARRYING THE FRAGRANCE OF JESUS

- Women's & Teen Girls' Fall Retreat - Sept. 26, 27. Online event.

IGNITE MEN'S CONFERENCE

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

ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

- Oct. 9-11. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

PATHFINDER TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- Oct. 16-18.

7 BRIDGES MARATHON

- Oct. 18.

Coolidge Park, Chattanooga, TN.

SONG OF SONGS: Love of a Lifetime Marriage Retreat

- Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Presenters will be Jorge and Evelyn Torres. Reserve a spot for you and your sweetheart at Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge in Buford, GA. Register for events on the conference website, www.gccsda.com

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Virtual Homecoming - Oct. 29-Nov. 1. Save the date! Honor Classes include: 1940, '50, '60, '70, '75, '80, '90, '95, '00, '10. Visit southern.edu/homecoming or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 2, 3.

At Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11, '16. For more information call, 701-751-6177, ext. 212 or visit www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

FLETCHER ACADEMY VIRTUAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 2-4.

We cannot meet in person this year. Details at: www.fletcheracademy.com.

INDIANA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 9, 10.

Alumni weekend will be conducted at the Academy located in Cicero, Indiana. There will be a golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 9. For reservations, contact Bill Summitt at IAgolfclassic@gmail.com or call 317-437-8104. On Sabbath, Oct. 10, the services will be streamed via YouTube at Indiana Academy Alumni or on the Alumni website at iaalumni.org. For questions about weekend events, contact Janet Schalk White at janet.white@earthlink.net.

VILLAGE SDA CHURCH - Oct. 22-24.

Hosting the third annual Daniel 11 Conference, featuring leading Adventist scholars discussing the interpretation of this intriguing prophecy. Learn more at www.daniel11prophecy.com (the most comprehensive Adventist website on Daniel 11), and watch online at www.villagesda.org.

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

IT IS WRITTEN CHILDREN'S APP - It

Is Written's "My Place With Jesus" is excited to introduce a brand new mobile app designed to help children learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun, interactive way. Players can customize their character, enjoy fun Bible lessons, hang out in the tree house with friends, earn badges for their backpacks, gather collectibles that unlock fun mini-games, and so much more! Explore a world of fun and learning with "My Place With Jesus!" Download it for free now. Available for both Android and iOS devices.

SUNSET

	SEPT 4	SEPT 11	SEPT 18	SEPT 25	OCT 2	OCT 9
ATLANTA, GA	7:57	7:48	7:38	7:28	7:19	7:10
CHARLESTON, SC	7:39	7:30	7:20	7:11	7:01	6:52
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:54
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:01	7:51	7:41	7:31	7:21	7:11
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:06	6:56	6:46	6:36	6:27	6:17
JACKSON, MS	7:19	7:10	7:01	6:52	6:42	6:34
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:06	7:55	7:44	7:33	7:22	7:12
MEMPHIS, TN	7:21	7:11	7:01	6:51	6:41	6:31
MIAMI, FL	7:35	7:28	7:20	7:12	7:05	6:58
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:04	6:55	6:45	6:36	6:27	6:18
NASHVILLE, TN	7:09	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:27	6:17
ORLANDO, FL	7:42	7:34	7:25	7:17	7:09	7:01
TAMPA, FL	7:46	7:38	7:29	7:21	7:13	7:05
WILMINGTON, NC	7:32	7:22	7:12	7:03	6:53	6:43



Join us for **Virtual Sponsorship Connections**, a celebration of God's faithfulness to His people and the Voice of Prophecy. Sponsors are invited to join us for one of our **two Virtual Sponsorship Connections** weekend events. These events are scheduled for **October 16-17** and **October 23-24**.



These Fundraising Events Will Feature:

- An inspirational message by Shawn Boonstra
- A report of ministry progress
- Soul-stirring music
- Friday night worship at the Boonstra's
- A *Discovery Mountain*-themed children's program
- The VOP Sabbath School Study Hour



Learn more on how you can become a sponsor and register for an event at vopsponsors.com or call **1.800.429.5700**

**P.S.—Kids Don't
Forget to Join Us for**

