



# T Southern IDINGS

NOVEMBER 2020

*Early Childhood Educators: Laying the Foundation for*

## A CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

STEM BEGINS IN  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

IF I AM LIFTED...

GRADUATION,  
GRACE, BAPTISMS

# The Challenge of Rationalization



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

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts,” Proverbs 21:2 KJV.

What is your purpose in life? Do you have a well-defined goal? The account is shared of a man who entered a village for the first time and saw a great many targets with an arrow in the exact center of each one. He concluded that there must be an expert marksman in the village and asked who he was. He was told that the village idiot was the one who did this. Upon meeting him, the man said, “You must be an expert shot. How is it that you can always hit the bull’s eye?” “Oh, that’s easy,” replied the idiot. “I shoot first and draw the circles afterward.”

Isn’t that the way life is with many people? They do what they want to do first, and then draw circles of rationalization about their lives.

Rationalization is a maverick member of a respectable family. It’s good to be rational, but it’s dangerous to rationalize. Now before you ask, “What’s the difference?” let’s look at some definitions. Rational means, “based on, or derived from reason, able to reason, reasoning, in possession of one’s reason, showing reason, not foolish or silly, sensible.” We like to think that this is exactly the type of people we are. Right? Rationalize, in the setting used above, means to “devise superficially rational, or plausible, explanations or excuses for (one’s acts, beliefs, desires, et cetera) without being aware that these are not the real motives.”

The lame excuses we offer for not being better Christians are mostly rationalization.

A good example is the response of the different guests in Jesus’ parable of the wedding feast. They all began, one after another, to make excuses. The first one told the servant, “I bought a field and have to go back and look at it; please accept my apologies.” Another one said, “I bought five pairs of oxen and am on my way to try them out; please accept my apologies.” Another one said, “I have gotten married, and for this reason, I cannot come,” Luke 14: 18-20 TEV. These were excuses used to hide the grim truth that they simply didn’t wish to attend the feast.

Like the village idiot, they shot the arrow of decision first, and then drew the circle of rationalization around it.

Finally, the most notable character in the Scriptures who encountered the painful challenge of facing himself and his tendency to rationalize his behavior was Peter. After he denied his Savior, I listen carefully to a man who had to face his rationality.

I hear sobbing. It is the sound not just of weeping, but the gut-wrenching moans of a man deeply shocked, ashamed, and humbled. He’s afraid of the monster of rationalization that he now knows lives within. I see him stumbling through a wilderness while scratching and tearing his flesh on limbs and briars hidden by the darkness. He’s unconscious of the pain and damage to his body because the pain inside is unbearable. He falls and he gets up. He runs and he runs. The problem is, no matter how far or how long he runs, he cannot escape the monster of rationalization inside, because he is the monster. He has unconsciously run to the Garden of Gethsemane. Hours earlier in this same spot, a gentle voice had awakened him and said, “Peter, you need to pray, brother.” It was the most painful challenge of Peter’s life. It was the experience of facing himself, and his convenient escape hatch of drawing a circle around his rationalization.

Watch carefully today lest you catch yourself doing the same thing. 🕊-RCS.

Volume 114, No. 11, November 2020  
The *Southern Tidings* is the official publication of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 114  
Number 11 | November 2020  
Published monthly by the Southern Union.  
Free to all members.  
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to  
*Southern Tidings*  
P.O. Box 923868  
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868  
EMAIL: idouce@southernunion.com



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# *Early Childhood Educators: Laying the Foundation for A CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE*

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

**F**ressia Medina Greenbaum's round-trip commute is 80 miles, five days a week. She's underpaid, and her days are often long. But, she's not concerned about that, or the amount of money she makes, because the precious jewels in her care are priceless.

"It's all about the children," says Greenbaum, an early childhood director at Ephesus Christian Child Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. "I love working with them. I love teaching them."

Greenbaum serves with a special group of people. She is one of about 400 early childhood educators in the Southern Union Conference, which has 41 Seventh-day Adventist child care centers. More than 1,500 children, birth to age 5, are enrolled at the centers. Most of them are children from other faith communities.

Carolyn Preston is director of Northeast Christian Preschool Academy in Charlotte, North Carolina. The program had to close recently because the coronavirus pandemic drastically reduced the number of students attending. However, when there was full attendance, Preston says about 95 percent of the children were from other faith communities. She and her co-workers saw that as an opportunity for evangelism.

"We teach our children Bible Scriptures; we teach them to obey their parents and the Lord," says Preston. "And, seeing them carry the Gospel back to

their parents is just amazing."

She recalls one parent actually being converted. The woman became interested in the preschool and Seventh-day Adventist Church, says Preston, because she was impressed with her child's knowledge of the Bible, and the songs she would sing when she came home.

One day, the woman's mother passed. Preston told her pastor about the loss, and he, along with other church members, reached out to the woman and treated her with compassion.

"She said we did more for her than her own church," recalls Preston. "She said, 'It's time to make a change. This should be my church family,' and she joined our church (Northeast Church)."

Karen Pires, director of Jellico Christian Academy in Jellico, Tennessee, says sharing the love of Christ with children is a great joy, but reaching their parents is an added blessing.

"It's a mission outreach," says Pires. "Some of them (parents) ask what do you believe about the Bible, about Sabbath, about death? Some of it the children are taking home. But, some of it is because we have spent time nurturing friendships with these people."

Tamara Libonati is director of early childhood education for the Southern Union Conference. She says early childhood educators in the conference often do more than what they are asked.

"It's all about the children... I love working with them. I love teaching them."

*Fressia Medina Greenbaum*





Elaine Martin, certified teacher, assists a Collegedale Academy Early Childhood student. Teachers are taking extra precautions that help foster a conducive learning environment for their students.

“It’s a mission field...I’m responsible for their development, and I enjoy doing it.”

Theslyn Brown

“I had center directors in tears, not wanting to shutdown back in March and April, and opening back up just as soon as they were allowed with new protocols and safety measures in place,” says Libonati. “These workers are also on the front lines. Because of them, many parents are able to continue working, with the peace of mind that their child is in good hands.”

“In addition to loving the children in their care, I’ve witnessed a director sending a low-income person to their center’s kitchen to get a loaf of bread, food to take home,” says Libonati. “Directors give Bible studies to their employees from other faith communities. The list goes on. They practice what Jesus taught: love, reach out, serve, minister to.”

Even though it’s a ministry for most of them, advocates for early childhood educators say they do not receive the compensation and common benefits given to their counterparts who have similar higher education degrees, and work at elementary schools and universities.

“So much research exists that states how the earliest years of a child are the most formidable, that children who start out in a healthy, positive, and caring educational situation will stay healthy, positive, and be successful in life, socially and spiritually,” says Libonati. “It perplexes me why early childhood education and care isn’t revered, or, at the very least, supported and treated equally in the educational system.”

Greenbaum, who is working on a doctorate in organizational leadership, is an example.

“She’s so committed,” says Maxine Bowers, who chairs the school board at Ephesus Christian Academy, and

volunteers at the center to assist Greenbaum. “She comes in early, works late. The children benefit from that kind of commitment.”

Kimberly Smith is an expert in early childhood education and director of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University, which serves as the professional development hub for the state of Tennessee in child development and early childhood training.

She agrees that early child care workers set the “foundations of learning that last a lifetime,” and that the salary range for degreed child care workers is “not comparable to their counterparts with the same levels of education who work with older children. That being said,” adds Smith, “I think it takes an exceptional individual to choose to become an early childhood professional or child care worker. More importantly, it speaks to the passion of these dedicated teachers who commit to work with our youngest population of learners.”

Libonati says that dedication is evident more than ever during the current pandemic. Child care workers are “essential service workers, right along with the medical, public health, and safety workers,” she says.

## National Change May Be on the Horizon

Earlier this year, for the first time ever, early childhood educators collectively defined the standards, qualifications, roles, supports, and compensation for members of their profession working with children birth through 8, according to a news release of the action. They simultaneously call for significant increases in federal and state investments to ensure young children, families, businesses, and the economy are well-served by an effective, equitable, diverse, well-prepared, and well-compensated profession.

The *Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession* (PowerToTheProfession.org) was developed over the last three years by a task force of 15 leading national organizations, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which facilitated the collective effort. Together, these organizations, which represent members of the early childhood field working across states, settings, and age bands, partnered with a diverse range of stakeholders, and more than 11,000 individuals to produce the *Unifying Framework*.





Staff and pre-K students at Charlotte Berean Junior Academy are excited to resume in-person classes.



Jace Foster, Collegedale Academy Early Childhood program student, develops his fine motor skills and alphabet recognition. Creating letter patterns with a hammer and nails is one activity students are able to do while practicing physical distancing.

The framework is clear that, as policy-makers respond to the complex science of early learning by raising expectations and educational requirements for early childhood educators, the United States must simultaneously fund necessary supports, establish realistic timelines, and provide increased compensation that reflects the value, importance, and return on investment generated by early childhood educators' highly skilled work.

"Power to the Profession shows a commitment to elevating educators' voices toward a system that recognizes the cost of quality, invests in the education and compensation of the profession, and finances early childhood education as the public good that it is," said Karen Ponder, early childhood expert and chair of the National Task Force.

### For the Love of the Children

Jacqueline Maddox is a teacher at Emma L. Minnis Junior Academy in Louisville, Kentucky. She appreciates the national collaborative support for early childhood educators. But, regardless of whether she gets a raise or certain benefits, she's going to continue doing her job, and that's to give the children in her care the best start in life possible.

"It's not about the money," says Maddox, who's worked in public/private schools, and at one time owned and operated an in-home day care. "I tell people all the time that ... if you're not prepared to be all things to these students, then you shouldn't get into teaching. You're not just their teacher, you're their parent, their social worker, their counselor, you're like everything to them. So, if you're not prepared to do that, then teaching is not for you. You should do it for the love of the children."

The care, and love, paid off for

30-year-old Shaunte Stewart. As a toddler, she attended then-Maranatha Day Care in Miami, Florida, where her parents moved from New York. Stewart says what she learned there was long-lasting.

"They incorporated in their lessons the respect and reverence of God, devotion, and praying," says Stewart, now a nurse. "Those things I still keep with me today."

One person in particular who had an impact on Stewart was Theslyn Brown, a worker at the day care. Stewart says Brown is the reason she and her family are Adventists.

"She would invite my parents to church," recalls Stewart. "She would say, it doesn't have to end Monday through Friday; you can also come and worship with us on Sabbath. And we did."

Decades later, Brown is still at it. She is director of the Maranatha Child Development Center in Miami Gardens, Florida, where she has worked nearly 40 years, and she's not stopping anytime soon.

"It's a mission field," says Brown. "I'm responsible for their development, and I enjoy doing it." 📌

**Lucas L. Johnson II** is a former reporter for *The Associated Press*. He is also author of the book, *Finding the Good*. Freelance writer and editor Alicia Jenkins Johnson contributed to this article.

# IF I AM LIFTED...

BY **MARIEL LOMBARDI**

Number 40 is highly relevant in the Bible,” said Joel Barrios, senior pastor of the Forest City Hispanic Church in Orlando, Florida, in one of his sermons at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He referred to several cases, among which was the recounting of Jesus fasting in the desert before the temptations. Barrios showed how spending time alone with God prepared Jesus for what was to come in his ministry. He urged the members to take quarantine pause time to have a full approach with God.

The worldwide pandemic changed many perspectives in all areas of life, especially the spiritual aspect. The Forest City Hispanic Church had started a new worship structure about a month prior to the global tragedy. Attempting to go beyond form, they focused on the principles of worship. The members were working on their personal relationship with Jesus, and the ties among members were strengthened, as well as their sense of mission. Though unaware, they were in a warm-up process for what the world would experience a few weeks later.



“Before” picture of Forest City Evangelism and Discipleship Center

When the pandemic began, many people lost their jobs and the churches wondered what would happen with the tithes and offerings. The pastoral team decided not to preach about the subject. They simply lifted Christ, and Christ did the work. They have a strong media ministry that reaches audiences around the world. During the pandemic, a two-

month unbroken chain of prayer was organized, joined by people from many countries. It was exciting to see viewers from faraway places engaging in this experience. The worship meetings and devotionals had audiences of thousands, thirsty to hear from Jesus. People from other states who had come into contact with the church through the media ministry traveled from afar to be baptized in Forest City. The Sabbath School cells became solid building blocks of study, prayer, and help to others. This resulted in financial fidelity, and despite the possible prognosis that the situation could pronounce, the tithes and offerings were returned faithfully, reaching sums greater than before. God does amazing things when His people humble themselves, pray, and seek His face.

With a membership of 1,500, they were blessed to find property three years ago, with three buildings at an affordable price. They are located on a 40-acre lot facing a lake. In one of the buildings,



The pastoral team prays at the building they want to remodel.





**“After” picture of Forest City Evangelism and Discipleship Center**

there is a school that houses 200 children, the other corresponds to the temple, and the third remained empty after being damaged by three hurricanes. At the end of 2019, because of the tremendous growth the online ministry was experiencing, they decided by faith to begin restoration work in the empty building. The plan was to have an evangelism and discipleship training center, and eventually a media and broadcast center. The target was to raise \$90,000. The project is led by one of the team’s pastors, Douglas Osorio, a man of great vision and commitment. They requested a special offering for this purpose. They expected to collect no more than \$30,000 based on the results of previous collections. By God’s grace, they raised \$60,000.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Barrios, together with the pastoral team, met to re-evaluate the project. Due to the circumstances, it was possible that they would have to stop it for the time being. However, they decided to move forward by faith. God does not depend on circumstances. “If everything progresses,” they said, “we will be happy to know that it was God and only God who carried this project forward.” With this in mind, the team gathered at the building and prayed that God manifested Himself. A few days later, the church received a donation of \$40,000.

The Evangelism and Discipleship



**The bathroom at Forest City Evangelism and Discipleship Center**

Center is now complete and ready to be used when sanitary protocols allow. In the area where they were going to locate the media center, they are evaluating the possibility of relocating the day care. “Let it be what God decides,” they said. They are sure that He is at the head of this project and that is the only thing that matters.

Jesus promised that all we ask in His name to the Father, will be granted. He

also said we have to ask His will to be done. What a blessed assurance! He will do the best for us, not because we are faithful, but because He is. ❶

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

# STEM Begins in EARLY CHILDHOOD

BY LORI THIEME

Young children learn through active exploration — they have a natural drive to observe, interact, discover, and explore. It is during these years that Florida Conference Office of Education teachers believe they should begin evidence-based STEM curricula (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Gateway Christian School and LifePoint Academy, both in Jacksonville, have been piloting a play-based curriculum that has proven to be a particularly effective method for early learning. “STEM activities can easily be embedded in activities that are already of interest to children. As a teacher, it is so exciting to watch

their ideas come to life,” said Louise Hendrickson, Gateway Christian Academy.

Just block play? More like block play with intentionality. These early childhood classrooms will spend this school year with a very specific time frame dedicated to EXPLORE, CREATE, TEST, and SHARE as they



PHOTO BY: CALINA TEJADA



PHOTO BY: CALINA TEJADA





PHOTO BY: CALINA TEJADA

learn about how structures are built, and investigate some of the problems of designing buildings for different purposes that can be used by lots of different people.

“Not only are we preparing our children for a world that will require science, technology, engineering, and math skills, but we are also teaching them how to think, how to listen, and how to understand complex language,” said Wendy Smiley, VBK director and pre-K teacher at LifePoint Academy. 📍

**Lori Thieme** is Florida Conference Office of Education early childhood associate superintendent.



PHOTO BY: CALINA TEJADA

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN FLORIDA CONFERENCE

- School-based Pre-Kindergarten Programs: 12
- Child Care Center (birth-5) Programs: 11
- Total Students Enrolled: 893
- Total Teachers: 181

# Graduation, Grace, BAPTISMS

BY KIMBERLY ROTH

Spring 2020, the staff at Highland Academy (HA) in Portland, Tennessee, did not witness the usual caseload of senioritis, the condition in which seniors wish to be anywhere but school. The students left for spring break not knowing that they would not return in person that school year due to a pandemic. Instead, the senior class of 2020 wished to be back at school doing the usual end of year activities — classes in person, gymnastics homeshow, spring concert, and graduation. Especially graduation!

Restrictions for COVID-19 remained in place longer than anyone had anticipated. HA administration tried to find a way for the seniors to have a full graduation weekend. They opted to schedule graduation at the end of July, hoping that postponing it that long would give the best chance of an in-person ceremony. As the date drew nearer, the seniors hoped and prayed they would at last get their chance to march across the stage — everyone, that is, except for Noah Wade.

Wade had received his diploma in the mail, was already working, and was just over everything school related ... and church related, too. In fact, he had stopped going to church. He was just over everything. He did not want to be at Friday morning's graduation rehearsal. He arrived dressed out of school dress code, with a large chain around his neck and a negative attitude. Midway through the rehearsal, his mom called and picked him up.



Roger Schmidt, pastor at Highland Church, baptizes Noah Wade.

She had a heart-to-heart conversation, asking him if this was the person he wanted to be. She explained that he had friends there who cared about him, and that he should realize graduation was not just about him. It was a way to honor and support his friends, as well as his family who had worked hard to give him a Christian education.

Wade called Chadd Watkins, HA principal, to apologize and let him know he wanted to be at the graduation Vespers that Friday evening. When he arrived at the church that evening ready to participate, he realized he did not have his cap and gown. He jumped in his car and raced back

home to get them. Driving back to the church at break-neck speed, he came up on a sharp turn. His car flew off the side of the road and, at that moment, Wade thought he was dead. In a daze, he climbed out of the car and was met by a couple that helped him call the police and take care of things. His rescuers told him that something just impressed them that evening to go that way, and that God had brought them to him. He knew it was a miracle he was still alive. He felt God was calling to him that day.

The next day at the church service, Wade witnessed one of his classmates, Aron Mariano, get baptized. In addi-



tion to seeing his classmate making a stand for God, an illustration during the sermon made him think about life beyond graduation. Kaleigh Bengel, former chaplain at HA, was the guest speaker. She brought a rope for an illustration. The end of the rope that was bound with tape represented your time on Earth. The rope that had no end represented eternity. Wade realized his time on Earth is very short, and he wanted to be prepared for Heaven. He wanted his life to have a purpose.

That evening, he had a long conversation with Roger Schmidt, pastor of Highland Church. During that conversation he expressed how the things he used to do which he thought would make him happy, instead ended up leaving him with regret. He acknowledged that he blamed others for his mistakes instead of taking ownership for his actions. Schmidt encouraged him to use trials to help him grow, and build and experience a real relationship with God. During the conversation, Wade expressed an interest to be rebaptized, and two weeks later, on August 8, 2020, he was reborn into the family of God. A week later, a third senior, Luke Medlock, also decided to make a public commitment to Christ through baptism.

The staff at Highland Academy endeavors to give students opportunities to experience a relationship with Jesus. However, it is “God Who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure,” Philippians 2:13 NKJV.

There was great rejoicing on the HA campus, as well as in Heaven for not only a much longed for graduation weekend, but also seeing three members of the Class of 2020 publicly make a choice to follow Jesus. ❶

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**Kimberly Roth** is the advancement director at Highland Academy in Portland, Tennessee..



Noah Wade receives his diploma from Chadd Watkins, Highland Academy principal.

# AdventHealth Leaders Explore Behavioral Health Trends, Solutions

Nearly one in five American adults live with mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. This alarming stat was shared by Jennifer Wandersleben, CEO of Acute Care Services for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division — South Region and chair of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee, during the health system's 30th annual Conference on Mission. The virtual conference, held September 18-19, was attended by AdventHealth Board members, executives, behavioral health experts, and mission and ministry leaders, as well as Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders from across the country. An annual gathering to reflect and explore how the organization is living its mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, this year the focus was on behavioral health.

"We are determining how we're going to put behavioral health in the community in a way that, first, reduces stigma," said Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, in his opening remarks. "AdventHealth cares for about 6 million people a year, and I am clear that there are so many unmet mental needs. So, the focus of this mission conference is how we can bring wholeness and peace of mind to our team members and to those we serve."

On the first day of the conference, attendees watched a special presentation of the groundbreaking theatrical drama, *The Manic Monologues*, which brings real stories of mental illness to life.

"Each year, we approach Conference on Mission with the intent of focusing on the real needs of our patients and communities through the lens of our mission ... in a manner that ministers in a practical way, and that brings glory to God," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., chief mission integration officer for AdventHealth.

Following *The Manic Monologues*, two workgroups led by members of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee presented



Following their workgroup presentations, AdventHealth leaders sat for a live panel discussion to answer questions submitted via chat by conference attendees.

their progress on behavioral health plans for both primary care and employees.

The primary care workgroup shared that suicide ended the life of an individual every 12 minutes in 2017. A 2014 study showed that 45 percent of those who died by suicide had seen their primary care physician within 30 days.

They also outlined a three-point approach to behavioral health: Assessment — embedding screenings into health care touchpoints; Access — improving access to provide prompt and effective behavioral health intervention; and Outcomes — tracking outcomes to ensure patient improvement. The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) was presented as a clinically proven way to integrate behavioral health into primary care in a way that addresses the three focus points.

On the employee side, leaders announced the launch of a new internal campaign, "Fine" is Not Fine, designed to increase awareness, improve access, and address the stigma surrounding team members' use of behavioral health resources.

The conference also honored individuals for their exemplary service. This year's award recipients: Christian Service Award — Wanda Escoffery, director of nursing for AdventHealth for Children, and Anna Coridan, R.N. at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission; Trustee of the Year Award — Suresh Desai,

M.D., AdventHealth Daytona Beach, and Bill Jarrett, AdventHealth Sebring; Crystal Angel Award — Bruce Christian, president/CEO for AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Glen Oaks and AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center Bolingbrook, and Mike Schultz, president/CEO for the West Florida Division.

To conclude, Gary Thurber, president for the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, preached a Sabbath sermon that touched on his own sister's struggles with alcoholism and mental illness. His message was based on 1 Corinthians 4:10 NLT: "Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools..." He ended by thanking AdventHealth for being "foolish" enough to confront behavioral health challenges, and other issues, even though it's not financially rewarding — a hallmark of a non-profit, mission-driven organization.

"I've had more than one person tell me that I am not in the 'right field' of health care — that 'there is no money in behavioral health,'" said Jennifer Lyons, director of behavioral health for AdventHealth. "We take a different approach.... If your plans be with God, plan big." 🙏

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ



# Kathy's Kids Storytime Continues During the Pandemic



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Ms. Kathy records in the Carolina Conference Communication Department prior to the pandemic.



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

PHOTO BY: RICHARD RUSSELL

Ms. Kathy records from home during the pandemic.

Kathy Russell, or “Ms. Kathy” of the Kathy’s Kids Storytime podcast, is keeping up with her ever-growing audience during the pandemic. Her popular show, which offers children an experience with Jesus through story form, has just reached a quarter-million downloads from listeners all around the world.

Many of these stories are excerpts from books used with permission from the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Russell, an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years, and currently the children’s ministries director for the Carolina Conference, chooses stories with spiritual applications to be released on her podcast twice a week.

The popularity of this podcast attests to the power of good stories that testify of the love of Jesus, and how deeply they

can touch the hearts of young people.

Typically, the episodes are recorded and produced at the Carolina Conference in Charlotte, N.C., but in order to observe social distancing during the pandemic, Russell has been recording in a makeshift studio at home.

“I usually record early in the morning in my pajamas and bathrobe before it gets noisy outside with the highway traffic and bird songs,” said Russell. “I use my son’s room on the days I record, and I made lined curtains to help muffle the sound.”

Russell uses a digital microphone and an app on her iPad to help create the most professional sound possible while she does not have access to a studio. The episodes are then sent to the Communication Department at the Carolina Conference to edit and add other finishing touches be-

fore dropping on their scheduled days.

“This isn’t my regular job, but I feel called to read these stories. I’m learning by trial and error with recording, but I want kids to know Jesus loves them,” said Russell. “We can reach people anywhere, and reading these stories shows me the joy in that. Sometimes I get tongue-tied from excitement!”

Kathy’s Kids Storytime is for children ages 3-12 (and for the child within you), and is available on all major podcasting outlets. 🎧

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

# Forklift Driver with a Big Smile Finds New Life in Prison



PHOTO BY: BARRY MAHORNEY

Robbie Parker is a forklift driver at a water bottling plant, and yes, he has a great big smile. But, that is not what is most important. If you were to see him at work, chances are great that you would catch him singing energetically, “I have decided to follow Jesus.” He loves Jesus with all his heart, though his story has not always been this way.

Parker’s mom abandoned their home when he was a young child; his dad was into drugs and alcohol, and soon led his son into the same path. Parker was active in playing baseball and swimming competition. He had grandparents who loved and cared for him. But, Parker was making his own choices.

When Parker was 16, he was given his driver’s license, but it was taken from him by the state after only three months because of driving while intoxicated. His life continued in a downward spiral as he accumulated six DUI tickets and 36 tickets for driving without a license. He was in jail for short stints several times through the next 20-plus years, but there was no change.

In 2014 Parker was given a prison sentence of three years. However, he was still a hard-working young man; as he earned the appropriate level, he was given an opportunity to go out on work assignment to a water bottling plant where he earned respect and appreciation for his hard work.

It was about that time that the Morganton, N.C., Church began going to the local minimum-security prison on Friday evenings for Bible studies, which many young men attended. Parker decided this would be a good class to join to enrich his life. He faithfully attended the Bible studies conducted by local members Ted Brackett; Barry Mahorney, retired pastor; and Walter Moore. The Morganton Church has a low wattage FM radio station, but the prisoners can hear it. In fact, it is basically the only radio station they can pick up. Parker listened to the music and truth-filled sermons on the 3ABN radio station.

After a year or so, he was allowed to attend the Morganton Church each week, and Barry and Sharryn Mahorney were the ones assigned by the prison for this responsibility. The Mahorneys found the trips to and from the prison to be precious times of visiting together as Parker was growing in his love for Jesus.

His big smiles and big hugs were for everyone at church as he made his way from person to person, young and old. Everyone looked forward to seeing Parker. He now had a church family to encourage, love, and support him. Parker was eagerly baptized on April 23, 2016, and became a member, showing his whole-hearted commitment to follow Jesus. He was soon asked to serve as a deacon at the church.

It was an exciting day for Parker and his church family when he walked out of prison a free man on March 21, 2017. He was on probation for four months, but he was free to go and come. Many of his



PHOTO BY: SHARRYN MAHORNEY

Robbie Parker’s baptism with pastors Barry Mahorney (left) and Rick Merce



PHOTO BY: SHARRYN MAHORNEY

Robbie Parker is hugged by Barry Mahorney, retired pastor, just outside the prison gate as he is released.

friends from his new church family met together at a local Mexican restaurant to celebrate his release from prison. At the end of his probation, he chuckled as he said, “This is the first probation (there had been 10 probations) that I have successfully completed.”

Of course, he still did not have a driver’s license, so the Mahorneys, who adopted him as a part of their family, continued to drive to his grandmother’s home where he was living, to take him to church — followed by the fellowship dinners which were a great love of his.

Driving to and from church for nearly a year, the visiting continued and Bible truths and promises were shared. Parker was growing in his walk with Jesus. He realized life had more to offer, and he felt his



loneliness and desire for companionship. The Mahorneys shared God's promise of Psalm 37:4, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart," and prayed with him, claiming this promise.

It was a beautiful day, May 24, 2020, as Parker married his love, Angela Brackett, in a lovely family wedding with Barry Mahorney officiating. Brackett, an active and much-loved youth leader and choir director, truly is the "desire of his heart."

More blessings awaited. Parker thought it impossible that he would ever again be given his driver's license, but he plugged away, paying off all his many court costs, and God blessed him with a renewed license.

God found a man in prison and gave him a great big smile, and an incredible testimony and passion for sharing the love



PHOTO BY: BARRY MAHORNEY

Angela and Robbie Parker's wedding day

of Jesus! Parker shared, "I am so glad God allowed me to go to prison, so I would have the time to sit and think about my life and my need for God."

He has now been invited to return to that same prison, where he enthusiastically gives Bible studies to the current prisoners. And, Parker continues to sing ener-



PHOTO BY: ROBBIE PARKER

Robbie Parker was privileged to go with Ted Brackett (left), prison ministries leader of the Morganton Church, to Evangelism Impact in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

getically, "I have decided to follow Jesus ... No turning back, no turning back." ❶

BY SHARRYN MAHORNEY

# Online Summer Camp Encourages Decisions for Jesus

With the closure of summer camps due to COVID-19, Rick Faber, summer camp director of Nosoca Pines Ranch, and his administrative team worked quickly to make an online option available. The morning segment, "Nosoca News Show," was free and available on various social media platforms, like Facebook, where any child could tune in and get a quick spiritual nugget from the Nosoca team. Those who wanted to enroll for a broader summer camp experience signed up for an evening worship program, and received a T-shirt and decision card that would normally be distributed at camp.

This year's theme focused on Bible characters who were set apart from their friends or family, with the intent of helping children with the loneliness and separation from friends during quarantine. A total of 178 children signed up, and many

responded to the decision cards; 15 accepted Jesus for the first time, and seven asked for Bible studies.

"We wanted to provide kids with the physical decision cards, so they can make tangible decisions," said Faber. "The program is intended to give kids a taste of Christianity, or help it feel attainable."

Although Faber and his team didn't initially feel equipped to provide online summer camp, they had the help of volunteers to get the program off the ground. Each lesson had a story, and a practical "wrap up" to reinforce the nightly spiritual lesson. The videos simulated the feeling of evening worship at camp, and provided an opportunity for the whole family to tune in and join their camper.

"Our team understood that we were taking something on that we were not qualified for, but the Lord blessed our production," said Faber. "We had awesome



volunteers who came out from time to time to help with production and filming of the videos. We've had all kinds of people engaging with the program, and the kids were still able to identify with some of the staff they look up to from previous summers."

Decision cards from the kids were sent to local churches in the Carolinas to follow up on their desire to know Jesus better, and the cards are still coming in! ❶

BY NATALIE BOONSTRA

# Dunnellon Welcomes Two New Members



PHOTO BY: GLENDA BATES

Veronica Francis (seated) is shown with her daughter, Everline Robinson, as she prepares for baptism.

Dunnellon Church in Florida closed the Sabbath service on September 19, 2020, with a baptism held in the large portico of the church. Two individuals were baptized and welcomed into membership during the outdoor service.

## Walter Davis

From East to West, the Adventist message came to Walter Davis by his wife, Filna, who originally came from the Philippines. Filna Davis, a life-long Adventist, shared with her husband the beautiful truths of the message.

After attending church in Dunnellon and attending the Amazing Facts Seminar conducted by Dakota Day, Walter Davis made a commitment to be baptized. Because of the COVID-19 closures, the baptism was postponed until this special



PHOTO BY: FILNA DAVIS

Walter Davis was baptized by Kevin Messina, pastor, in an outdoor baptismal pool at Dunnellon, Fla., Church.





Filna Davis, a life-long Adventist, shared her faith with her husband, Walter, who was baptized on September 29, 2020.



Veronica Francis awaits baptism at Dunnellon Church.

day in September when Kevin Messina, pastor, performed the baptism on the portico of the church.

### Veronica Francis

Veronica Francis lives with her daughter and son-in-law, who study with her at home every day. They have been inviting her to be baptized for years, but not until lately has she wanted to be baptized.

Recently, Francis kept telling her daughter and son-in-law that she wanted to go to the river.

They said, "Why?"

She said, "To be baptized!"

Praise the Lord! ①

BY GLENDA BATES

## COVID-19 Keeps Couple Apart on 69th Anniversary

Burton and Myrna Wright have spent 69 years together without missing an anniversary. Burton lives at Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka, Fla., and his wife resides at the AdventHealth Care Center in an adjacent facility. The close proximity of the two complexes made it easy for Burton to visit his wife.

All this would change when COVID-19 shut down visiting privileges at the Care Center to protect patients. God's providence and loving care have always served the Wrights over the years, and they still have faith in Him through present trials.

Their work for the Lord took them to the mission fields of Malawi and Zimbabwe where Burton was a teacher and pastor, and Myrna was a nurse, bookkeeper, and teacher. They pastored in Illinois and Kentucky before filling many volunteer positions in retirement: Burton served as

Civil Air Patrol chaplain, in prison ministries, and delivered meals on wheels. Myrna served in children's ministries with Vacation Bible School in the States and in Russia, and painted many murals for children's divisions as well as the beautiful mural at Camp Kulaqua.

The Wrights have four children, Jim and Judy Clarke, Jim Wright, Jeannie Bankston, and Jon and Dawne Wright; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Prior to their wedding on July 28, 1951, Burton gave Myrna a silver dollar with hopes and prayers the following would be their life motto: IN GOD WE TRUST and UNITED WE STAND. The Wrights are grateful to God for His providence and loving care over their years together. ①

BY JUDY CLARKE



Burton and Myrna Wright live on the campus of Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka, Fla., on what used to be orange groves when it was owned by Burton's parents, Kenneth and Clara Wright, in 1958.

# LaFollette Church Organized After 20 Years



PHOTO BY: BRIAN YOUNG

Church members from the LaFollette, Tenn., Church persevered for 20 years to achieve official church status, which was recognized September 19, 2020. It all started because 12 people met and dreamed of having an Adventist church in their community.

A dream began in the home of Judy and David Tate. Twelve people met to worship in July 2000, and they made plans for a new worship community in LaFollette, Tenn. With love for Jesus shining from their heart and face, these 12 were on fire for God! By April 2001, they had moved into the LaFollette Senior Citizen's Center, and church mission status came in 2002. They even realized another missionary milestone when they purchased a radio station where they could share Jesus with more people. The station went on the air in 2007.

In December 2007, the church moved to a space in Woodson's Mall. With their missionary zeal moving fast, they put up three sign boxes in strategic locations, and the pastor received

many Bible study lesson requests.

The numbers were growing, 50 attended a spiritual retreat weekend, and then came the blessed day in February 2009 when the LaFollette Mission Group became a church company. Property was donated for a new church building, and the site was dedicated on June 30, 2012.

After much prayer, saving, and discussion, work started on the new church site in 2016. The members did as much work as they could themselves, but they didn't have much money. The building grew in spurts and their faith remained strong. When the money ran out, they prayed again, trusted God, and worked harder, both for the building of the new church and for the people in their communities.

God brought new members to the area,

some in retirement, and some to work. In 2018, a capital campaign began to see where God was leading. Should they continue building as the money came in, should they sell and buy a smaller church, or should they borrow and finish the building? At the end of the campaign there was a victory banquet, which raised approximately \$140,000 in pledges to continue the current church building. What a praise session!

Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough to finish the church, so in 2019, the church members voted to try to sell their property. For a year they waited to see what God would do. Several people came to look at the property, but no one was able to complete the buying process. In December it was re-evaluated, and in January 2020 the



members voted to move forward with building once again. A contractor and supervisor were secured, and the little sleepy building site was once again up and running with the hum of subcontractors and praises to God!

Lafollette Church became the 179th church of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference on September 19, 2020. After 20 years of dreams and hard work, the church members completed

the steps to become an official Seventh-day Adventist Church. They hope to worship in a finished part of their new building by Christmas. They ask for continued prayers as they complete their miracle church.

The members believe in miracles, and they believe God wants a church in Lafollette. The dream God gave those 12 people in 2000 has grown. Today, they are active with Bible studies (tak-

ing place in person, on the phone, and in jail), the Bags of Love Ministry to foster children, basketball camps for youth, blood pressure clinics, diabetes clinics, Vacation Bible School, cooking schools, a Facebook presence, and a soup kitchen ... all while continuing to finish their church! ❶

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BY KAREN AND KEVIN PIRES  
WITH JUDY TATE

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## “Resilient Joy” Online Event Encourages Women

**R**esilient Joy” was the timely topic discussed at the August 22, 2020, women’s ministries event, and one of their first online presentations with speaker Heather Thompson-Day, interdenominational presenter and associate professor of communication for Colorado Christian University.

Jo Dubs, Georgia-Cumberland women’s ministries director, said that the pandemic has brought uncertainty, more stress, and a sense of loss for the way life used to be. She said, “We purposely chose the Resilient Joy theme so each one could begin changing their views on how life is in 2020 — to change your focus from how much better life was before 2020, to how does my relationship with Christ help me live a resilient life no matter the circumstances.” Dubs added that Thompson-Day provided the necessary tools to equip women to make that mental change.

Thompson-Day provided a thought-provoking and timely presentation, first helping everyone understand why they might need joy, and then sharing ideas and ways on how to cultivate a Bible-given, resilient joy.

Dana Mac Austin, who serves with the conference’s women’s ministries leadership team and is a member of the Marietta Church in Georgia, said, “This was



PHOTO BY: OLIVIA WOODARD

**The Georgia-Cumberland Women’s and Family Ministries Departments have been offering several online events for women and teens. “Resilient Joy” was held August 22, 2020, with speaker Heather Thompson-Day, interdenominational speaker and associate professor of communication at Colorado Christian University.**

excellent. Talking points were practical, real, and much needed.”

Data was shared during the Thompson-Day presentation that explained how Americans work more hours than people who live in other countries, they don’t take or get vacations, and that this reality hurts their productivity. Interestingly, those

with a best friend at work are seven times more likely to be engaged, have a higher quality of work, and a better well-being. They are even less likely to be injured.

On the other hand, if there is a negative atmosphere it will probably generate distrust that “undermines your brain’s ability to build empathy and cooperation,” said Thompson-Day. “The brain cannot distinguish between fantasy talk and reality when perceiving negative events. It *always* assumes real danger exists. Spending energy thinking on negative thoughts can disrupt your sleep, your appetite, and the way your brain even regulates happiness.”

The good news is there are more than 3,500 promises in the Bible. Thompson-Day said, “Studying Scripture isn’t about being ‘holy’; it’s about training your brain to respond to attacks by the devil with the promises of God. The brain can’t recall what we haven’t read.”

She asked everyone to write down a spiritual goal, saying, “Life will never give you time to spend with God.” It must be intentional. She added that if you feel you have nothing, “Give God your empty.” ❶

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BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

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# Decatur and Cullman Feature Members in Video Series



Vlad Climaco (right), pastor of Decatur and Cullman churches, works with his wife, Pam, on creating new content for their churches. Their son, Nate, will no doubt join their creative team soon.

and included a short tutorial on canning produce from the garden. The original intent with the series was to create videos of the church members so other members could see their friends again, and encourage them to come back to church. What they discovered is that people wanted to share the video with their friends and family, whether they were church members or not. It was an evangelistic tool in the making.

Vlad Climaco operates the camera and conducts interviews with the church members. This activity, in itself, results in a positive experience as a pastoral visitation would. Climaco also adds a spiritual application and a few Bible verses at the end of each video. Pam Climaco and Escalante, do the video production before the video is posted to YouTube

Vladimir Climaco started his pastoral ministry in the Decatur and Cullman, Ala., churches on May 1, 2020. Climaco immediately recognized the need to improve both churches' online presence, and set out to update their websites.

Climaco believes that implementing sound design principles and quality promotions will strengthen a church's impact on the community. People can quickly tell if you have spent little time or effort on your website and other public listings like social media. If these areas are ignored, it informs viewers that the church isn't thinking about others, and can ruin its potential impact.

Climaco worked with his wife, Pam, on continual improvements to the church and public relations. In the throes of COVID-19, they developed videos for the churches, and offered live streaming and Zoom meetups when meeting in person was unavailable. Now that some churches have reopened, they



Decatur and Cullman churches use YouTube to share the videos of members talking about their passions.

wanted to offer something new to encourage members to come back.

The Climacos began working with Daniel Escalante to create a video series called Church @ Home. The series features a different church member each episode, and follows them in their home while sharing about the things they're passionate about. The first episode featured a family who enjoys gardening,

and Facebook. The series has received a lot of positive attention. Viewers appreciate the real stories from genuine people, and other members are signing up to be featured on future episodes. You can view the videos at [www.gscsda.org/decatuaryoutube](http://www.gscsda.org/decatuaryoutube). 📺

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



# Student Helps with Medical Missions in Peru



Ashley Bowes hopes to use her nursing training and experience from this trip on future mission projects.

Ashley Bowes, a member of the Bass Memorial Academy Church in Lumberton, Miss., has wanted to be a missionary for as long as she can remember. She wanted to be like her uncle, Wesley Szamko, who served overseas as a missionary for 11 years in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and the Philippines.

She began with short trips. First, she went to Panama with Maranatha. They built a Sabbath School and church building by day, and taught Vacation Bible School by night. During her junior year at Bass Memorial Academy, Bowes went with some of her classmates on a ShareHim trip to the Dominican Republic. Each student preached at a church for 10 days. Bowes also performed special music on her violin, and witnessed at a local elementary and high school. During her senior year, she and her classmates went to New Mexico to tile bathroom walls in a gymnasium.

By the time Bowes arrived at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., to study nursing in 2018, she knew that she wanted to serve as a student mis-



Ashley Bowes appreciated the hands-on opportunities that the mission experience presented.

sionary. Bowes was eager to have the opportunity to connect with others on a deeper level than a one- or two-week trip would allow; she just wasn't sure when she could fit it in with her studies. She

talked with Southern's Student Missions Office about the possibility of going overseas, but she didn't know if it was going to work out.

When a last-minute opportunity arose for her to go to Pucallpa, Peru, in January 2020, she decided to take the leap. In Peru, she worked with Amor Projects. Her primary responsibility there was helping to run medical clinics. She triaged patients, observed and assisted the doctor, worked in the pharmacy, and even got to give a few injections and IVs. They treated many issues, but the most common was stomach parasites from unclean food and water.

She also taught health, English, music, and Vacation Bible School. After these introductory classes, people were much more open to receiving Bible studies in their homes. "The people really appreciated the medical clinics and free medication," she says. "Often, there was no health care for miles. For many people, this was their first time to ever receive medical care."

Bowes' time in Peru wrapped up abruptly in the middle of March when the student missionaries were told they had 24 hours before the borders would be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Student Missions Office at Southern worked tirelessly until, after a series of miracles, they found a place for the students on a charter flight. The students' flight took off eight minutes before the borders closed.

"It was a miracle," Bowes remembers. "My time overseas was amazing, and I'm so excited to come home and become a nurse so that I can go overseas and serve others again. Medical mission work is a powerful way to reach people for Christ." 🕊

BY ANGELA BAERG

# Retreat Blends Academy, College Students



A group of more than 30 attended the day retreat at Fall Creek Falls.



Gathering at the waterfalls

Youth ministry is about serving young people where they are. For a church, school, or conference, it may look different in each instance. Traditionally, the ministry effort would be put into a program, with the expectation of attracting youth. Youth leaders know that this approach is increasingly changing. Ministry happens where young people are.

That is the premise of Public Campus Ministry, “Going where young people gather.” Many Adventist young people attend public institutions, including

those who graduate from Adventist academies. Noticing that trend, the chaplains from Highland and Madison academies, in conjunction with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Youth Department, began pondering what could be done to help young people with this transition.

The first idea was to include the seniors in the annual retreat planned for students attending public campuses. However, the plans quickly crumbled when COVID-19 frustrated the retreat plans. Nonetheless, an idea for adapting surfaced: a day re-

treat at Fall Creek Falls. It would satisfy the COVID-19 protocols while also providing the setting for building relationships. Unexpectedly, a new vision arose: HIC+ Academies Edition.

On September 26, seniors from both academies were invited to join a day retreat with college student Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) leaders from Middle Tennessee State University and Vanderbilt. The result was a day in nature worshipping God and creating connections between student leaders of higher education and academy seniors.

The Sabbath morning program was led by Highland Academy (HA). Sam Schmidt, HA student, shared the spoken word. The Sabbath ended with a challenge from the college student leaders and Greg Taylor, pastor, for the high school seniors. The challenge was this: When you graduate, be sure to seek community by joining an ACF group or by creating one.

The idea of creating awareness of future challenges in higher education, paired with success stories of current higher education students, and of focusing on the importance of prioritizing spirituality now, became the beginning of a plan for supporting teenagers transitioning into emerging adulthood. Their emotional, physical, and intellectual development is important, and even more so is their spiritual development. Adventist education exists on the premise of ministering to the whole individual: body, mind, and spirit. This is the trademark of Adventist academies. This weekend retreat testified to the increasing efforts of schools and conferences to support the emerging adults beyond their high school years. ①

BY NELSON SILVA  
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT ASSOCIATE  
DIRECTOR



# Church Members Spread Love Through Closed Doors

**S**outh Nashville Church in Antioch, Tenn., doors may be closed, but the members' hearts are wide open to worshiping, spreading the Gospel, and serving every Sabbath. The members are living out the true meaning of "worship service."

The church members meet for an hour daily, Monday through Friday, for a morning devotion via Zoom. This gives the members an opportunity to stay connected, to study God's Word, and to pray and encourage one another. Keenan West, pastor, leads out in the devotions, but from time to time they may have a special guest or a member to lead out as well.

In addition, West sends out a daily devotional message through text that closes with a thought or question for discussion. They are encouraged to share the devotionals with family and friends. The devotionals typically reach beyond the United States.

South Church also holds a weekly prayer meeting through Zoom that allows the members to refuel midweek with the studying of Scripture and prayer.

As the church continues to stay closed, the members suggested that they have a drive-up church worship experience. The services are held in the parking lot, and as the praises go up outside, the horns blow from the many cars parked eight feet apart, and they truly feel they are of one accord.

After divine worship, whether watching online or from parked cars, they leave filled with the Holy Spirit, and move into "service." They have adopted an apartment community in the neighborhood, where they deliver free groceries and snacks for the children every two weeks. They also have committed to giving backpacks filled with supplies.

The other two weeks they participate



South Nashville Church members give out groceries to those in need.



A South Nashville Church member shares a few love donations.

in the "South Nashville Cares Act." During this outreach ministry, they set up a portable sound system on a corner one mile from the church. They then distribute money, groceries, and prayer for those who pass by. They have chosen to follow Jesus' example of healing, preaching, and offering service to those in need. So, every week the members are in the neighborhood serving on the Sabbath, it is what they have been commissioned to do.

On Sabbath afternoon, after the outreach activity, the members participate, through Zoom, in a ministry called "Deeper." This is when they have the opportunity to discuss the sermon for the day. The pastor leads out and all are able to ask questions, give insight, and talk about what they learned from the message.

South Nashville Church has been

doing great things in the community despite the hard times many are facing in the world. God has truly blessed the efforts of His people. The church members ask that all pray that God's work may continue to go forth and reach those in need of His saving grace. ❶

BY CHRISTY CARTER

# Young Adults Initiate “Round Table Connect” Sabbath School



Jessica Davidson and Michael Taylor host the “Round Table Connect” young adult Sabbath School at the South Atlantic Conference Studio.

When we look at the world, whether we are looking at politics, religion, disease control, or even social interaction, everything is changing quickly. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make people feel isolated, especially young adults. Jessica Davidson, a 2020 graduate of Oakwood University, felt this change after her young adult Sabbath School was dissolved for social distancing purposes. Inspired by her peers also missing the Christian interaction, she gathered a small virtual group for Sabbath School, and the group grew until it became the Round Table Connect.

The new, powerful initiative of a virtual Sabbath School is impacting young adults’ lives across America. The Sabbath School Department young adults community presents the idea of Bible study in a new, innovative way. It bridges the gap between young adults (18-35) on a national and international scale. Using the Inverse Lesson Study, anyone can join in this safe, positive space for open and lively discussions.

Recently, the initiative was presented Conference-wide under the leadership of Darryl Howard, Conference Sabbath School director, through a livestream broadcast at the South Atlantic Confer-

ence Studio. Joining Davidson in the studio, was Michael Taylor, Aisha McLeary, and Jordan Howard. Other young adult representatives virtually conversed on the topics of discipleship, and showed that every church can have the Round Table Connect. We can still virtually gather in Jesus’ name to uplift each other. Round Table Connect meets every Sabbath morning at 10 a.m., EST. Visit [www.sac-sda.org](http://www.sac-sda.org) for more information. 📺

BY AISHA MCLEARY



# South Atlantic Holds “You Talk, We Listen” Online Forum



The online forum participants include Donovan Washington (top, left), Conference youth director; Bryce James; Kathrina Samuels; Natasha Jones; William Winston, Conference president; Austin Humphreys, pastor of the Washington and Murfreesboro, N.C., churches; Frank Harrell II; Jhai Sampson; and Gary Troxler Jr.

It all began with an idea by William Winston, South Atlantic Conference president. He wanted to connect and hear from the young people of the Conference. He had no desire to lecture them. He wanted to listen. After meeting with key leaders in the Ministerial and Communications departments, Winston partnered with Donovan Washington, Conference youth director, to host “You Talk, We Listen.”

This was a historic online forum where Winston took questions from generation X, millennials, and generation Z about young people and where they

fit in the Church. Austin Humphreys, pastor of the Washington and Murfreesboro, N.C., joined to moderate the discussion. Youth and young adults from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia asked Winston unfiltered and thought-provoking questions.

The panel included Gary Troxler Jr., Jhai Sampson, Kathrina Samuels, Bryce James, Natasha Jones, and Frank Harrell II.

This event was broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. The replay of the event can be found on the South Atlantic Conference pages on those sites.

The feedback was tremendous, and

gave Winston and Washington great information to better reach the youth and young adults. 🙏

BY DONOVAN WASHINGTON, D.MIN.

# Southern Adventist University President David Smith to Retire in 2021



PHOTO BY: RYAN PIERCE

David Smith, Ph.D., has announced that he will retire in May 2021 at the conclusion of his fifth year as president of Southern Adventist University. Smith has a long relationship with the institution, where he began teaching English in 1981, serving 17 years as professor and then department chair. His wife, Cherie, and two daughters are graduates of Southern.

“David’s passion for students and for spreading the love of Christ has inspired me,” said Tom Verrill, senior vice president for financial administration. “His presidency accomplished significant ob-

jectives that prepare us well for a strong and successful future.”

These accomplishments include leading the rewrite of Southern’s mission, vision, and values; the development of a comprehensive strategic plan; and the emphasis on Southern’s endowment fund that experienced a \$15 million increase as part of the recently completed Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

“Grappling with enrollment, academic excellence, cultural competency, Christian integrity issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic have showcased

Dr. David Smith’s commitment to the development of higher education within the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., chairman of Southern’s Board of Trustees and president of the Southern Union Conference. “I will miss his leadership and friendship.”

David Smith previously served as president of Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and senior pastor of the Collegedale, Tenn., Church. Deeply committed to serving God and nurturing a Christ-centered environment on campus, as Southern’s president, Smith



established a new leadership position, the vice president for spiritual life.

“David has been a visionary leader who has a great sense of humor, is a good listener, and asks good questions,” said Robert Young, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic administration. “He has also brought a spiritual credibility that is evidenced in his messages to campus, his prayer life, and his servant-leadership.”

Having made a five-year commit-

ment to serve as president, Smith has peace about his decision as he finishes up his leadership at Southern and prepares for retirement.

“Southern Adventist University is God’s school,” Smith said. “Its future is in God’s hands, not our hands. If we humble ourselves, if we pray, and if we submit to His will, God will deliver the future He knows is best for us and for those we serve. With each step into the future, we must learn to trust Him fully.”

The University’s Board of Trustees is dedicated to the nationwide search for Southern’s next president, and expects that process to be completed before Smith retires in 2021. ❶

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BY STAFF WRITER

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## Constitution Week Events Celebrate Five Freedoms

Southern celebrated national Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2020, through events that recognized the five freedoms of the First Amendment to the Constitution: religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly.

The School of Social Work and the School of Journalism and Communication collaborated with Stephanie Guster, senior advisor for diversity, to encourage voter registration, civic engagement, and civil dialogue on campus. The week included a march to commemorate 100 years of women’s right to vote, as well as a virtual town hall meeting, and a spoken-word contest highlighting these five individual and collective constitutional freedoms.

“These events gave me a personal appreciation for how interconnected the five freedoms are in the First Amendment,” Guster said. “I believe that one of the things that college students almost unanimously appreciate is the exhilaration of freedom! There’s nothing like the prerogative as a citizen to make your own choices and decide what is important to you and why. But, if college students aren’t aware of their freedoms, they may not recognize the power they hold to impact



change all around them.”

Southern Votes, a student-led, non-partisan, voter engagement program, set up booths to provide students with information about how to register and vote in their individual states.

“College students are becoming more and more vocal about what they believe, and outspoken about who they support or don’t support,” said Xavier Snyder, junior history major and direc-

tor of Southern Votes. “It’s important that they have the information they need to vote and express their opinions in one of America’s most powerful ways — at the ballot box.” ❶

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BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT

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# Orlando Daycare Focuses on Special Needs Children



Sagarika Sahu poses in front of the Little Angels PPEC transport van with one of the daycare's "little angels."

For Sagarika Sahu and her husband, Manish Bhatt, it all started with an evening conversation about life with their friends, among them a pediatrician. "My husband and I don't have kids and we always wanted to do something different and somehow give back to the community. We didn't really know what we wanted to do. Basically, we always wanted to do something in the education field for children."

The idea of a medical daycare came up during the conversation, and this epiphany led to Sagarika and Manish Bhatt founding Little Angels PPEC, a daycare for medically fragile children who cannot attend regular daycare.

Sahu, who is also a part-time profes-

sional adjunct faculty member for AdventHealth University's (AHU) Health & Biomedical Sciences program, works mainly as the administrator for the center, while Manish Bhatt, an IT professional, manages the website and other technical aspects. They have a team of skilled nurses on staff to meet the children's medical needs.

The center has expanded to two locations in central Florida, Orlando and Longwood. Both are staffed with medical specialists and provide skilled nursing care, occupational and physical therapies, speech-language therapy, free meals, and medical transport to children from 3 months to 20 years old. In addition, they provide education to the children's parents on topics such as tube-feeding and medication management.

Each location is purposefully kept small-scale, servicing about 10 to 15 children each with about one to two staff members per child, allowing them to have individualized attention. Sahu said, "I keep it small so that we can maintain our standards. That was our original idea. I want to keep it very family oriented. That's my main goal."

She maintains this relationship by knowing parents personally, staying in touch with them every day, sending them photos of their children at the daycare, and keeping them informed. "They can trust us with their kids, and know that this is a place where they will be taken care of," said Sahu.

A usual day for Sahu starts early with a tele-health check, followed by in-person health checks, and then transporting the children to the daycare. Then, before breakfast is served, each child receives a health evaluation. Throughout the day the children receive therapies, play, and go through learning activities. By 6 p.m., the children are either trans-

ported back by the center or picked up by parents. Then, the center is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

The center also provides an opportunity for AHU students to do hands-on learning. Students from the physician assistant program can complete pediatric internships, while other students will reach out occasionally to volunteer. "They get to learn from RNs and gain experience interacting with medically fragile kids."

Despite the demanding schedule of managing the center, Sahu is dedicated to her teaching duties at AHU. "Teaching is my passion. I love every moment of it." When she meets her students for the first time, she tells them to "find what you love and if you get a job in that field, you are going to be the happiest, most content person." The University's mission to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ plays an important part in Sahu's own mission and approach to teaching.

"The service-oriented values of AdventHealth continue to guide us in this mission. We learn new lessons daily, and I feel blessed for the opportunity to be in a spiritually enhancing environment of AHU and be able to nurture in an environment like the PPEC," said Sahu. ❶

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



# Southeastern Shares Emotional, Mental Health of Workers



**Joann Bushner is the administrative assistant to the Southeastern Conference president**



**Carol Shirley-Smith is the administrative assistant for the Southeastern Conference Office of Education**

There's been a whole lot of emotional letdown for workers over the past eight weeks. First, we all thought we'd be closed for two weeks — 'this is just going to be a blip' — then it was a month, now it's two months [and longer]. You have to acknowledge to employees that this transition will be difficult. At the same time, you need to recognize we just don't know," notes Society of Human Resources Management, May 2020.

The office staff of Southeastern Conference have also been adjusting to daily changes, while still maintaining their commitment to the mission of Southeastern Conference — sharing hope and restoring wholeness within their communities.

**Carol Shirley-Smith**, administrative assistant for education, says, "Change comes into our lives as a result of a crisis which presently is COVID-19 and definitely unexpected. It challenges and forces us to step out of our comfort zone and do things differently. I have had time to reflect on my life during this time and realize that I need to grow spiritually, so

I have spent more time in the morning in personal devotion and worship to keep my soul nourished. I thank God for His many blessings and remember His numerous promises. I know that God loves us, is faithful, and is taking care of us."

**Joann Bushner**, administrative assistant to the Southeastern Conference president, shares, "Over the past few weeks, I have embraced the new role in my new normal. I was able to optimize space to work in my home remotely and provide support to the Southeastern Conference team. It has been a positive experience, especially trying to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home order. I did not feel isolated, so I made my day-to-day experience a consecration moment with God. Each day I was able to get a good workout, indoors and outdoors, spend time with family, and practice healthy eating habits. I was able to stay focused, while being engaged in my surroundings, and still be productive with work. During this pandemic I felt compelled to pray and study my Bible

more, along with practicing time management skills. Although change may not be easy, especially with the social distancing, I have no regrets working remotely at home. I have felt encouraged, calm, and better equipped as a person during this pandemic. Lastly, the Bible says in Philippians 4:11, 'I have learned in whatever state I'm in, learn to be content.'"

Additionally, Genesis 2:2 reminds, "God created the Sabbath day of rest for us." This time of rest forces all to stop and focus on important things such as relationship with God; family; physical health; community; and thanking those who put their lives on the line every day, such as healthcare workers, first responders, and the workers who perform essential services.

Southeastern employees continue to perform essential services for the Conference, and they especially acknowledge those who work behind the scenes maintaining technology so the Conference family can accomplish work remotely. In Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12, Paul says, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour .... a three-fold cord is not quickly broken." This is how Southeastern ministry workers have come together to help neighbors, family, strangers, and their communities.

Working remotely has created a new job scenario for Conference workers, but most have settled into a productive routine. The Conference family expects that employees will bring stress, anxiety, and depression over this pandemic when they return to work. Every situation is different. As they take this time to strengthen their relationships with Christ, they don't know the course of COVID-19, but they do know that God is in control. ●

BY KEITHA HATCHER



**ASHLIN, NORMA**, 94, born Jan. 7, 1926, in New Harmony, IN, died March 4, 2020 in Port Charlotte, FL. She was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 34 years. Her parents became Seventh-day Adventists when she was 13.

She worked at the Indiana Conference in Indianapolis, IN, and then attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, MI. After obtaining her secretarial certificate, she was offered a job in 1947 working for the General Conference in Takoma Park, MD. At the Takoma Park Church she met William Ashlin, and they married in January 1948.

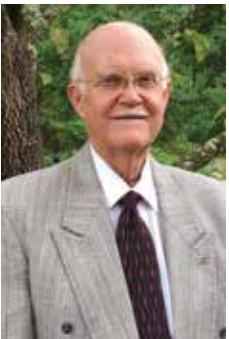
Norma and Bill moved to Utica, OH, in 1968 when Bill worked for Loma Linda, and Norma worked for the president of the Ohio Conference in Mt. Vernon, OH. They moved to Port Charlotte in 1986 where Norma took a part-time job at Charlotte Regional Medical Center in Punta Gorda (then owned by Adventist Health System Sunbelt).

She is survived by one son, Robert (Cindy) Ashlin of Port Charlotte; one daughter, Sarita (Richard) Hampton of Cambridge, MA; one brother, Harold Tron of Mt. Vernon, IN; and one sister, Sophie Roby of New Harmony, IN. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, William Ashlin.

**BAEZ-HENDERSON, MARIA**, 75, born Dec. 30, 1944 in Humacao, Puerto Rico, died May 7, 2020 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church and has been a Seventh-day Adventist for approximately 30 years. She worked as a registered nurse at Florida Hospital.

She is survived by her spouse of 17 years, Jim Henderson; two sons: Kirk (Yvette) Baez of Chattanooga, TN, and Christian Baez of Casselberry, FL; one daughter, Tiffany (Chuck) Fosson of Port Orange, FL; three brothers: Ismaael (Magie) Figueroa of Altamonte Springs, Ruben (Yvonne) Figueroa; and Richard Figueroa, of Napa Valley, CA; and eight grandchildren.

The service was conducted by Pastor Steve Sherman.



**WYNN, D.D.S., KENNETH RAY**, 85, born Oct. 9, 1934, to Guy Carlton Wynn and Essie Elizabeth Ray Wynn in Fletcher, NC, died Sept. 15, 2020, at Spartanburg Medical Center. His beloved wife was by his side.

Kenneth was one of six children, attended elementary school in Fletcher, and graduated from Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL. He majored in pre-dental studies at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, and in 1956, he traveled west to study dentistry at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in Loma Linda, CA.

Kenneth met his sweetheart of 62 years, Montie "Ruth" Phillips, when she was studying to be a registered nurse at the Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing in Fletcher. They were married in 1958, and Ruth joined Kenneth in Loma Linda. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree and graduated in 1960. Following graduation, the Wynns relocated to South Carolina, where Kenneth practiced dentistry in York, Woodruff, and Spartanburg for 42 years, until he retired in 2002. Kenneth was loved by all his patients and well-respected by his professional colleagues. He served as secretary/treasurer and later president of the Southern Chapter of the National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists. Kenneth also was a member of several professional associations and societies, including the Spartanburg County Dental Society, Piedmont District Dental Society, South Carolina Dental Association, American Dental Association, Loma Linda University Alumni Association, Century Club of Loma Linda University, and the National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists.

A member of the Spartanburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, Kenneth devoted much of his life to serving his community and church. He held a variety of church offices throughout his life. He was chair of the Finance Committee when the existing church was built on John B. White Sr. Blvd. He also was instrumental in co-founding the first Pathfinder youth club at the Spartanburg Church. Kenneth was known for his untiring love and devotion for his Savior, family, and his many friends who also remember him for his wit, wisdom, kindness, and ever-present smile. His loved ones trust he is resting in Jesus until He returns at the Second Coming to reunite families.

Kenneth's hobbies included writing poetry for many friends, family members, and special events. He loved photography, painting, sculpting, wood turning, wood carving, and baking cookies and bread.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruth of Moore, SC; three daughters: Deborah Wynn of Moore, Diane (Gary) Thurber of Lincoln, NE, and Denise Hagerty of New Braunfels, TX; four grandchildren: Ryan (Baylie) Thurber of Colorado, Justin Thurber of Florida, J.D. (Alicia) Hagerty of Texas, and Sam (Bianca) Hagerty of Texas; two great-grandchildren: Avianna Hagerty and Jack Hagerty of Texas; one sister-in-law, Hilda Sheets of Georgia; one brother-in-law, Dr. Edward Cranford of North Carolina; many beloved nieces; and nephews. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers: Irving Wynn, Wilton Wynn, and Lowell Wynn; and two sisters: Elouise Wynn Smith, and Eileen Wynn Cranford.

Interment was at Fairview Cemetery near Greeneville, TN, on Sept. 24, 2020. A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Spartanburg, SC, Church on Sept. 26, 2020.



**EMDE, PATRICIA "DIANE,"** 76, of Mohawk, TN, born Feb. 13, 1944 in Flint, MI, died May 31, 2020 peacefully at her home. Those close to her knew her as an intensely devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She loved her family, and was so thankful to God for all His many blessings throughout her life and grateful for His loving care. She was a member of the Greeneville Church, and volunteered at the Community Services Center until she was unable to continue. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Mark Emde; one daughter, Lucinda (Dr. Todd) Lang of North Port, FL; one son, Dr. Brad (Angela) Emde; four grandchildren: Julia Lang, Katie-Jane Emde, Ellie Rose Emde, and Emmie Grace Emde; two sisters-in-law: Gail (Merritt) MacLafferty of Collegedale, TN, and Jeanne (Dr. Steve) Enders of Olympia, WA; one brother-in-law, Tom (Karen) Emde of Apopka, FL; several nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents: Lloyd and Leone Drew; one sister, Sharon Drew; one brother-in-law, David Emde; several aunts; and uncles.

**HAMILTON-OLLHOFT, CAROLYN,** 74, born June 4, 1946, died Sept. 2, 2020 in Cartersville, GA. Carolyn was a host in the doctor's lounge at Anderson's Regional Medical Center where she worked for many years until her retirement. She was a member of the Meridian Community Church. Carolyn is survived by her children: Dara (Jim) Davis, Ben (Kim) Hamilton, and David Hamilton; her grandchildren: Christopher Parris, Ashley (Shawn) Dutton, John Tyler (Kelsey) Parris, and Jeffrey Parris; great-grandchildren: Hannah Parris, Mason Parris, McKenzie Dutton, and Cade Dutton; her brother, Bart Spivey; and her nephew, Dan Spivey. She was preceded in death by her parents: Ott Spivey and Sarah Ainsworth; her step-father, Ed Ainsworth; and her brother, Oliver Spivey. A graveside service was held Sept. 5, 2020 at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

**IVANOV, "MIKE," MIROSLAV,** 85, born April 17, 1936 in Gospodinci, Serbia, died Aug. 18, 2020 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 13 years. He was a toolmaker by trade. He is survived by his wife, Drenka Ivanov of North Port, FL; and one daughter, Maria Ivanov of North Port. The memorial service was conducted by Jaime Pombo, associate pastor of the Port Charlotte Church. The

memorial service and interment were in Venice, FL.

**MELÉNDEZ, JUANITA,** 94, born Aug. 29, 1925 in Morovis, Puerto Rico, died Aug. 27, 2020 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Spanish Church for 30 years. She was a teacher and a seamstress. She was a devout Christian who dedicated her life to serve others and to do God's will until her last breath. She will be missed. She is survived by her two sons: Edwin (Lourdes) Meléndez from Spring Hill, FL, and Lester Meléndez from Anchorage, AK; one daughter, Nilsa (James) Lebrón of Avon Park; and seven grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Demetrio Meléndez in August 2009. The service was conducted at the Avon Park Spanish Church by Pastor David Rilo. Interment was at the Florida National Cemetery located in Bushnell, FL, with the service conducted by Pastor Dennis Martinez.

**MENKE, ILSE INES,** 84, born March 22, 1936 in Lima, Peru, died Sept. 19, 2020 in Longwood, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church for more than 10 years. She is survived by three sons: Santiago Bendezu of Hawaii, Jaime (Sharon) Bendezu of Daytona Beach, FL, and Dieter Bendezu of Tampa, FL; three daughters: Marisol (Agusto) Cavero, Monica (Rdrigo) Castro, and Ingrid Bendezu of Longwood; and four grandchildren. The service was held at the Forest Lake Church.

**MORRIS, ROBERT (BOB) L.,** 76, born April 26, 1944 in Miami, FL, to Arthur Montgomery Morris and Virginia May Spurlin of Atlanta, GA, died July 13, 2020 peacefully at his home. Bob spent the early years of his life in Florida before the family moved back to Atlanta. He attended Briarcliff High School in Atlanta, Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL, and graduated from Lyman Ward Military Academy in Camp Hill, AL, in 1963. In 1964, Bob enlisted in the Navy and was part of the first crew assigned to the USS Von Steuben, a *James Madison-class* fleet ballistic missile submarine outfitted with Polaris missiles. After six years of naval service, Bob joined the Gwinnett County, GA, police department advancing to major. In 1972, he married Mary Anne Hudgins, daughter of Mary and Arthur Eugene Hudgins of Decatur, GA. They immediately started a family and had two sons, Brandon Arthur and Robert Spurlin Morris. Bob's law enforcement career took him away

from Georgia when he joined the security team of Exxon. Exxon relocated the family to Florida and later Texas, where part of Bob's duties involved the safety and security of off-shore oil rigs. He remained with Exxon until the Exxon-Mobil merger in 1999. In 2002, Bob and Mary Anne returned to Georgia to be near their sons. Not ready to retire, Bob joined the Butts County Sheriff's Office working in the jail and courthouse until 2017, earning the friendship and respect of fellow officers and prisoners alike. He was an active member of the Covington, GA, Church, serving as elder and member of the church building committee. He is survived by his wife, Mary Anne; two sons: Brandon and his family - Jenny, Madison, Morgan, and McKenzie; Rob and his family - Alexa, Beckett, and Briggs; his brother and sister-in-law: Ronald Arthur Morris and Linda Morris; his sister and brother-in-law: Judy Morris Lampert and Scott Lampert; nephew, Adam Lampert; niece, Samantha Naik; and niece, Alexandra Lampert. Bob was a devoted family man, friendly, outgoing, and having never met a stranger. In addition to the love he had for his family, he had a strong love and respect for his police brotherhood. He will be missed by all who knew him. Interment is in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville, GA.

**SCHULEMAN, RICHARD JOHN,** 93, born Aug. 23, 1927 in Wilmette, IL, died April 13, 2020 in Hendersonville, NC. He attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, MI, to study business. There he met and married Juanita Berg. He worked briefly in construction in Evanston, IL. When Juanita's father passed away, they moved to her parents' farm at Shabbona, IL, in 1951. They worked on the farm for 20 years. During that time, they gave birth to two daughters. The family moved to another farm in Mendota, IL, which they acquired and owned and operated for 40 years. Richard was a member of the Aurora, IL, Church, where he served as a deacon, Sabbath School teacher, and an elder. Richard and Juanita retired to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC, in 2011, and attended Fletcher Church in Hendersonville. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Juanita (Berg) Schuleman of Hendersonville; two daughters: Jeanette (Scott) Gividen of Dorchester, SC; and Carol (Kenneth) Scranton of Bolingbrook, IL; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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**ADVENTIST REALTOR** - Are you wanting to buy or sell? I can help your dream become reality. *Call Pierre Potgieter @ ReMax Real Estate Center: 423-987-0831 or 423-664-6644.* Serving Tennessee and Georgia. Let me give you a free market analysis of your property. [11-3]

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#### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks full-time **faculty member for the School of Visual Art and Design**. Looking for a professor of film production to teach cinematography, lighting, sound design, documentary directing, and producing. M.F.A. in film production and current teaching experience preferred. *For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit: [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs)* [11]

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seeks **Pathways Coordinator** for the School of Business. The Pathways Coordinator facilitates full-circle engagement by serving as a touchpoint for prospective and



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**LICENSED MESSAGE THERAPIST** needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary, friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. *Email resume to [dkch7@yahoo.com](mailto:dkch7@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-625-3585.* [11, 12]

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**MARKETING ASSISTANT/COORDINATOR** - Child Impact International is an NGO and a supportive ministry of the SDA Church in TN. Child Impact is a sponsorship organization that works in 6 countries. The organization is looking for an experienced **Marketing Assistant** to manage all aspects of media and events. *Please refer to the job description, requirements, and application process at [www.childimpact.org/marketing-role/](http://www.childimpact.org/marketing-role/). Contact Cheri Gardner: 423-910-0667, [support@childimpact.org](mailto:support@childimpact.org).* Child Impact International, PO Box 763 ,Ooltewah, TN 37363. [11]

**FARM WORKER AND HANDYMAN** needed in Seale, AL. Depending on experience will pay \$1,000 to \$1,500/month. Includes rent free housing in a mobile home. Verifiable church affiliation required with background check.

Close to Uchee Pines Institute. *Send resume to [secureemail9@gmail.com](mailto:secureemail9@gmail.com)* [11]

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**SEEKING DEDICATED SDA COUPLE** for annual stipend position (April-October) as **site directors** at the Joseph Bates Home in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Need a love of SDA history and visitors who come for tours, plus a willingness and ability to care for the property. *For more information, contact Donella at [dandersen@adventistheritage.org](mailto:dandersen@adventistheritage.org)* [11]

**STALLANT HEALTH**, a rural health clinic in Weimar, CA is accepting applications for an **Optometrist** to join the team. *Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com)* [11]

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**EVEN THROUGH DISASTERS**



### **TYPES OF SIGNS AND MATS**

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

### **LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE**

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

### **FREE SERVICES TO HELP YOUR CHURCH**

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

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

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

**CALL 770-408-1800, X130 FOR FREE ESTIMATES**

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



# Donating to God's Work

**M**r. Davis is over 80 years old. He suffers from some mobility difficulties and has no family to care for him. Because of this, he recently moved to an assisted living facility for the elderly. He has a robust, strong faith in the Lord, and wants to do all he can to benefit His work.

Mr. Davis asked to meet with his Southeastern Conference Planned Giving Director and decided to donate his home and let the Conference sell it and use the funds to further God's work.

- **To learn how you can donate your assets to God's work, contact your local Planned Giving and Trust Services Representative.**

## Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

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Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

## Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

## Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

## Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

## Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

## South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

## South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

## Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

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## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**GOD IN SHOES CELEBRATION (WOMEN AND TEENS)** - Nov. 14, 4 p.m. Attend this online celebration event showcasing how God led each of us to minister to others. We will share your testimonies at this time. Online.

**HISPANIC WOMEN PRAYER WARRIORS** - Nov. 20, 21. Online.

**PATHFINDER JUNIOR EVENT** - Dec. 4-6. Online.

**HEALTH RALLY** - Dec. 5. With E.W. Dempsey, adult ministries director, Duluth, GA, Church.

**HISPANIC ELDERS' TRAINING** - Dec. 5. Online.

**A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**OF GOD'S LOVE AND CARE IN 2020 (WOMEN AND TEENS)** - Dec. 5, 4 p.m. Online.

Events are subject to change during COVID-19, please check the website for the latest details, [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com).

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ONLINE CONCERT** - Nov. 8. With Laurie Redmer Cadwallader conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. for a live broadcast at [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SINGLES:** Bible study, hikes, socials, banquets, retreats, bowling,

cooking classes, and more! Check out the Calendar of Events at [www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home](http://www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home).

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

## SUNSET

	NOV 6	NOV 13	NOV 20	NOV 27	DEC 4	DEC 11
ATLANTA, GA	5:40	5:35	5:31	5:29	5:28	5:29
CHARLESTON, SC	5:23	5:19	5:15	5:13	5:13	5:14
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:23	5:18	5:14	5:11	5:11	5:11
COLLEGE DALE, TN	5:40	5:35	5:31	5:29	5:28	5:29
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:46	4:41	4:37	4:35	4:34	4:35
JACKSON, MS	5:05	5:00	4:57	4:55	4:55	4:56
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:37	5:31	5:26	5:23	5:22	5:23
MEMPHIS, TN	5:00	4:54	4:51	4:48	4:48	4:48
MIAMI, FL	5:35	5:32	5:30	5:29	5:29	5:31
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:49	4:45	4:42	4:40	4:39	4:40
NASHVILLE, TN	4:45	4:39	4:35	4:33	4:32	4:33
ORLANDO, FL	5:36	5:32	5:29	5:28	5:28	5:30
TAMPA, FL	5:41	5:37	5:35	5:34	5:34	5:35
WILMINGTON, NC	5:13	5:08	5:04	5:02	5:01	5:02



# SCHEDULE

# A VISIT

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