

TIDINGS

Southern

Adventist edge

APRIL 2021



120 YEARS OF
GOSPEL MINISTRY
AND GROWTH

PUBLIC TEACHER
JOINS ADVENTIST
SCHOOL

GROWING FOOD
FOR YOU AND ME

HOW A TENNESSEE
CHURCH DISCOVERED
MARANATHA

Reconnecting Through Humility



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

“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet,” John 13:14.

Judas paid a premium for the upper room where Jesus and his fellow disciples gathered to celebrate the Passover. According to old manuscripts, landlords charged oversized rents at the times of the great feasts in Jerusalem. The thirteen probably felt grateful that they had such a large and convenient room. Later it would hold 120 as they waited for the Spirit.

But, the landlord did not provide room service. Not that he offered no amenities. Inside the door, he had placed a large pitcher full of water, a basin, and a towel. With no servants waiting on them, the twelve overlooked the niceties of the moment and simply made no use of the water.

Did they remember Mary who had washed Jesus’ feet with her tears? Apparently not. No better than Simon the Pharisee, they did not think of doing a servant’s work.

Within hours, Jesus would promise them the Comforter. If they would ever become the salt of the Earth and the light of the world, they would have to serve one another as the Spirit would soon serve them.

As Jesus moved water and towel from disciple to disciple, He drew them into His humility. In the church, the house that Christ has built, He offers no room service. Brothers go on errands for each other. They serve one another for the glory of the Servant of servants.

Sometimes we talk as if the Spirit will do the work for us. We pray, “Send Your Spirit before us.” The prayer has good in it as long as we do not expect the Spirit to gird Himself and do the work of the servant of Christ. Jesus left that role for us.

Rather than go before or stand and urge, the Spirit draws the diverse parts of the Church into a witnessing oneness. We wash one another’s feet, not alone to show how humble we are, but to affirm that the life of service and witness represents the presence of the Comforter among us.

Because we bend before each other and do the servant’s task, the world may also stretch out its feet to us for cleansing. The servants of the Lord are the world’s servants.

“Those who have communed with Christ in the upper chamber will go forth to minister as He did,” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 651.

May God give us greater humility, kindness, and forbearance in dealing with backsliders and with one another. Let’s not forget millennials and Generation Zs. Hosts of people are disconnected from the Church, but still consider themselves Seventh-day Adventists. They listen regularly to our Church productions and watch our ministries on television and online. They observe podcasts and religious services on multiple media platforms. They go to Church occasionally, but are unattached to the Church. They wouldn’t belong to a different church for anything, yet they are not united with us. Wow! What an opportunity to reconnect.

I pray, as we sojourn through this COVID-19 dicey terrain of 2021, that God will empower us through humble and surrendered lives to commit to the Christian service of reconnecting with a soul who is questing to get back to this household of faith. -RCS

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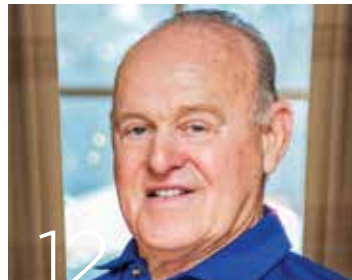
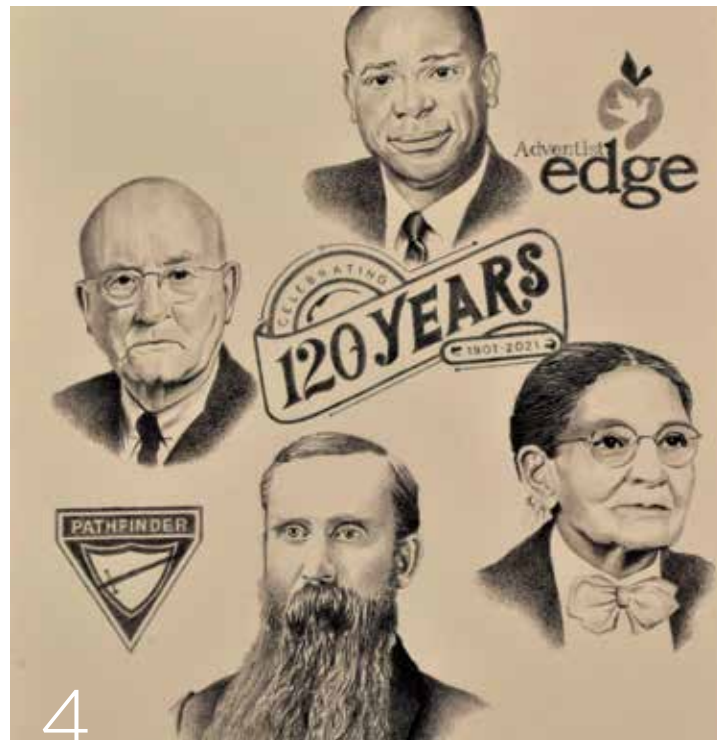
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april 2021





BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

April 9, 2021, marks 120 years since the Southern Union was organized in 1901, and 150 years since Elbert B. Lane preached in Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, in 1871.

Elbert Lane began the Adventist work in the South, and Edson White gave impetus to the work among African-Americans in the South, but it was Robert Meek Kilgore who led the territory to become the General Conference District #2 in 1890, and finally organized into the Southern Union in 1901.

Kilgore was a veteran of World War I who became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1865. He felt a burden for souls and a desire to proclaim the truth to others. A few months later, James White ordained him. He ministered briefly in the eastern states, but in 1877 was sent to Texas where, during his first two years, 200 were baptized. When the Texas Conference was organized in 1878, he became the first president, and by 1885 there were 800 members.

Formation General District #2 - 1890

Therefore, when an experienced administrator with a passion for evangelism was needed for the new General Conference District #2 in 1890, Robert M. Kilgore was selected.

After one year, Kilgore reported, "District #2 embraces nine Southern states, as follows: Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. There is but one organized conference in the District, the Tennessee River Conference, which is composed of those portions of the states of Kentucky and Tennessee lying west of the Cumberland Mountains. The eastern part of these two states forms the Cumberland Mission Field. All the other states in the District are also mission territory.

"During the year, five ministers have been engaged in the work in these mission fields; five new churches have been added, making in all at present an aggregate of 19 churches and 383 members,



Robert M. Kilgore, 1901-1902

who have paid tithes to the amount of \$2,921.16," *Yearbook* 1891, p. 67.

Growth into Union

Ellen White visited General District #2 in March 1901. In Vicksburg, Mississippi, March 16-17, she dedicated the

new Vicksburg Chapel School her son, Edson, had built. In Memphis, Tennessee, on March 18, she spoke with 35 members of the Adventist congregation there. She and her fellow travelers then caught the 1 p.m. train and headed to Nashville, Tennessee. Edson rushed ahead and was waiting at the Nashville Union Station with his “Gospel Wagon” when his mother arrived.

Early Tuesday morning they were met by N. W. Allee, Smith Sharp, Edward A. Sutherland, D. T. Shireman, Fred Halladay, I. H. Ford, A. F. Harrison, and Stone. Everyone climbed aboard the Gospel Wagon and toured the Adventist interests in Nashville, which was already a blossoming hub for the Church.

In the Nashville/Davidson County area, there were four Adventist churches: two in Nashville and two in Edgefield Junction. There was also the Nashville Colored Sanitarium managed by Fred and Fannie Youngs, the Herald Publishing Company, the treatment rooms operated by Louis E. Hansen and his wife who opened the health work in the South with a health exhibit at the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition from May 1 to October 31, 1897. Other institutions within the territory were the Graysville School (1892), Oakwood Manual Training School (November 1896), the Southern Missionary Society (1898), and the Review office in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ellen White also attended meetings of the Southern Missionary Society for the next two days. *The Gospel Herald Supplement* for March 1901 records, “Plans were laid for developing and strengthening the work with some items referred to for study at the time of the General Conference, to be held at Battle Creek.” We do not know what those items were, but perhaps one was the organizations of unions.

Ellen White and colleagues left for Chicago on Thursday morning, March 21, en route to Battle Creek where the General Conference would be held April 2-23.

Southern Union Organized

“An early proposal [at the 1901 General Conference Session] was that union conferences, after the order of what had been done in Australia, be formed throughout North America and the European fields. At the business session held Thursday afternoon, April 4, a model was presented from the Southern field, or what might be termed the Southern district, embodying three conferences and six missions. Perhaps it was the relative smallness of the field, with 2,600 members, and because the work was just getting well established



The gate to the Oakwood Manual Training School established November 1896



Graysville Southern Training School

PHOTO BY: ADRIA WARE

there that they were able quickly to move into line with the new organizational plans and with a suggestion that they be made a union conference,” *Ellen G. White: The Early Elmshaven Years 1900-1905*, p. 85.

The delegates took several days to discuss the reorganization plan. On April 9, 1901, the Southern Union Conference was organized with Robert M. Kilgore as president. The Union began operation on May 1, 1901, with its first headquarters at 1025 Jefferson Street in Nashville.

The territory included “three state conferences, Tennessee River, Florida, and Cumberland. The rest of the territory was an unorganized mission field. In the entire territory there were 62 churches, having a membership of 1,900, which, with 680 isolated Sabbathkeepers, made a total of 2,580 reported believers. At the time of organization, there were 24 ministers, 11 licentiates, and 30 licensed missionaries, making a total of 65 laborers. There were also 65 canvassers, 20 medical missionaries and nurses, and 15 other workers laboring as

Presidents of the Southern Union 1901-2021



Robert M. Kilgore,
1901-1902



George I. Butler,
1902-1907



George A. Irwin,
1907-1909



C. F. McVagh,
1909-1912

self-supporting missionaries. The tithe received for the year ending December 31, 1900, was \$13,214.80," (GCB 1903).

Kilgore hit the ground running. During the next few months, new conferences were organized in the Carolinas (September), Georgia-Cumberland (August), Alabama, and Mississippi.

120 Years of Ministry and Growth

The following timeline shows that the Southern Union was organized during the Progressive Era in the United States, but ensuing decades brought challenges and opportunities. Some of the major world challenges that provided ministry opportunities were World Wars I and II, the Spanish influenza pandemic, the genocides against Armenians and Jews, the Great Depression, and the Holocaust. The timeline will show how the members and leaders of the Union have undauntedly used their spiritual gifts to carry the gospel during the best and worst of times, as God helped us turn challenges into opportunities for ministry and growth. We invite each member of the Southern Union family to pause this month to celebrate God's leading in the Union and your own personal experience, remembering that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we forget how God has led us in the past."

1901 – The Southern Union Conference was organized April 9, 1901, with Robert M. Kilgore as president.

1901 – The Southern Publishing Association was organized on June 4.

1901 – Nashville Colored Sanitarium was opened by Edson White, with Fred and Fannie Young as manager and matron.

1901 – New conferences were organized in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

1902 – George I. Butler, former president of the General Conference, was elected second president of the Southern Union and the Southern Publishing Association.

1903 – George I. Butler reported that within the five conferences, there were 80 churches with a membership of 5,824, 30 church schools with an enrollment of 854 pupils, 36 church buildings, and 10 buildings occupied for school purposes, 32 ordained ministers, 17 licentiates, 40 licensed missionaries, and 31 canvassers. Tithe for 1902 was \$20,575.30.

1904 – Madison College and Sanitarium (1907) was opened by Edward A. Sutherland and Percy Magan.

1907 – The first official news organ for the Union was the *Report of Progress*.

1908 – The Union Divided: On January 12, the Union was divided into the Southern Union and Southeastern Union.

1908 – The Southeastern Union cov-



E. A. Sutherland



ered the states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee, and the Bahamas Mission headquarters were located in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The official newsletter was the *Field Tidings*. (President A. Westworth, 1908-09)

1908 – The Southern Union Conference territory included Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Its headquarters remained in Nashville until 1932. The *Report of Progress* was renamed *Southern Worker*. (President G. A. Irwin, 1907-09)

Women's Suffrage Movement 1848-1920

World War I 1914-1918



S. E. Wright,
1912-1920



James L. McElhany,
1920-1922



Charles Thompson,
1909-1912



G. W. Wells,
1922-1926



J. J. Nethery,
1926-1928



N. S. Ashton,
1928-1932

1908 – Dr. Lottie Blake opened Rock City Sanitarium to serve the Colored people in Nashville, Tennessee.

1908 – Florida Sanitarium, later Florida Hospital and now AdventHealth Orlando, opened in October in an old farmhouse in Orlando, Florida.



Rock City Sanitarium

1909 – At the opening of the 1909 General Conference Session, Ellen White predicted “terrible scenes of strife and oppression beyond anything they had conceived of,” (GCB, May 21, 1909). A series of events ensued that rocked the world and affected the Southern Union: WWI (1914), genocides (1914-1923), the Spanish Influenza (1918-1920), the Stock Market Crash and Great Depression (1929-1932), the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust (1933-1945), and WWII (1939-1945).

1909 – Anna Knight was called by the Southeastern Union to work in Atlanta, Georgia. Her duties included nursing, teaching, and Bible work. When the Southeastern Union and Southern Union

merged, she served in the Educational Department until she retired in 1945.



Anna Knight

1911 – The first Ministerial Institute was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. W. W. Prescott, G. B. Thompson, and A. G. Daniells trained pastors and Bible workers during the day, and held public evangelistic meetings in the evening.

1914 – WWI (July 28, 1914-Nov. 11, 1918): W. C. Cleveland, a Seventh-day Adventist from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and father of E. E. Cleveland, was among the Adventists from the Southern Union who, though drafted, refused to bear arms or work on Sabbath.

1916 – Graysville Academy bought a



William C. Cleveland

piece of property in Tennessee called Thatcher Switch and named it Collegedale. The school was renamed Southern Junior College, and 57 students started classes on October 18.

1918 – Young Adventist men from the South were among those encouraged to attend one of two Institutes of War Time Nursing held in Washington, D.C., and Loma Linda, California, to prepare to be nurses in WWI.

1918 – The Spanish Influenza: Many members and workers in the Southern and Southeastern unions perished during the two-year pandemic that killed tens of thousands throughout the South.

Spanish Influenza 1918-1920

Armenian and Syrian Genocides 1918-1923



S. A. Ruskjer,
1932-1935



G. A. Roberts,
1935-1936



J. K. Jones,
1936-1943



E. F. Hackman,
1943-1947



V. G. Anderson,
1948-1957



D. R. Rees,
1957-1964

1918 – Millions were massacred in the five-year Armenian and Syrian genocides. The Southern and Southeastern unions sponsored relief campaigns to assist the Armenian and Syrians suffering disease and starvation.

1929 – The Great Depression (August 1929-March 1933) greatly affected the work of the Church. This led to the merging of the Southeastern and Southern unions in 1932.

1932 - The Unions Merge: The Southern and Southeastern unions merged as a means of reducing expenses during the Great Depression, but without the inclusion of Louisiana and the Bahamas. The two newsletters, *Southern Worker* and *Field Tidings*, were combined to become the *Southern Tidings*. The reorganized Southern Union held offices in Chattanooga, Tennessee, until 1936, when headquarters moved to Decatur, Georgia. (President, S. A. Ruskjer, 1932-35)

1932 – The Alabama and Mississippi conferences merged to become the Alabama-Mississippi Conference. It was renamed the Gulf States Conference in 1984.

1933 – The first Southern Union Youth Congress was held May 22-25, at Southern Junior College. Alfred W. Peterson was the Missionary Volunteer leader and education secretary for the Union. The

following year other unions held Youth Congresses for their youth.

1934 – May 25-28, a Colored Youth Congress was held at Oakwood Junior College and organized by Anna Knight. Youth from all over America attended this first Youth Congress open to Colored youth.

1937 – The first Field School of Evangelism was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, to teach pastors the system of evangelism used by the most effective evangelists. J. L. Shuler, Union evangelist and president of the Carolina Conference, directed the School.



John L. Shuler, Union evangelist

1939 – With WWII imminent, J. K. Jones, Union president, urged, “While Europe prepares for the coming Arma-

geddon, and America is stunned by the apparent nearness of the conflict, millions in our own land are wondering about the future. Stocks and bonds are tumbling and uncertainty prevails everywhere. Now is our opportunity to place our message literature in the hands of the masses in the cities and towns. The people are looking for someone with prophetic vision to tell them what these things mean,” *Southern Tidings*, March 29, 1939.

1939 – WWII (September 1, 1939-September 2, 1945): The Seventh-day Adventist Church begins to prepare young men to serve in the Medical Cadet Corps program started at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and adopted by the General Conference to train Seventh-day Adventist youth to serve as noncombatants.

1940s – African-American veterans who had sacrificed to defend “liberty and justice for all” returned to the U.S. and demanded free exercise of their own rights, which were prohibited by the Separate but Equal Doctrine until 1954. This push included many Seventh-day Adventists who sought to desegregate Adventist institutions.

1941 – After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, the United States entered WWII.

1942 – After the U.S. entered the War, Medical Cadet training was launched at Southern Junior College and Madi-

The Great Depression 1929-1933

Push for Desegregation 1930-1954



LeRoy J. Leiske,
1964-1965



H. H. Schmidt,
1965-1980



Alfred C. McClure,
1980-1990



Malcolm D. Gordon,
1990-2006



Gordon L. Retzer,
2006-2011



Ron C. Smith,
2011-

son College. Southern was designated a theological school so theology students could get the Class IV-status needed to continue their education.

1942 – The Southern Union raised \$102,451.55 in support of the Missions Relief Fund to help rebuild missions destroyed during WWII.

1945 – The Holocaust ended in May 1945 after the Germans and their collaborators had murdered six million European Jews as part of a systematic plan of genocide.

1945 – The request for desegregation was denied, but the General Conference proposed regional conferences. The Southern Union appointed a feasibility committee to study the idea, and organized the South Atlantic Conference and South Central Conference in December 1945. The new conferences began operations January 1, 1946.

1950 – Raquel Genanian organized a Spanish Sabbath School class at Miami Temple English Church in Florida, which was the beginning of the first Spanish church in the Southern Union.

1951 – The 25th anniversary of Junior Camps was celebrated by all conferences Union-wide.

1954 – E. C. Ward and E. E. Cleveland held major evangelistic meetings in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Mont-

gomery, Alabama. More than 500 persons were baptized in each city.



Earl E. Cleveland, evangelist

1958 – The Miami Spanish Church was organized on December 20, as the first Spanish church in the Southern Union with Ernesto Santos as pastor.

1959 – Operation Dixie, a Union-wide evangelistic thrust involving all Southern Union departments and pastors, was organized by Don Rees, Union president.

1960s – Revival evangelism was introduced in the Southern Union by Harmon C. Brownlow and Glenn Coon as a shorter evangelistic meeting format.

1964 – A new office was built at 3978

Memorial Drive in Decatur, Georgia. (President LeRoy J. Leiske, 1964-1965)

1965 – Oscar Heinrich launched the Church Identification Service to provide signs for churches and schools.

1965 – 1,100 Pathfinders and Pathfinder officers converged on Veteran's State Park in Cordele, Georgia, on April 1, for the first Union-wide Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee, under the direction of E. S. Reile, Union youth director.



1969 – Mission Spotlight, the monthly Sabbath School Mission video report, previewed under the leadership of Oscar Heinrich, Southern Union communication director. Mission Spotlight featured Church work in 160 countries, and served 3,000 Sabbath Schools in seven world divisions until 2007.

1970 – The first Southern Union Council on Evangelism was held to train evangelists. The Council is now known as E3.

World War II 1939-1945

Holocaust Ended 1945

Presidents of the Former Southeastern Union 1908-1932



W. A. Westworth,
1908-1909



Charles Thompson,
1909-1912



C. B. Stephenson,
1912-1913



O. O. Montgomery,
1913-1915



W. H. Branson,
1915-1919



W. H. Heckman,
1919-1932



Mission Spotlight



1973 – A second Union office building was built to house the growing Home Health Education Service, and was completed in 1974.

1974 – The publishing directors of the regional conferences in the Southern Union — Theodore Smith for South Atlantic Conference and Joseph Hutchinson for South Central Conference — adopted a new ministry and business model called Family Health Education Service. FHES helped regional conference literature evangelists to be successful in both sales and soul winning.

1978 – During the Festival of the Faith Youth Congress, March 22-25, about 2,300 youth presented Jesus through music, gymnastics, health screening, door-to-door visitation, and literature to every secular campus and mall, and almost every home in Greensboro, North Carolina. They distributed more than 45,000 copies each of *These Times* and *Listen*, and 50,000 Bible course enrollment cards.

1979 – The Union began to publish a Statement of Non-Discrimination for Adventist schools in the *Southern Tidings*, which had been voted by the North American Division in 1971.

1980 – In December 1980, the constituency of the South Atlantic Conference voted to divide and establish the Southeastern Conference. Southeastern began operations January 1. (President J. A. Edgecombe, 1981-1988)



James A. Edgecomb, 1981-1988

1988 – The Southern Society of Adventist Communicators (SSAC), was formed under the mentorship of Martin Butler, Olson Perry, and George Powell, former communication directors at the Southern Union Conference. The group voted in 1999 to invite communicators nationwide, and became the Society of Adventist Communicators, headquartered at the North American Division.

1990 – After six years as a Women's Commission, the Southern Union Women's Ministries Department was established with Evelyn VandeVere as the first director (1990-1997).



Evelyn VandeVere

1997 – Norwida Marshall, Ed.D., Union director of elementary education, launched the Early Childhood Education Program in the Southern Union.

Civil Rights Movement 1954-1968

Vietnam War 1964-1975

1998 – Jorge Mayer became the first full time Southern Union Hispanic ministries coordinator, succeeding Rolando del los Rios who served as the acting Hispanic coordinator from 1997 to 1998.

1999 – SURF, or the Southern Union Revolving Fund, was established. SURF is a financial ministry which allows Adventists to invest money for a reasonable return, and with that money provides the blessing of low-cost loans to churches and other Adventist institutions.

2000 – Native Ministries launched in the Southern Union under the directorship of Fred Rogers.

2001 – The Southern Union Conference celebrated its 100th anniversary since organizing in 1901 in a year-long centennial celebration under the leadership of Malcolm Gordon, president.

2004 – The Southern Union Department of Education introduced the Adventist EDGE, or Educators Delivering GREAT Education, within its school system.



2009 – A Year of Evangelism was declared. Southern Union baptized 9,618.

2010 – The Union hosted the World Church's General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, with more than 2,400 delegates and 50,000-plus in attendance.

2013 – In December, the Southern Union Executive Committee voted in a

new publishing ministry and business initiative called BLAST, designed to reach the 62 million people throughout the Southern Union territory.

2014 – The Southern Union moved its headquarters to 302 Research Drive, Peachtree Corners, Georgia, in March.

2018 – Clergy and Educator Memorial Medallions of Honor were developed by the Union Communication Department and adopted by the North American Division.



2020 – Novel Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19): Sadly, many members of the Southern Union died from the ongoing virus.

2020 – The Union moved staff to remote operations on March 16 because of COVID-19 and remained on remote operations for longer than a year.

2021 – April 9 marks 120 years of ministry in the Southern Union Conference.

Conclusion

The Southern Union Conference has been a bellwether union because of the innovative ministry it has fostered through programs such as Women's Ministries, the layman's movement, Mission Spotlight, World Sabbath, a fast growing Hispanic work, the Church Identification Program, Youth to Youth, medical/dental professional recruitment, the MagaBook student literature program, a strong min-

isterial enrichment program, Adventist EDGE, the Adventist Health System, the formation of the Southern Society of Adventist Communicators which is now the Society of Adventist Communicators, the Clergy and Educator Memorial Medallions of Honor, and more.

Programs are great, but the engine that moves the Southern Union is members and workers who, imbued with faith, give themselves wholeheartedly to the salvation and nurture of souls.

Despite the pandemic, tense race relations, and political polarization, we have nothing to fear except as we forget how God has led us in the past. Let us fulfill the Gospel commission, commit ourselves to the true fast of Isaiah 58, live out brotherly love in its fullest dimensions, and use our gifts to equip each other as we grow towards full maturity in Christ.

See [SouthernTidings.com](https://southerntidings.com) for timelines for each conference and institution in the Southern Union and additional photos.

If you know of historical events that need to be remembered, please submit them to the Southern Tidings office. 📧

R. Steven Norman III is the communication director at the Southern Union Conference and the Southern Tidings editor.



Scan Me

The Space Age 1957-2011

The War on Terror 2001-Present

Oakwood University's Longtime Coach, JAMES ALLEN RODDY, PASSES

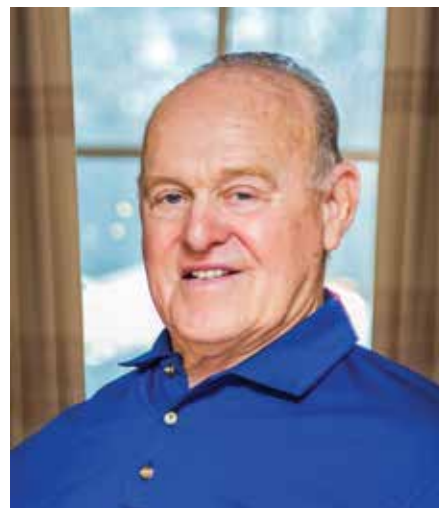
James Allen Roddy, 79, was born July 5, 1941 to Dr. James Wade Roddy and Helen Jean Roddy in Charlotte, North Carolina. Raised in Richton, Mississippi, he attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, Tennessee. At Southern, he met the love of his life, Norma Jean. Their marriage, which lasted more than 55 years, began August 15, 1965. That same year he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) and accepted a faculty position at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama.

At his beloved Oakwood, Coach Roddy established the Physical Education Department, intramurals, and the intercollegiate sports program. While teaching, he continued his education, earning his master of education degree from USM. He devoted 52 years to teaching and coaching at Oakwood. He helped with the development of a cooperative Physical Education Program with Alabama A&M University in 1986, and subsequently in the development of Oakwood's Physical Education major in 1988. Over his tenure, he served as Oakwood's athletic director, a member of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and in 2003 was a committee member who established guidelines for Seventh-day Adventist athletes. In 2007, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of developing a com-

petitive athletic program at Oakwood by joining the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) in seven sports, and winning the National USCAA Basketball Championships in 2008, 2012, and 2016. Before retiring in 2017, he professed that it had been his true honor to serve Oakwood University, witness to the students, and lead by example.

Despite vast accomplishments and awards bestowed upon him, James' greatest love in life was God. He enjoyed speaking with the Lord frequently and journaling most of his prayers. In sharing this passion for God with his wife, they shared it with their children, and extended it to the athletes and students they held dear in their hearts. As an active elder and Sabbath School teacher at the Oakwood University Church, he modeled God's love through servant leadership and engaging lesson studies. He was a godly man, and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend.

After a month-long fight with COVID-19, Coach Roddy died Thursday, December 31, 2020, with his wife holding his hand at his bedside. He is survived by his faithful, loving wife, Norma Jean, and their five children: Jordan (Gilda), Jamie (Stephen), Jeramy (Premala), Carrie (Anthony), and Katie (Josia). He will be greatly missed by his nine grandchildren: Léa, Gisèle, Charlize, James Jude, Brooks, Brayden, Ella, Mary Brenden,



James Roddy, retired Oakwood University professor

and Bronson. He will also be fondly remembered by his brother, Charles, as well as countless relatives, friends, colleagues, and students. Preceding him in death were his parents; two sons, Landon and Brenden; and his sister, Carolyn.

To honor Coach Roddy, we will celebrate his life by reflecting on his devotion to God, dedication to his family, students, friends, and his many accomplishments. As a trailblazing coach, the "Crown of Life" still remains the ultimate championship prize. ❶

Oakwood University Professor, JAMES HENRY MELANÇON, PASSES

James Henry Melançon, 94, born May 8, 1926, to the late Ethel Alfretta Kershaw Melançon and Clifford Brown Melançon Sr., pastor, in Litcher, Louisiana, died November 14, 2020. He was the oldest of 13 children, and received his education in the public school system in New Orleans, Louisiana. Following high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy. After successful completion of boot camp at Camp Moffett in Great Lakes, Illinois, Melançon served as a combat line mechanic, stationed in Hawaii during World War II.

Eager to expand his academic skills, he applied to and was accepted into the University of Southern California's (USC) College of Aeronautics. He graduated from USC with an associate degree in aeronautical engineering. Following graduation, he felt called to pastoral ministry, and matriculated to Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in theology.

Following graduation from Oakwood, he enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he became the second Black American, after his teacher Ernest Eugene Rogers, Ph.D., to receive a degree in biblical languages. Melançon accepted a job teaching Bible, history, and art at Los Angeles Seventh-day Adventist Academy, after which he accepted a post as associate pastor at the Compton Avenue Church in Compton, California. He was then appointed to become pastor of the Holmes

Avenue Church, and successfully led his congregation to a new church home, Miramonte Boulevard Church in Los Angeles.

It was in the city of Los Angeles where he first saw and fell in love with Artie Helen Smith, the daughter of Edith Rosa Carter Smith and Clarence Milam Smith. The two were wed at the Wadsworth Seventh-day Adventist Church, with William C. Webb officiating.

Their union was blessed with the addition of two children, Artie Teresa Melançon Suri and James Marc Melançon.

Following successful pastoral duties in California, Melançon accepted a position to teach biblical languages in the Religion Department at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. During his tenure, he developed technologically advanced learning resources for biblical language students.

After seven years at Union College, he accepted a position to join the Theology Department at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, at the encouragement of his mentor, Ernest Eugene Rogers, Ph.D.

Melançon's presence and commitment to the college's purpose and mission was immediately felt at Oakwood. He built a state-of-the-art language laboratory complete with individualized cubicles, cassette recorders, studio headphones, and interactive guides. He was also active on campus with his professional photography skills.

Among all of his accomplishments, Melançon considered his signal accomplishment to be the more than six decades he spent in pastoral and educational leadership for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He believed his service to the



James Melançon, retired Oakwood University professor

Church to be a blessed privilege extended to him by the Lord Jesus Christ to whom he sought to offer his life in daily service.

He rests alongside his recently deceased wife, Artie. He is survived by his daughter, Artie Teresa (Teri) Melançon Suri; his son, James Marc Melançon; his grandson, Sham Sunder Suri II; two brothers-in-law, Craig Smith and his wife, Alison, and Charles Smith and his wife, Myrna; four sisters, Joyce NuMan and her husband Imam Rafeeq NuMan, Antoinette Sam and her husband, Gary, Paulette Larkin, and Doris Winzer; three brothers, Anthony and his wife, Antoinette, Joseph, and Charles; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cherished friends. In addition to his parents, Ethyl and Clifford Sr., he was preceded in death by his stepmother, Cora Jones Melançon; his sisters, Gloria Bourgeois, Helen, and Paula Mae; and his brothers, Clifford Jr., and Alcee. ❶

How a Tennessee Church DISCOVERED MARANATHA

BY JULIE Z. LEE

Juan Sandoval needed to build a church. The question was, “How?” It was 2018, and he was the brand new pastor of the Ooltewah Hispanic Church in Ooltewah, Tennessee. The congregation had been meeting in rented spaces for the past decade, and they were ready for a change. So, when church leaders interviewed Sandoval for the new pastor position at Ooltewah, they asked if he could lead them in constructing a place of worship.

“It was a top priority,” Sandoval recalls. “I really had no experience building a church. I told them I was willing to learn. I was willing to try and do everything with God’s help to make it a reality.”

Sandoval got the job, and now it was time to deliver. But where and how to start?

Ten years ago, the Ooltewah group grew from the Collegedale Hispanic Church; the congregation had decided to split when they outgrew the meeting space. Over the years, Ooltewah met in rented places and most recently in a Methodist church. The arrangement worked, except that any meetings outside of Sabbath worship had to be held in member homes.

“We came to the conviction that we couldn’t be renting forever. We needed our own building if we wanted to hold evangelistic meetings, Vacation Bible School, socials, and all these community outreach programs. That really helped us realize that we need our own building to really live up to what God is calling us to,” says Sandoval.

Fortunately, the congregation had managed to purchase a three-acre plot



PHOTO BY: NICK EVENSON

A team of Maranatha volunteers often help with framing, wood siding, roofing, window installation, and rough electrical and plumbing work.

with a house — no small feat in an area with a booming housing market. Initially, the plan had been to renovate the home, but the estimates kept ballooning. So the group went the route of new construction. They demolished the structure and made plans for a more affordable warehouse-type building with metal siding. But the style was a disappointing compromise for a congregation that had been dreaming of a church.

As Sandoval beat the bushes for more ideas, he heard about “Go: Maranatha,” a mini-convention event in Chattanooga, just a few miles from Ooltewah. He didn’t pay it much attention, until someone insisted that he attend.

“One of the church members elbowed me and was [like], ‘Pastor, what if we ask Maranatha if they could build a church,’”

says Sandoval. “My first reaction was, ‘That’s only overseas in third-world countries. That’s not a viable option.’”

Sandoval decided to go to the event anyway. There, he learned a great deal about Maranatha’s work around the world. He was also surprised to learn that Maranatha did plenty of projects in North America, including building churches in the United States.

After the program, Sandoval met with staff from the Maranatha projects department. They told him about Maranatha’s standard church design for North America, a blueprint for a simple and cost-effective building. Designed for smaller congregations, the plan includes a sanctuary, a fellowship hall and kitchen, Sabbath School classrooms, bathrooms, an audio-visual room, and an office. The de-



PHOTO BY: NICK EVENSON

The 87-member Ooltewah, Tennessee, Hispanic Church is utilizing Maranatha Volunteers International to build its new 5,000-square-foot church building.

sign allows congregations to save architect fees and also have the option to use Maranatha expertise and volunteers for part of the construction, which provides generous savings.

Sandoval was delighted!

He went home and jumped on Maranatha's website. "We ended up filling [out] their application, running it through our conference, and, once they approved it, we sent it all in and that got the ball rolling."

Over the next couple years, Sandoval worked closely with Maranatha's team to get the project off the ground. There were several delays due to budgets, design adjustments, and other complications, and Sandoval received an education.

"If you're considering Maranatha to help you, you're going to notice that this is not their first rodeo. They're very rich in experience, and they'll walk you through the process," he says.

In late 2020, Ooltewah finally broke ground on their church. And, in October 2020, a team of Maranatha volunteers arrived to help with framing, wood siding, roofing, window installation, and rough electrical and plumbing work.

"I feel so blessed to have volunteers from all over the country. You know, when the first few volunteers from Ma-

ranatha arrived, it started to actually hit me. I started to actually process it," says Sandoval. "And I was so touched when they asked me, 'How do you feel pastor?' And I said, 'I feel like we're a family.' And their response was, 'That's right. We're a family in Christ, and we're here to help you.' That melted my heart, and I realized that all the conversations we had had prior were now going to be a reality."

Roger Hatch, longtime Maranatha volunteer and board member, has been serving as the construction superintendent for the Ooltewah project. "I think the pastor is pretty amazed at what goes on, how fast it's going up. He's very appreciative of what we have accomplished in the past week. I think that this church will absolutely grow, leaps and bounds, once we get the doors open."

Already, the congregation is planning multiple outreach events where the church will be the headquarters. From food banks to tutoring courses for the Hispanic community, to educational classes, the church will likely be used daily.

There's still a long way to go before the 87-member congregation can begin meeting. Building a 5,000-square-foot church will take more than a two-week project with Maranatha, no matter how fast the volunteers work. And, as with



PHOTO BY: NICK EVENSON

Maranatha Volunteers International contributes a brand new church building for the Ooltewah, Tennessee, Hispanic Church.

any major construction project, there will likely be more hurdles along the way. But, Sandoval is undeterred. "It has taught me to trust God in the process but to also trust other people, other ministries," he says. ●

Julie Z. Lee is the vice president of marketing for Maranatha Volunteers International.

Growing Food For YOU AND ME

BY ROSE A. FOOTMAN

What does one do when living in a food desert? Or what does a person or family do if they have funds, but cannot purchase certain fresh, raw foods because of the distance they must travel to get to the grocery store or farmer's market? What are people supposed to do when they live in a place with plenty of markets for purchasing fresh, raw food, but want to grow their own heirloom or organic produce because they trust their planting, gardening, and harvesting methods? (Ohio University, 2020)

In the western quadrant of Orlando, Florida, this situation is very real. Public transportation is not only available, it is a necessity which limits what a person can access due to the process it requires to commute. The person with their own transportation may not face the same challenge, but they can experience a similar inability to access markets and food outlets with the best food selection. Day-to-day schedules and various commitments make it difficult for an individual to pinpoint exactly what can be done with their situation to affect a change.

The Mount Sinai Church Community Service Ministries director, Leslie Ahonkhai, and staff and volunteers have taken matters into their own hands — literally! They have an answer, a solution which suits anyone who would take advantage of it. They have set upon the task of developing and cultivating space for a community garden. With heirloom and organic seeds at reasonable prices and sweat



Susie Spradley prepares the soil in the Mt. Sinai Community Garden. At 84 years old, Spradley is still an avid community-garden developer.

equity, anyone can join in and develop their naturally productive space. Heirloom seeds are from plants that have been grown for at least 50 years, and are not hybrid or genetically modified in origin; also, organic seeds [come from plants] that are grown without harmful pesticides, fertilizers, [or] herbicides, according to Annie's Heirloom Seeds.

It goes without saying that the chief benefit received when cultivating natural, raw foods is improved health. Time in the fresh air and sunshine, handling

the nutrient rich soil which imparts the benefit of trace minerals to the gardener, and the physical exertion cannot be purchased at any market or store.

Ahonkhai interviewed a long-time church member and avid community-garden developer, 84-year-old Susie Spradley, who took the time, one cool day at the garden, to extend some sage advice to anyone, from the novice to the seasoned gardener: "Clean it first ... don't expect this to do it for you, you have to do it yourself. Then, plan what you want to plant." Clear, concise encouragement was coated with reality. The garden does require hard work at first; however, as the effort is expended the results of the harvest are realized, one can enjoy the fruits and vegetables of their labor.

Any number of people may participate, for many hands make light work. Make it a family or friends-and-family effort. Let everyone who can participate, do so. Remember the ultimate benefit is better health which can lead to strength and longevity. Anyone in the community who wishes to participate in developing their own garden needs only to contact Leslie Ahonkhai at the church's number, 407-298-7877. ❶

Rose A. Footman is a local elder, Sabbath School teacher, and Adventist youth leader in central Florida.

Public Teacher JOINS ADVENTIST SCHOOL

BY BEVERLY TRENT

Everyone hold your bells quietly ... and now ring them as loudly as you can!”

All of a sudden, the classroom erupts in the joyful ringing of handbells. It’s a familiar scene at the end of music class, all the students ringing their bells at the same time. They love it, and look forward to this end-of-class tradition.

Handbells are new for this kindergarten and first-grade class at Hoover Christian School (HCS), and teaching music is new for Cindy Fisk. She’s a veteran teacher, but this is her first year teaching kindergarten and first grade, along with music. After 16 years teaching in public school, Fisk felt God calling her to Christian education.

“It thrills my heart to hear these little voices reciting the memory verses or retelling a Bible story,” Fisk says. “All of this is impossible in our public educational systems.”

Fisk also relishes the hands-on experiences she can provide for her students at HCS. Walk into her classroom, and you’ll find grow lights and apple seeds, paper

cutouts of plant parts, and a hummingbird feeder right outside the window. “I was surprised how quickly the hummingbirds found the feeder,” Fisk says.

Her students love to explore plant parts at recess, and Fisk has definitely helped them enjoy finding signs of God’s creation. “Teaching here is a dream come true,” says Fisk. “I can talk freely about God’s love, His plan for our lives, and His amazing creative power.”

Fisk isn’t the only one who loves the God-centered aspect of Christian education. The parents love it too. One day, one of Fisk’s students went home and told her mother the story of Jonah. The student’s mother was thrilled that her child is in an environment where she can hear about God during the school day. “That’s why I send her here,” the mother says.

Teaching in a multigrade classroom has been new for Fisk, but she sees having more than one grade as an advantage. “Each student can be instructed at his or her point of need without feeling behind,” Fisk says. “Since we don’t stress the high-stakes testing process and scores, I have more flexibility in how I teach the curriculum. Learning can be fun and varied every day.”

HCS started a kindergarten program in 1995, and it has run continuously ever since. Fisk is the fifth teacher to instruct HCS’s kindergarteners. Even though she did not teach kindergarten and first grade during her public school career, she says she enjoys the enthusiasm these young learners bring. “They’re so excited to learn!” she says.

Fisk was pleasantly surprised by the longer recess times allowed at HCS.



Students spend time learning through play at Hoover Christian School.



Cindy Fisk enjoys the extra time she can spend with her students outdoors.

“One of the biggest benefits our students enjoy are the daily recess times,” she says. “Even when it rains, they still have free playtime. In schools with testing pressures, teachers often don’t feel free to take their students outside for play breaks. It warms my heart to hear my students squealing on the swings or calling to each other from the forts they build among the trees in our schoolyard,” she says. “I feel so blessed to be part of the Hoover Christian School team.”

Beverly Trent has been teaching at Hoover Christian School since 2007. Trent also attended HCS as a child.

HELP THE HELPER

AdventHealth Hendersonville Hosts Vaccine Clinic for Volunteers

BY VICTORIA DUNKLE

KeeP Me Safe, Love Me, Make It Easy, Own It — These service standards are at the heart of everything the team does at AdventHealth Hendersonville. Recently, these principles were put to work outside the doors of AdventHealth Hendersonville's care facilities with a very special community COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

AdventHealth Hendersonville partnered with two area non-profits for a "help-the-helper" vaccine clinic on February 5, 2021.

"We have so many dedicated volunteers throughout our area who are bringing needed assistance to our older adults and to underserved populations," said Graham Fields, AdventHealth Hendersonville director of government relations. "So, this is an opportunity to make sure they are vaccinated so they can do even more in the community."

AdventHealth gave volunteers ages 65-plus for the Council on Aging for Henderson County (COAHC) and Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) their first dose shots of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Interfaith Assistance Ministry is the largest provider of emergency crisis services to people living at or below the poverty line in Henderson County. These services include rent and utility assistance, clothing, a food pantry, and, since the pandemic, a drive-thru food distribution program.

"During this pandemic we've doubled how much service we've provid-



Jane DeMartini, a volunteer for both the Council on Aging for Henderson County and Interfaith Assistance Ministry, received her COVID-19 vaccine from AdventHealth Hendersonville.

ed in 2020 — literally doubled it," said Elizabeth Moss, IAM executive director. "The pandemic has severely impacted our volunteer base. People, especially in the 65-plus group, are terrified to come back without a vaccine. So, we went from having 225 active volunteers every week to, for awhile, having two."

Gary Lambert volunteers for IAM. Before the pandemic hit, he met with people coming to the agency for assistance with emergency crisis services, including rent and utility assistance. "I'm just so appreciative to AdventHealth for arranging this process. It allows me to feel more com-

fortable as I go back into my volunteer role, and certainly in my everyday life."

The Council on Aging for Henderson County provides and coordinates services to engage, connect, and support adults in the community as they age. It provides programs such as senior companions and caregivers. Its largest service is the vital Meals on Wheels program, which was forced to drop from serving 280 hot meals to homebound older adults each day before the pandemic, to providing five frozen meals to these adults once a week.

"In spite of the pandemic, Advent-



Gary Lambert is able to return to his volunteer role with Interfaith Assistance Ministry thanks to AdventHealth Hendersonville's special "help-the-helpers" vaccine clinic for community volunteers.

Health Hendersonville was able to move forward with its contract to become a secondary meal provider for the program, and pivoted to produce the frozen meals," said Keith Logan, COAHC executive director. But, returning to daily hot meals for 33 routes would require nearly 200 active volunteers at any given time. Logan said this opportunity to vaccinate the volunteers age 65-plus means, "Those that have continued to serve during the pandemic can do so more confidently. Many who have been sitting on the sidelines for the last year will be able to return and bolster the ranks to help us return to the pre-pandemic processes."

Jane DeMartini volunteers for both organizations and is grateful for the safety

measures they have put in place to reduce the risks for volunteers and the people they serve. "At IAM they're making us do the safety procedures we need to do while still getting the work done inside the office. You feel the danger a little bit for yourself there, but it is just the opposite with the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels. I feel I'm the danger going into someone else's home. It will be a great relief not to have that anymore."

When the organizations notified DeMartini about the vaccine opportunity, she drove back from her trip to Florida just to get the shot. "We jumped in the car. Came home Thursday and I'm having the vaccine today. Go back to Florida tomorrow. And then back home

on the 20th of February to get back to some kind of normal."

DeMartini will be back in time for her second dose and to get back to volunteering.

AdventHealth's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ is this time taking the form of helping the helpers, so people across our community who rely on these volunteers can feel whole. 📍

Victoria Dunkle is the director of communications and public relations at AdventHealth Hendersonville.

AdventHealth, Moffitt Cancer Center Open Joint Clinical Research Unit in Celebration



Moffitt Cancer Center and AdventHealth have opened the doors of their joint clinical research unit at AdventHealth Celebration, a specialized facility for early drug development, clinical trials, and research.

The facility has 28 chairs in the infusion center to provide standard therapies, and 13 newly added chairs in the clinical research unit reserved for investigational therapies. Care will be provided to patients with solid tumors and blood cancers.

“The opening of this unit will allow patients in central Florida to access the latest investigational therapies,” said

George Simon, M.D., executive medical director of the joint clinical research unit and infusion center. “As we launch more trials, we plan to offer cutting edge anti-cancer treatments, including novel targeted therapies, monoclonal antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates, and other therapeutic platforms.”

The unit’s opening is the latest step in the two major cancer providers’ partnership. The first collaborative clinical trial of the partnership — a Phase I trial testing the effectiveness of a promising new combination therapy for lung cancer — launched in September. Several other collaborative investigator-initiated ef-

forts are currently under development.

“At AdventHealth Celebration, we are combining our expertise and resources, providing even more Floridians with access to world-class cancer care close to home,” said Nikhil Khushalani, M.D., assistant center director of clinical research review and partnerships and senior member of the Department of Cutaneous Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
DIVISION

Southern Union Women's Ministries Announces 2020 Scholarship Awardees



Robin Davis



Alejandra Loayza

Each year the Southern Union Conference Women's Ministries accepts applications for the Emerging Women Leaders Scholarship Award from students attending the Union's three universities. The 2020 awardees are Robin Davis from Oakwood University, and Alejandra Loayza who attends Southern Adventist University.

Robin Davis is a remarkable spiritual leader who delights in helping others. She has served as a literature evangelist and a Bible worker. Currently, she serves as residence hall assistant and campus ministry leader.

Davis says the scholarship award assisted her with the financial challenges of completing her degree. She plans to utilize her knowledge and skills to serve others in her community, church, and within her social spheres using Christ's method as a guide.

She believes women all around the world are waiting for the right person

to help them gain enough confidence to step into their God-given calling.

Alejandra Loayza loves helping people in the area of their health. She is a member of the varsity team, works in Vacation Bible School as song leader and games leader, and serves as a student ambassador.

In the community, Loayza works with Maranatha building houses, and with the "Be A Buddy" program for children with special needs. Her life goals are to graduate and work toward becoming a nurse practitioner.

The scholarship award helped with tuition and purchase of textbooks. She believes that having women's ministries in the churches is truly important because women's lives are impacted by their example.

For the Women Leaders Scholarship Application, visit www.southernunion.com/womens-ministries. 📌

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT, SOUTHERN UNION
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for Adventist women from the Southern Union who attend AdventHealth University, Oakwood University, or Southern Adventist University. Key considerations in selecting the awardees include:

- Impact for Leadership
- Community Outreach
- GPA Above 2.75
- Commitment to the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

The scholarship award is \$1,000 and can be applied toward books, tuition, and/or meal plan.

Learn more at
www.southernunion.com/womens-ministries

Students Participate in Community Services on King Holiday

On a cold Monday morning, January 18, 2021, Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by mobilizing the entire student body and staff to serve the community through several projects for the entire day. Jo Ottinger, chaplain, began the day with worship in the auditorium focused on the historical significance of King, as well as his desire for people to serve others. After worship, masked and socially distanced students divided into their service groups for the day.

They are incredibly thankful to JéWana Grier-McEachin, '92, for her motivation and leadership on this very special day. By her efforts and organization, most of the students were able to serve in the Historic Shiloh Community of Asheville, N.C. Students helped clean and do minor maintenance items at the Shiloh Community Gardens & Legacy Art Trail. They also packed more than 100 personal hygiene bags at the Friendship Community Center in the morning, and delivered them to the porches of senior



PHOTO BY: JO OTTINGER

citizens in the Shiloh Community that afternoon. Grier-McEachin even invited the local news station, WLOS Channel 13, to video a piece covering their efforts, which ran on the evening news.

A group of students and staff were sent to the Church of Hope in North Asheville, where Yarik Klemovich, youth leader, directed them to paint a very long wall. The wall concealed storage space in the multi-purpose room used for

church gatherings, community events, and as a gym. The students were excited for the opportunity to paint. Several of the students had never painted anything before. The church was thankful for the painting lessons by MPA staff Louie Parra and Ed Pelto. The students were efficient in painting, and after doing a great job with the wall, they were able to sweep and organize the storage area, making sure everything was returned to its proper place. Principal Remy Guenin reported, "Yarik was so pleased with our kids! I am really proud of them and the work they did!"

Motivated by the success and impact of this year's experiences, Ottinger is already looking to next year as they celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day through service to their community.

MPA wants to extend a special thanks to Jo Ottinger for all his hard work! 🙏

BY JO OTTINGER, CHAPLAIN

Mount Pisgah Creates Devotional

Abby King, marketing director, shares her experience.

Every time I opened my closet at work, I would stare at the multiple boxes of devotional books, wondering what I was going to do with all these extra pieces of literature. Each summer, Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) publishes a devotional book filled with uplifting stories written by the students and staff. We had somehow over-ordered books by nearly 1,500 during the sum-

mer of 2019, and had left the extras sitting in the Marketing Department closet for more than a year. Each time I saw the boxes, I would question if they should just be thrown away. I could not figure out a way to distribute them in a positive way. Many of the constituents already had a book from that summer and would not want another copy. There had to be a better way than taking these hope-filled books to the dumpster.

One day, as I was considering the numerous books, an idea came to mind.



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

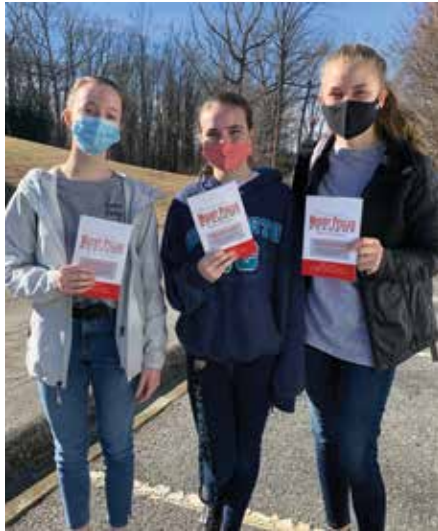


PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

What if the students passed them out in the local community for service day? Each Friday the students go into the greater Asheville, N.C., area to serve in various community ministries. Students have ministered to others by sorting

clothes, cleaning facilities, serving food, and so much more. Handing out books to local neighborhoods would be an excellent way to distribute the leftover, seemingly unwanted books.

I quickly contacted Jo Ottinger, chaplain, who schedules service days, along with Remy Guenin, principal, and they were both supportive of the idea. I spent several hours driving around Asheville and researching online to determine the best neighborhoods for the students to visit. Many homes in the area are located on busy roads, and the safety of the students was secured while they served others.

They began the project on a senior service day. I, along with Jo Ottinger and Donna Robertson, the girls' dean, transported the students to a community located just a few minutes from campus with hundreds of properties. Students either placed the book in the homeowner's paper box or in a bag hung on their front

door. Some of the students even hand-delivered books if the resident was outside. Even after visiting so many homes, they still had books leftover, and plan to continue distributing books in the greater Asheville area.

Although they have not yet received any phone calls or emails with thanks from the recipients, they have already seen the positive reactions caused by the project. Many of the students who participated in the senior service day were excited and felt blessed after handing out the books, especially those students who got to personally speak to recipients. They feel so blessed to have had this opportunity, and they continue to look for more ways to not only inform others about Mount Pisgah Academy, but also to show them Jesus' love through their actions. ①

BY ABBY KING, MARKETING DIRECTOR

“Steal-A-Heart” Days Held at MPA

Although many events have had to adjust and change during the pandemic, one special event remained the same this school year at Mount Pisgah Academy — “Steal-a-Heart” Days. This special event takes place during the week of Valentine's Day, and gives students the opportunity to play a fun game during two school days. On the first day of the event, the male students wear pink paper hearts around their necks. Students can decorate their hearts to reflect their personalities. When the school day starts, the boys are not allowed to talk to the girls for the entire day. If they do talk to a girl, they lose their heart and the girl who they spoke to gets to wear their heart for the rest of the day. On the second day of the event, girls wear their hearts around their necks, and attempt to not speak to the boys. If a girl speaks to a boy, she must give him her heart for him to wear the rest of the day.



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

This event is quite entertaining as students utilize a variety of means to encourage the opposite gender to speak to them. Very few students are able to keep their hearts until the end of the day, but if they do, it is a reason to be proud. In addition to the activity, the Student Association (SA) sells cupcakes, cookies, candies, and flowers in the Administration building. Students can purchase something for themselves or send an



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

item to a friend, which is then hand-delivered by a member of the SA. The students really seemed to enjoy this event, especially this year when so much has been cancelled or changed. It was nice to have something familiar to look forward to among the many changes the pandemic has brought. ①

BY ABBY KING, MARKETING DIRECTOR

Fort Lauderdale Celebrates Drive-in Virtual Communion

One hour before the sun rolled down the western horizon on the last day of 2020, parishioners of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church drove into the church's parking lot and remained in their automobiles during a virtual communion service. A drive-thru approach was utilized because of COVID-19, and members accepted bread and grape juice from a deacon at the lot entrance.

Afterward, attendees logged onto Zoom to participate in a unique initiative involving prayer and testimonies to welcome the New Year 2021. Social distancing protocols were in vogue. Besides everyone remaining in their automobile during the service, there was no gathering in the church building or parking lot either. Each family was encouraged to participate in the ordinance of humility (washing of feet) at home in preparation for communion.

Before the service, the church pastor and church elders took bread and grape juice to the homes of the elderly, sick, and shut-in members.

"The communion service was beautiful," said Sylvia Spence, a local elder. "I was blessed."

"What a lovely communion service!" said Eleanor Sanderson, music ministries coordinator.

"Imagine, COVID-19 cannot prevent members of like precious faith from gathering to commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to welcome a new year," said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor of Fort Lauderdale Church. He added, "In times like these, we must be creative while practicing social distancing." Fort Lauderdale Church has not had Sabbath service in its sanctuary since March of 2020. 🕊



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.

Al Hibbert, who is a Broward County Sheriff Deputy, is shown giving Eleanor Sanderson the communion grape juice and wafer.



PHOTO BY: JAMES COOKE

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., pastor of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church, greets Veronica Allen with an elbow bump after the communion service.

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.

Teen Domenique Dennis Helps Senior Citizens in His Community

Ambassador Church in Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., holds a weekly Tuesday Townhall Talk under the leadership of Valtricts Binns, pastor. The Zoom event looks at various issues and topics facing its members and community at large. During National Mentoring Month, Domenique Dennis and his mother were invited as guests as a surprise to Dennis.

Also, attending was the Honorable Melissa P. Dunn, Commissioner for the City of Lauderdale, Fla. She was apprised of the wonderful things Dennis was doing for seniors and those without means and resources in his neighborhood. “I do things to help the elderly and/or those in

need of a helping hand,” he stated. Dennis went on to share that his assistance included, but was not limited to, painting, lawn cutting, washing vehicles, planting trees, and changing locks. “Helping people in my community is like a plant receiving showers of rain,” he said.

Commissioner Dunn was so moved by the selfless acts of her constituent that she was intentional in awarding Dennis with a Certificate of Appreciation and an appointment to a newly minted youth task force which serves the City of Lauderdale in an advisory capacity. She was very impressed by his youthful exuberance and ambition.

As a ninth-grader, Dennis is a self



Domenique Dennis is performing one of his acts of service for someone needing help.



Getting your yard raked can be difficult for a senior citizen, but ninth-grader Domenique Dennis is always happy to help.

starter, signing himself up for engineering, computer repair, and coding courses in addition to his regular course work. “Doing these activities has helped me to broaden my horizon, and I believe they will be added tools in my toolbox for future pursuits,” he added. Dennis attributes his community service to what he saw his mom do for neighbors, young and old, when he was a child growing up in Jamaica, West Indies.

Like Dennis, all have an opportunity to brighten the corner right where they are. Giving and acts of kindness, large or small, can be a bridge connecting someone in need with the resources or resolve they might otherwise not access. “Let me help someone as I travel along so my living shall not be in vain,” (*If I Can Help Somebody*, song written by Alma Androsso and made popular by the late vocalist Mahalia Jackson). ❶

BY VIVIAN O. WATERS JR.

Light Bearers Pay Tribute to Adventurer Pioneer



PHOTO BY: SHERIE WILLIAMS

Carole Verrill, pastor for children's ministry at the Collegedale Church in Collegedale, Tenn., leads out in the Adventurer Pledge and Law for the Light Bearers at a special ceremony to honor Rita Vital (fourth from left), a long-time Collegedale Church member, as well as one of the early pioneers in the Adventurer ministry.

It was a brisk thirty-something degrees when ten brave Collegedale Church Light Bearers Adventurers and their families walked about a block to the front walkway of Rita Vital, a long-time member of the Collegedale Church family in Tenn., Sunday morning, Feb. 7, 2021. Under the leadership of Carole Verrill, pastor for children's ministry, the Light Bearers cited the Adventurer Pledge and Law, and sang the Adventurer theme song. They then stood very respectfully for the remainder of the program to honor Vital.

The children's participation was the surprise part of an informal tribute for Vital who is recognized as one of the early pioneers for the Adventurer program in the North American Division (NAD). The program was led by Bill Woods, NAD Camp Ministries coordinator, along with Fernando Verduzco, Children's/Jr. Youth Ministries director; Ken Rogers, youth director for the Southern Union; and Stephen Bauer, professor of

religion at Southern Adventist University and also an original member of Vital's early Junior Adventurer Club.

Children's ministry began in the late 1800s, and the first Sunbeam class was recognized in 1924. Programs and curriculum continue to be developed over several decades. Various names were used internationally, and the term Adventurers became more loosely used during the 1960s, which was a very active decade in formalizing the Adventurer program throughout the world.

Vital is recognized in Adventurer history as an early pioneer, with the 1966 formation of her Junior Adventurer Club in Warehouse Point, Hartford, Conn. It was a follow-up for a two-week Vacation Bible School (VBS) children attended at the American Legion Hall. The children were so excited about VBS they wanted more. The early Adventurer meetings were held in Vital's home, where they offered pre-Pathfinder classes, crafts, puzzles, Bi-

ble stories, nature study, and merit badges. They also had educational outings, striving to encourage attendees to develop a solid relationship with Jesus.

In 1989, the General Conference voted to approve organizing Adventurer Clubs as part of the Junior Youth program.

The Adventurer Club was created to give children an opportunity to belong to an organized peer group. The Adventurer Club involves children in grades 1-4 and their parents. The program aims to strengthen the parent/child relationship and to further the child's development in spiritual, physical, mental, and social areas.

The Collegedale Church Light Bearers Adventurer Club has about 25 children attending, and those involved are thankful for this opportunity where their children can learn more about serving others and Jesus. 📖

BY STEVE JOHNSON

My Hero Takes a Sabbath Nap

Gary Rustad shares memories of his late father.

There are heroes in every conference, union, and division around the world — dedicated pastors and teachers on whose shoulders we now stand. But, my biggest hero of all would be my dad, Gary George Rustad.

My dad loved to take Sabbath naps. I remember waiting for him to wake with anticipation of the fun we would have. He needed this brief recovery from the many accomplishments that made him my hero; for him they were just part of what God called him to do.

First and foremost, my dad was my hero because he had the Bible written in his heart and mind. The Bible was his constant companion and he studied it faithfully. Through the years many church members and fellow pastors have come up to me and said, “Your dad knows the Bible better than anyone I ever met.”

My dad was my hero because he listened when the Lord called. Whether it was serving in Texas, Oregon, Kentucky-Tennessee, Hong Kong, or the Southern Asia Pacific Division, God led and directed his path. Dad lived by the verse, “God’s ways are higher than our ways,” Isaiah 55:9. When my parents received a call to pastor in Hong Kong, after much prayer they knew God was calling them as missionaries and they could not say no. Reluctant as I was, I soon realized that God had indeed called us to Hong Kong. My admiration for my dad’s connection with his heavenly Father grew even greater.

Though it was evident God was first in his life, my dad was my hero because he always took time for his family. From the time we were young, he made family vacations a priority and made Sabbaths a joy ... nap or no nap. Many Saturday evenings were game nights, and often Sundays were spent throwing the football trying to wear me out.

My dad was my hero because he always enjoyed a good laugh, even at himself. From my earliest memories, I recall him laughing with friends, sharing corny jokes, watching Laurel and Hardy, or sharing humorous illustrations in his sermons. He lived out Proverbs 17:22, “a merry heart does good like medicine.” He often told the story about how my mom’s dad, “Papa,” would tell him that they were both in the “same business.” You see Papa was a nurse anesthetist and he’d always tease, “Gary we both put people to sleep. The difference is I know how to wake them up!” Retelling that always brought a good laugh from my dad.

My dad was also my hero because of his ability to “guard his mouth,” Proverbs 13:3. Whether it was controlling his tongue in a difficult board meeting, refraining from gossip or harsh talk about others, or never complaining about his Parkinson’s, he was always constant in his speech. I will forever be incredibly impressed with how well he knew that a wrongly placed word wouldn’t help anyone and he acted accordingly.

My dad was my hero because he was incredibly gifted with music. He was most happy when he was standing with his bass fiddle, sitting at a piano playing, or listening to his grandkids play. From growing up playing instruments with his own father and brothers, to the Sundown Vespers at Madison Campus, to “picking” with friends while in the Philippines as a missionary, music was part of him.

My dad was my hero because he believed firmly in evangelism. It was a highlight of my ministry to join him in holding evangelistic meetings in Thailand. He always believed that this was the main responsibility of a pastor, and he was always so excited to hear reports from a series I was holding or a Bible study I was giving. When I had the opportunity to begin to meet with prospective pastors for our conference, he would



SUBMITTED BY: GARY RUSTAD

Gary George Rustad served in the Adventist Church here in the United States and around the world. He passed away February 13, 2021.

remind me, “Ask them about their Bible studies and evangelistic meetings.”

You can see my dad was my hero because his entire life was dedicated to living for the Lord. He lived over 20 years of his life struggling with Parkinson’s, yet pressed on with Bible studies, evangelism, and traveling the world to share the Gospel. But, the dreadful disease pressed on, and early Sabbath morning, February 13, 2021, my dad took his final Sabbath nap. We again wait with anticipation for him to wake on that great resurrection day, and pray his nap won’t be for too long (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

Rest well, Dad! Your nap will soon be over. Our plans together will last for eternity! 🕊

BY GARY RUSTAD

Center of Influence Dedicated in Selma



The former family home is slated to be renovated to become a center of influence in Selma, Ala.



Mary Nelson presents the opening speech at the dedication event.

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Very rarely does anyone know they are making history while they are making it," said Mary Nelson, member of the Gulf Coast Church in Biloxi, Miss., during her opening speech at the dedication event in Selma, Ala.

This special event was arranged to create a starting point for a new community ministry, Cornerstone of Health - Selma, founded by Nelson, and supported by numerous friends and family members. The property being dedicated belongs to the Nelson family, which they lived in from 1992 to 1997. Since that time, it has sat vacant, but Nelson felt there was some purpose for it; she just didn't know what. While visiting the Cornerstone of Health community center in Tuscaloosa, Ala., founded by Tanja Richards, Nelson saw the potential for the property in Selma to become a similar center of influence and got to work.

Nelson started pooling her resources and began working with Melanie Jones,

member of the Gulf Coast Church and owner of 123 Organize and Design, to start making plans for the home's renovation that sat vacant for 20 years. Nelson also worked with another church member, Elvie Guthrie-Lewis, on organizing the educational components that the center will offer. Many others became involved, and Nelson reached out to the city of Selma about the project. City officials welcomed the idea of a community center and worked closely with Nelson to take the proper steps in converting the property for its new purpose.

As plans progressed, a dedication event was scheduled for January 17, 2021, at the home in Selma. On the day of the event, among the attendees and presenters were Henry Thompson, director of planning and development for Selma; Clay Carmichael, City councilman; Cody Miller, pastor at Temple Gate Seventh-day Adventist Church; and Micheal Rodriguez, pastor at Gulf

Coast Seventh-day Adventist Church. As they offered their speeches from the front walkway to the home, several presenters noted the connection between the event focused on community betterment, the proximity of the event date to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and King's work in the Selma area.

Information packs along with healthy snacks were distributed to the event attendees, and the event concluded with a prayer and statement of dedication from Rodriguez and Nelson. Renovations on the property are slated to begin in the near future. Watch a recording of the event and learn more about the project at www.gscs-da.org/gsc-today/cornerstoneselma

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Hispanic Couples Meet for Annual Event



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Cesar De Leon presents during the annual Hispanic Marriage Retreat in Miramar Beach, Fla.

Over 2021 Valentines Day weekend, Hispanic couples reconvened on the beach in Miramar Beach, Fla., for the annual marriage retreat event. This was the first regular in-person event that the Conference has held since COVID-19 caused the cancellation of most 2020 plans.

The 2020 Hispanic Marriage Retreat was the last live event before precautions required the remaining events to be altered. In many ways, holding this event bridged the gap of all the cancellations 2020 brought with it, and for the attendees on the weekend of February 12, 2021, they didn't have to miss the event they look forward to each year.

Precautions were in place, following the Hilton Sandestin guidelines, masks

were worn indoors at all times, and seating was grouped into two chairs for the couples, allowing the appropriate distance between each couple. Meal service was buffet style while food attendants plated each dish, and seating was in an alternate room with round tables and spaced chairs. This type of operation has become common-place, and it didn't negatively affect the attendees experience.

This year's theme was "Unidos por una Razón" (United for a Reason), and featured husband-wife presentation team of Cesar and Carolann De Leon. Their messages struck a chord with many of the attendees, including a couple that recently developed relationship issues following a complicated birth and health issues with their newborn. De Leon worked with both

during the presentation, and the couple experienced relational healing as a result. In addition to the keynote presentations, there were activities planned by several of the pastor couples who helped to get the audience engaged with the content rather than just listening. The event concluded Saturday night with a banquet and entertainment led by Hugo Gomez, and his wife, Janet. Attendees were encouraged to share their own poetry and music with their spouses publically, and prizes were given away following numerous game-show-styled activities. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Franklin Church Members Pay Off Mortgage

Three years ago, a small congregation in Tennessee witnessed a miracle, when they found a permanent place to worship and praise God in the city of Franklin, Tenn. For many years, the members had dreamed about finding property for their church. People worked hard saving funds to have a church building and school in Franklin. But, lack of funds and time to complete the project made the dream seem so elusive.

In September 2017, the church found a beautiful 14-acre property with an almost 4,000-square-foot youth chapel on it. The land provided the possibility for a project consisting of a huge sanctuary and Christian school of al-



New Franklin, Tenn., Church

most 36,000 square feet. And, God preformed a miracle. Five weeks after they saw the beautiful property for the first time, they became the owners.

Franklin Church members paid off the mortgage for the first building and the land. Now they are praying and making plans to move forward with the second phase — constructing a building for a Christian school.

God has been so good and merciful to them through the years. He blessed generous hearts to invest in their future and the future of their children. The members believe Franklin Church will be God's lighthouse for many generations. 🕯️

BY OLEKSANDR SOZINOV,
PASTOR



Some of the children and parents of Franklin Church stand beside the church.

Virtual Pathfinder Bible Experience Showcases Bible Knowledge

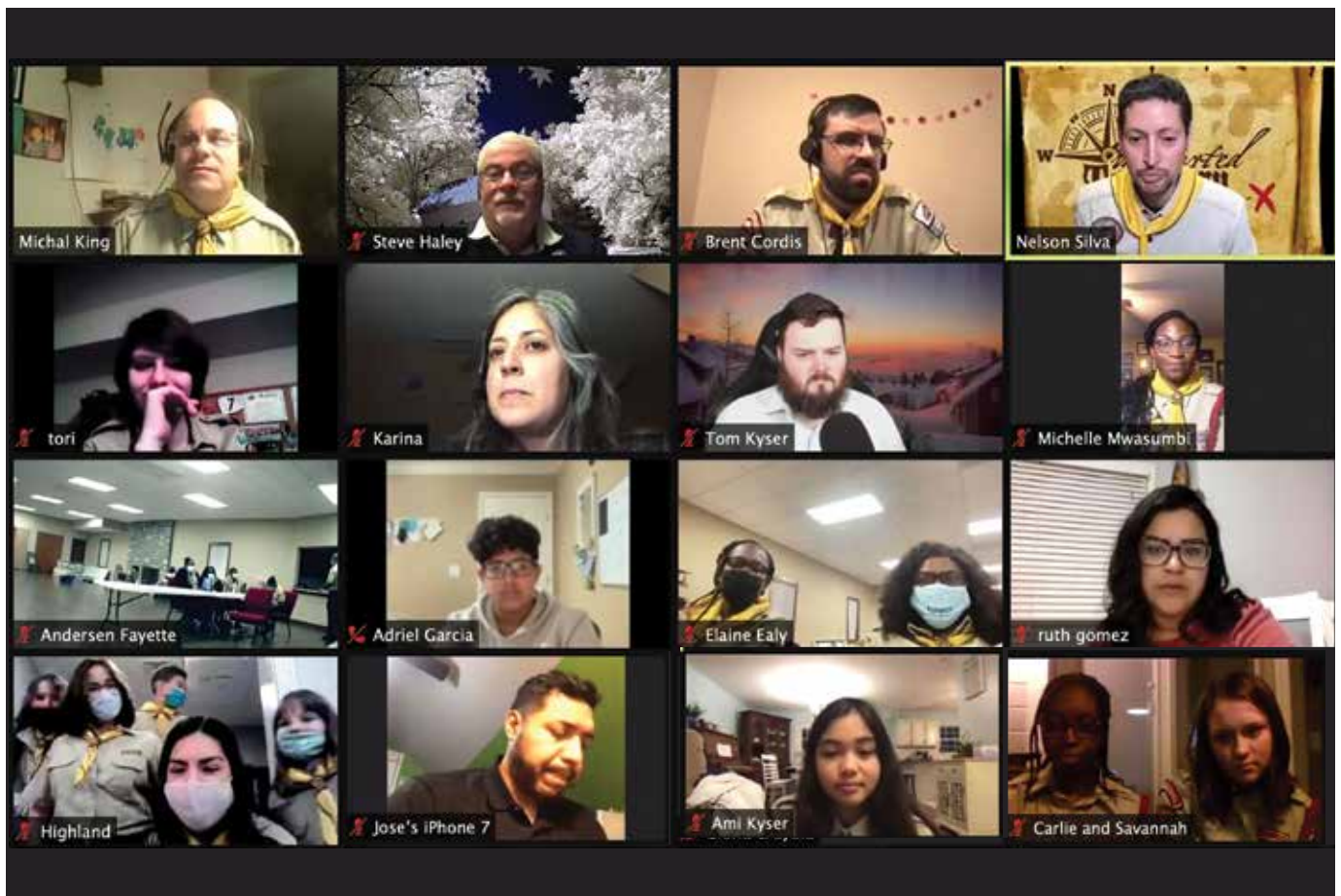
Four Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) teams from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference showcased their Bible knowledge on the books of I and II Peter, James, and Hebrews in a 3½-hour virtual event on January 23, 2021. This event was possible thanks to the hard work of Michal King, PBE director; Brent Cordis, tech support; each PBE coach; the Conference; club monitors; and the judges. Participating teams were Highland Warriors Faithful Followers, Louisville First Light Bearers Cho-

sen Generation, Manchester Mustangs Thunder Sisters, and Smyrna Emmanuel Courageous.

It took countless hours of Bible memorization, persistent encouragement from the coaches, and much strategizing on the technical side of things. The event concluded with a devotional from Steve Haley, Conference president. Each PBE team was recognized as they moved to the Conference level PBE event. Ellen G. White declared, “Neither wicked men nor devils can hinder the Word of God We should

study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God,” *Great Controversy*, p. 197. May this be a reality for the PBE teams as they continue preparing for the Conference, Union, and, by God’s grace, Division Pathfinder Bible Experience events. 📌

BY NELSON SILVA,
ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR



Participants in the Pathfinder Bible Experience and others virtually attend the event.

Bethanie French Church Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony



PHOTO BY: LOLA PIERRE LOUIS

Bethanie French Church groundbreaking ceremony team: Audie Robinson (left); Bernard Anamuah-Mensah; Warner Pierre Louis; Lola Pierre Louis; Bienvenu Theodore; Michael Owusu, D.Min.; and Dieunet Demosthere.

It started in 2003, from one elder to another, from one pastor to another, passing the baton for the building project for the new Bethanie French Church in Boynton Beach, Fla. Each person did their part in what the current building committee chairperson, Lola Pierre Louis, clearly articulates: any “church building project is a spiritual project.” The church has grown exponentially and is the mother church to three or four other congregations. The need to expand and grow the work of the Lord has been limited by the existing facilities, which Bethanie outgrew many years ago.

Like any spiritual project, the new Bethanie Church has seen many spiritual battles and setbacks, yet by the grace of God, the church has overcome. With great determination, they persevered even when the original architect died in a boating accident. When all except one of the original design firms went out of business, the church kept the faith. When the site permit expired and the codes changed, which could make the

project impossible to build today, the members took it to the Lord in prayer. Many challenges and issues seemed they could have been made into a mini TV series, yet with God, “all things are possible.” In fact, Bethanie spent more time in prayer than in meetings or working out floor plans.

It is this commitment of the pastor, elders, building committee, members, and design team that took everything to the Lord that led to the groundbreaking ceremony on December 12, 2020, 17 years later.

In 2018, a new pastor, Bienvenu Theodore, together with the building committee, board of elders, ministry leaders, and devoted members of Bethanie, committed to a biblical fundraising plan and saw a large amount of the funds for the project raised in a short period of time. Fundraising support came from Philanthropic Service for Institutions at the North American Division. A new design team was hired, led by SAVANNAPUB, architects,

which redesigned and permitted the project. With the help of then executive secretary of Southeastern Conference, Michael Owusu, D.Min. (now interim Conference president), the Conference Building Committee, and contractor Bernard Anamuah-Mensah, Bethanie French members were assisted in making critical design and budget decisions that would make the project a reality.

Today, all the praise and honor goes to the Lord and for the many team members who were used by God to reach this milestone. They have another 12 to 18 months of construction and fundraising to do before the grand opening ceremony. They are stepping out in faith again during the middle of a pandemic to start construction. Therefore, your Bethanie French brothers and sisters in Christ, ask for your prayers and support. 🙏

BY LOLA PIERRE LOUIS

Celian Hunt Celebrates 100th Birthday

Celian Adian Hunt celebrated her 100th birthday on November 3, 2020. She was born on the island of Nevis. Later in life she moved to the United States and has been a faithful member of the Perrine Church in Miami, Fla., ever since.

Because of COVID-19, Hunt celebrated her birthday on Zoom with family, friends, and church members. Hyacinth Smart opened the celebration with prayer, after which Hunt sang from memory all three verses of the song “I Love Thee Lord.” She received 100 birthday cards from friends and family to commemorate each year of her life. She reads daily without glasses, her mind is intact, and her memory is perfect. She is able to give clear history of past events.

Friends and family expressed well wishes to Hunt and were so overwhelmed to be in the presence of a cen-

tenarian. Her granddaughter, Vonetta, stated, “My grandmother has a crazy sense of humor that has kept her going.” Alan, her grandson, said he was thankful to have a grandmother who has lived 100 years.

Hunt is the “rock” of the family, having instilled in her children and grandchildren the importance of serving God. Her favorite text is the Fifth Commandment.

Her family includes son Almenis, daughter Lydia, and grand and great-grandchildren. She loves her church family and lets them know each Sabbath. Hunt is still the life of the party. Her desire is to remain faithful, and to be ready to go home with her Savior when He comes. ❶

BY MILLICENT TAYLOR



PHOTO BY: MILLICENT TAYLOR

Celian Adian Hunt celebrated her 100th birthday on November 3, 2020. Her desire is to remain faithful, to be ready to go home with her Savior when He comes.

Super Seniors Get Drive-by Visits

The Bethel Church in Orlando, Fla., brought some cheer to three of their super senior couples, on Sabbath afternoon, November 21,

2020, who have missed out on church services because of the coronavirus outbreak; but, they gave it a new twist — a drive-by caravan. Under the

direction of their super seniors director, Emma Nelson, the members parked curbside, stood beside their cars, waved and said hello, sang a couple of hymns, and waved goodbye, along with honking horns. This is the first of many visits they plan to do to show their senior citizens that, while being isolated, they are missed and loved by their church family.

Social-distancing guidelines were observed as each couple waved from their driveway. Their drive-by greetings are just a small way of easing the anxiety and fear during the global pandemic. This was a pleasant memory to help them get through this difficult time. ❶



PHOTO BY: CAROL SMITH

Walter and Gloria Blair celebrated Sabbath, November 21, 2020, outside their home with a drive-by visit from the Bethel Church family in Apopka, Fla.

BY CAROL SHIRLEY-SMITH

AHU's Community Outreach Team Gets Creative to Stay Connected

With its focus on clinical care driven by Christian values, AdventHealth University's (AHU) degree programs are built around a faith-based education. These values are built into the campus culture and encourage everyone from students to faculty, staff, and leaders to contribute their time and effort towards improving the lives of others. With service-learning incorporated directly into AHU's classes and programs, students can volunteer and work in the community to develop empathy skills, gain invaluable patient experience, and achieve personal fulfillment.

Students often have the chance to serve at local health clinics performing a variety of services, including providing free care to those in need, teaching healthy habits to local children, and more. These opportunities serve to not only deepen knowledge with hands-on experience, but also allows students to make a direct difference in the lives of others, supporting AHU's goal of cultivating uncommon compassion in its graduates. And, it's not only students who devote time to community outreach, but employees as well.

Service-learning hours were suspended for the remainder of 2020 in light of the pandemic. Like all departments at AHU, the Community Engagement (CE) team had to pivot to find ways to keep the campus connected with the community. Kendra Presley-Van Houten, director of community engagement at AHU, began to send regular email updates to AHU staff, faculty, and students with resources and encouraging messages to get involved since the campus first closed.

The annual Wellness Fair, hosted by CE, was moved to a virtual setting last year. In previous years, community partners and students set up booths with health resources to educate and motivate AHU members to actively improve their wellness and

give back to the community. Topics from stress management to sun protection and nutrition are covered in the multitude of resources available during the fair. The virtual wellness fair in the fall was scaled down, but still included more than a dozen community partners who met with attendees in Zoom chat rooms to engage the AHU campus in community outreach services.

The CE team recently launched the "Better Days Ahead" campaign, which invites members of AHU to submit ideas for how AHU can better serve its community in the coming year. The idea was inspired by the story of a young boy in Maryland who started a community pantry, which has grown to building mobile foodbanks. Presley-Van Houten is hoping to inspire the campus to find ways to make a difference in their everyday lives.

"In times like these, looking for the extraordinary needs in the communities where we live, learn, and work, and creatively doing all we can to help fulfill those needs is our new normal. The needs still exist. We just have to be inspired to figure out how we address those needs in ways that are very different from traditional volunteerism," said Presley-Van Houten.

AHU already has a food pantry on its campus available to students in need. While the pantry was physically closed through 2020, it remained active to ensure food security needs were being addressed. According to a Spring 2020 survey by The Hope Center, approximately 44% of students at two-year institutions and 38% at four-year institutions were affected by food insecurity at the start of the pandemic. With applications continuing to flow into AHU's pantry weekly, those needs are still prevalent.

Fortunately, the pantry has received donations from generous benefactors to help keep it stocked. Mike Cronyn, an AHU physician assistant (PA) faculty member, hosted a charitable event during the Christ-



Before the pandemic, Kendra Presley-Van Houten (right) and another AHU volunteer performed acts of service in the community.

mas holiday. Dressed as Santa Claus, he recorded personalized messages for children in exchange for donations, with half of the proceeds going to AHU's food pantry.

"We deeply appreciate all the support the pantry has received. We always welcome donations, whether monetary or physical, to help us meet the increased food security needs of our students during this time of economic challenge," said Presley-Van Houten.

In 2021 the CE team is working to find safe, meaningful opportunities for students to engage with the community and get much-needed patient interaction experience. PA students were able to be onboarded with the Victim Service Center of Central Florida, Inc. to complete virtual appointments with community members. Additionally, Shepherd's Hope has provided some opportunities for student internships.

Service to others is at the core of AHU's values and mission. Even virtually, the CE team and all departments at AHU have worked hard to ensure the campus continues to practice and advance Christ's healing ministry. ❶

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Campus Spends 21 Days in Growth

For many people, 2020 was a difficult year. In an effort to encourage hope and healing in 2021, Southern's Office of Ministry and Missions issued a challenge to students and employees to spend 21 minutes per day in quality time with God for 21 days.

"The purpose of spending time alone with God each day is for relationship — getting to know God; hearing what He has to say to you; responding to Him; trading your burdens, shame, and fear for peace, joy, hope, and love," said Anna Bennett, associate chaplain. "Draw close to God, and be amazed at what you discover."

Jacqueline Bogan, sophomore music ma-

ior, accepted the challenge. While reading from the Bible and *Patriarchs and Prophets* by Ellen White, she journaled to help her process the material, and found that her eyes were opened to the depth in Scripture. Next, she read and journaled her way through *Solid Ground* by Mark Finley. Through the 21-day challenge, she built new habits and now encourages others to give it a try.

"Don't let time control you, and don't feel like you always have to rush your time with God; you can take time," Bogan said. "This challenge has been very encouraging, and I hope I stay consistent."

Another participant in the challenge was Tiffany Bartell, coordinator for Southern's

Counseling Services team. Prioritizing 21 minutes each day has reset her concept of devotional time, grown her energy in the mornings, and provided encouragement throughout her waking hours.

"It's like a date each morning with God, and our conversations and relationship are growing," Bartell said. "Sometimes I struggle with focus and patience, but I also know it's not realistic to try to be perfect."

To learn more about accepting this devotional challenge, visit southern.edu/21in21.

BY OLIVIA FISHER

Expanding Options for Young Broadcasters

Southern Adventist University's School of Journalism and Communication is upgrading its broadcast studio, and recently donated its old TV news set to an academy to help inspire future journalists.

For nearly 20 years, the department has used a news set that was acquired from Chattanooga's WRCB Channel 3. It has served as a training ground for students to learn broadcast news skills, work behind the scenes, and use equipment such as teleprompters and cameras.

"The TV news studio was becoming outdated and took up a lot of room," said Stephen Ruf, associate professor of journalism and communication. "Our team saw the need for a new set that would be more flexible and lightweight and that could serve more purposes within the studio."

Department leadership decided to offer the old set to Heritage Academy in Monterey, Tenn., so that younger students could train to become missionary communicators. The academy team, which



Sophomore mass communication majors Sarah Manuel and Aaron Patterson try out the School of Journalism and Communication's new studio interview set.

already taught some video production and communication classes, gladly accepted the offer.

"Last year, we only had a cloth backdrop and studio lights available to use for our weekly news," said Bobby Mihaila, video production instructor at Heritage Academy. "We hope this new set will provide a more professional environment and give a better learning experience."

Plans for Southern's new TV news set are still underway, and completion is expected by May. Additionally, the School of Journalism and Communication has installed a new interview set to expand hands-on training for future media professionals.

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT



CHESNEY, RICHARD PHILLIP, 89, of Cleveland, TN, born March 4, 1931 in Greeneville, TN, died peacefully at home on May 22, 2020 after a brief illness.

He grew up in Knoxville, TN, and graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1953 with a B.A. in chemistry. He then served in the U.S. Army as a lab technician from 1953 to 1955, and then returned to Collegedale, TN, to work at the College Press.

Richard enjoyed a long career in the printing industry, first with Preston Printing Company for 33 years, followed by 15 years at Starkey Printing Company in Chattanooga, TN. He enjoyed working on his cars, playing the ukulele, watching the Atlanta Braves baseball, and mowing the lawn on his John Deere tractor. He was also a former member of the Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club. Richard also enjoyed camping with his family and

working with the Pathfinders when he attended the Ooltewah, TN, Church. He was a long-time member of the Bowman Hills Church. He had a generous heart, and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

He is survived by his wife, Daryl Chesney; his three children: Evan, Sharon (Chuck) Jenkins, and Duane (Nancy); and his stepchildren: Douglas Mayberry, Doreen Frost, and her children: Brandon and Brett Frost. Richard was preceded in death by his parents: Darrell and Florence Chesney of Knoxville; and his first wife, Ruby, who passed away March 27, 1993.

FERRERA, CLARA JANE, 94, born Jan. 10, 1926 in La Ceiba Honduras, fell asleep in Jesus on Sept. 14, 2020 in Tampa, FL. She died of natural causes.

Her denominational employment spanned many years of mission work as a teacher and a Voice of Prophecy secretary in Central America, along with her husband, Victor, who worked as a Mission treasurer.

She was an ardent supporter of Adventist education, and she encouraged dozens of children and young people to study and prepare themselves to serve God through education. She made a great effort to find funds for those needing help to improve their education. Clara and her husband spent their retirement years in Tampa, where they faithfully attended and served at the Tampa First Church.

She leaves behind her family: daughter, Sherilyn (Philip) Samaan; granddaughter, Marla (Adrian) Nedelcu; two great-grandchildren: Simon and Nadia; many nieces; nephews; a host of friends; and coworkers in Central America and the U.S. Clara loved to sing; her favorite song was "The Holy City." Her family and friends look forward to that wonderful reunion in that Holy City—Jerusalem.



KIIVERI, HELLI A., 82, born Dec. 16, 1937, in Saari, Finland, to the late Pekka and Hilma Kiiveri. She passed away on October 10, 2020, in Homosassa, FL. She was a nurse for 38 years at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, MD, until she retired in 1996 and moved to Avon Park. In May of 2018, she moved to an assisted living facility in Homosassa to be near her long-time friend, Edna Becker Halstead. Helli was an expert needle point artist who gave away and also sold many of her works of art.

All of Helli's family, that remain, live in different parts of Finland. But she leaves behind her American family, who is made up of numerous close friends.

Before Helli left her homeland of Finland at the age of 17, she was baptized into the Adventist Church. Over the years, she drifted away. Two months ago, she felt God was calling her back to His remnant church. She was taken into membership into the Homosassa Church.

What a joyful day it was for her. She was laid to rest in the Lakeview Memorial Gardens in Avon Park where she awaits the soon return of Jesus.

MILLER, ANA LEE MILLS, 88, born Oct. 25, 1932, died Dec. 17, 2020. She was a member of the Dickson Church in Dickson, TN.

Ana began denomination employment on Sept. 1, 1964 as a secretary in the Alabama-Mississippi Conference (now Gulf States Conference). In 1969, she moved to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as a secretary. She held that position until 1973 when she was moved to the position of cashier. In 1976 she received a promotion to cashier/accountant, a position she held for 14 years.

From Jan. 1, 1990 until June 30, 2004, she held the position of senior accountant. When Ana retired, she had more than 39 years of denominational employment. She was widely known in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and loved by everyone who knew her. She always had a positive attitude and a smile on her face.

She was a wonderful mother, wife, and friend. She loved children and animals. She had a very kind heart and spirit. Ana will be greatly missed, but we have the assurance we will all meet again in Heaven. Ana is survived by one daughter, Susan Lafever; one son, Graig Mills; many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Miller.



MORENO, PH.D., LUIS A., 75, born Aug. 3, 1945, in Traiguén, Chile; died Jan. 11, 2021, in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for approximately five years. He was an Adventist pastor for 43 years, first in Chile and then in Florida Conference.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Luisa; one son, Mauricio (Elizabeth) Moreno of Altamonte Springs; one daughter, Alejandra (Eric) Berrios of Altamonte Springs; three brothers: German (Miriam) Moreno of Apopka, Jose (Clara) Moreno of Chile, and Antonio Moreno of LaSierra, CA; five sisters: Maria Moreno of Chile, Eliana (Aloncio Torres) Moreno, of Chile; Evith (Moises Rivera) Moreno of Chile, Elizabeth Moreno of LaSierra, CA, and Bertha (Luis Contreras) Moreno of Chile; and five grandchildren.

The service was conducted by Pastor Conrad Duncan at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. Interment is in Chile.

RAINES, JIM, 72, ("Jimmy" to his wife and "Jamie" to his mom) born May 23, 1948 in Breaks, VA, died Nov. 5, 2020 in Hendersonville, TN. He was a member of the Ridgetop Church in Ridgetop, TN. He was the second of four children born to Ernest Raines, a decorated veteran of World War II, and Shirley Estep Raines, a five-star homemaker with the county fair ribbons to prove it. Jim was delivered at home in a house still under construction. The house did not yet have electricity, so family friend Dr. Josh Sutherland borrowed a coal miner's helmet from Jim's grandfather and used the headlamp to aid in the delivery. He was the middle of three very close brothers who grew up sharing the same room. Their dad's hard work, their mother's phenomenal homemaking, and the love of both parents combined to provide an idyllic childhood. Jim grew up in a snug household filled with love, laughter, fun, music, and plenty of good food. Many memorable hours were spent playing games, fishing with his dad, playing with the dogs, visiting his grandparents, and roaming the Virginia hills with brothers, Gary, and David. Much later, when he was 18, a surprise baby sister, Lisa, was born, to whom he was very devoted.

Both of Jim's parents were teachers. And so, after graduating from Grundy Senior High School in 1966, he chose to enter the family business. He attended one year at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) near Chattanooga, TN, and then transferred to Berea College in Berea, KY. He received his B.A. in Elementary Education from Berea in 1972, and an M.A. in Elementary Administration from Radford University in 1983. While there were brief periods of other employment, Jim always thought of himself as a teacher, and the bulk of his working life was devoted to education.

Over the course of his career, he worked in the Buchanan County Public Schools in VA, with the Seventh-day Adventist parochial school system in Kentucky, Maryland, and Tennessee, and at Darton College in Albany, GA. He was an excellent teacher and administrator who always had a special place in his heart for the underdog.



In the classroom, his heart very sincerely went out to the little boy who could not read, the girl with math struggles, or the shy child alone on the playground. He believed with all his heart that a teacher could touch lives and make a difference. Many of those students remember him today as their favorite teacher ever. He is survived by his wife, Arlene Raines; one daughter, Christa (Matt) Demaree; one son, Aaron (Larisa Hellgren) Raines; four grandchildren: Ethan and Casi Demaree and Mikka and Mattias Raines; his mother, Shirley Raines; two brothers: Gary (Marina) Raines and David (Susan) Raines; one sister, Lisa (Andy) Miller; two aunts: Marcie Morrow and Nora Estep; numerous nieces; nephews; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Raines; grandparents: Joe and Dana Raines; and Ned and Lena Estep.



SMITH JR., ROTHACKER CHILDS, 97, born June 10, 1923 in Harlem, NY, to Rothacker Childs Smith Sr. and Pearl Stephenson Smith, died Jan. 12, 2021. Rock as he was affectionately called was the eldest of three brothers. Dad attended Northwestern High School where he took four years of Latin and played Cello in the orchestra. Though he experienced a good deal of prejudice during those years, the Latin helped him to become fluent in Italian and the cello was a lifelong love. He graduated in Dec. of 1939 at the age of 16, and went to work for the city. His father, who was an advocate of education, persuaded him to continue his education at Emanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University). Dad decided to major in agriculture. His grandfather earned a living designing and installing gardens, and his father was an avid gardener also. Dad planned to continue the farming tradition upon graduation. He entered EMC in 1941, and it was during his freshman year that he decided to be baptized

into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the fourth generation in his family to make that decision. The war soon interrupted his plans. He was drafted and sent to Georgia for basic training. He experienced discrimination early on for his decision not to bear arms and for the color of his skin. He was stationed in several places during his tenure in the army, finally arriving in Italy, where he was wounded, then captured in Dec. of 1943 in Sommocolonia, a hilltop village in Barga, Luca, Italy. He endured marching through the night in spite of his injuries, and spent four months in prison camp in Germany before being liberated at the end of the war in Europe in April of 1944. He returned home and spent the remainder of his time in the army as a medic taking care of German POW's whom he noted were treated better by the government than the black troops were.

After being honorably discharged, Dad took advantage of the GI bill and headed back to college and finished his degree in agriculture. While there, he decided to break his oath he had made during his time in the army, not to ever go south of the Mason Dixon Line again and went with friends to visit Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). It was there he first saw Dorothy Louise Malson, and decided she was the one. He courted her long distance, at one time sending her two loaves of bread. The bread was so hard by the time she got it that Mom could bounce it off the side walk, but she decided to continue to write to Dad. They both graduated from college in 1948, Dad became farm manager at Oakwood and Mom accepted a teaching position in New Orleans, LA. The long-distance romance continued, and after much writing back and forth, some of it among the parents/guardians and a few visits, the two were married on June 26, 1949 in Arlington, VA. They both continued working at Oakwood, Dad on the farm and Mom returning to the job she held while in college in the registrar's office.

To this union six children were born. There were multiple moves and multiple degrees earned by Dad. Though Mom had wanted to continue her education, she was busy keeping the household running smoothly. Barry and Marcia were born at Riverside Hospital in Nashville, TN; Karen was born in Lansing, MI; Brian was born in Maryland; Candee in Chicago; and Zanita in Wayne, MI. The family moved to Huntsville, AL, in August of 1963 where Dad taught math and science at Oakwood College Academy and Mom first worked part time in the post office, and then begin teaching again at Oakwood Elementary School. During those years, Dad sponsored the student association and started a separate yearbook for the academy, the Quercus. He later joined the college faculty in the Biology Department. During his tenure at the college, he was a sponsor for several groups on campus and worked closely with what was then called MV (Missionary Volunteers), and is now AY (Adventist Youth). During their time at Oakwood, Dad decided to build a house. It still stands on Bethany Lane. They lived there for seven years, but Dad decided to move again, this time to Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, PA. He had to promise to build Mom another house since the house on Bethany was supposed to be their last move. He kept that promise. They lived in Pine Forge for the next 24 years. Dad teaching sciences and Mom,

who was just a couple classes shy of a master's in library science, returned to teaching elementary school and then working as registrar. Dad once again worked with the Student Association, coming up with many creative ideas to expand young minds, and to enhance the spiritual and social life on campus. He also joined an orchestra and was once again playing cello. Through all the moves, Mom was a steady influence, keeping Dad grounded and helping him to deal with the trauma and tragedy he had experienced in his life.

In 2004, they returned to Huntsville to be near their daughter. It was during these years Dad was finally persuaded to write a book about his experience in the army. He continued to garden and was, as always, active in the church. Mom passed away in 2016 leaving Dad on his own after 67 years of marriage.

Dad decided to marry again in 2018, this time to Bernice Chisolm, who was a member of his church. Bernice stood by him for the last years of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Bernice; his children: Barry Smith, Marcia Smith (Bill) Hicks, Karen Smith, Brian (Tammy) Smith, Candee Smith, and Zanita Smith Buchanan; his grandchildren: William (Gwen) Hicks, Meaghan Hicks (Curtis) Turner, Jasmine Buchanan, Amber Buchanan (Eric) Samson, Herbert Buchanan, and Jalen Buchanan; great-grandchildren: Kenton Hicks, Kasmin Hicks, Anais Turner, and Kaylei Hicks; one sister-in-law, Katherine Smith; a host of nieces; nephews; and cousins.

SOUTHARD, CLARENCE RALPH and SOUTHARD, NELLIE KATHERINE "KITTY" (REEDER)

met at Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Adventist University) in the cafeteria line where Kitty was the check-out cashier. They soon fell in love and were married on Aug. 7, 1950. They were a team in ministry for 69 years.

Clarence was born April 19, 1929 in Krebs, OK, to Allen Newton Southard and Anna Bell Rice. It is fitting that he went to rest in Jesus on Sabbath, Jan. 4, 2020 in Owasso, OK, at the age of 90. Clarence went to grade school in Krebs, OK, and graduated from McAlester High school. He then attended Southwestern Junior College where he began a theology degree, which he finished at Union College in Lincoln, NE.

Kitty was born March 11, 1929 in Freeport, TX, to George Ross Reeder and Dovey Ann (Joy) Reeder. She went to sleep in Jesus on Oct. 1, 2019. She graduated from 8th grade in Danbury, TX, and proceeded to Keene, TX, where she graduated from Academy and then finished an Associate Degree in Secretarial.

Together they pastored churches in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Clarence was known for building churches and schools, including a church in Lawrenceburg, TN, a school addition in Woodbury, TN, and a school gymnasium in Ridgetop, TN. Other construction projects included many of the structures at Summit Ridge retirement center in Harrah, OK, and parts of the Wewoka Woods Youth Camp for the Oklahoma Conference. As health allowed, he enjoyed a variety of pastimes such as gardening, reading, and building things. Although he was known for being a builder, his heart was always in evangelism, he always wanted to talk about his friend Jesus, he was continually handing out tapes and then DVDs to anyone who would take them. Even after he needed care in a nursing home, he wanted those around him to be introduced to Jesus.

Although most of Kitty's working years were spent on the homefront raising their three children, she was always busy as a pastor's wife. She was always ready on very short notice to spread the table with her marvelous cooking for the many guests that sat at their table. Kitty enjoyed a variety of pastimes such as playing the piano or organ (Hymnal cover to cover), sewing, and canning or freezing all that Clarence's garden could produce, but especially loving her grandchildren.

For the past several years, Clarence and Kitty attended the Three Angels Church in Owasso, OK. It was their greatest desire to see you in Heaven.

Those they leave behind, who hold many cherished memories, include their three children: Joy Davidson, and husband, Bryant of Owasso, OK; Bob Southard, and wife, Theresa of Fletcher, NC; and Jerry Southard of Portland, TN; six grandchildren: Anthony Southard, and wife, Jennifer;

Dale Southard, and wife, Amanda; Jonathan Southard; Edwin Davidson, and wife, Laura; Kathilee (Davidson) Matamoros, and husband, Jorge; and Ciara Southard; and eight great-grandchildren: Callian Southard, Alena Southard, Lydia Southard, Joshua Southard, Caleb Southard, Kathryn Davidson, Hannah Davidson, and Bryant Matamoros.



CARNEY, JAMES B. "BUCK," 92, born Aug. 7, 1928 in Whites Creek, TN, died Oct. 3, 2020 in Ashland City, TN. He was a beloved, faithful, and long-time member of the Bordeaux Church in Nashville, TN. He worked as a bricklayer most of his working life. Although "Buck" will be greatly missed by his family and many friends, we are confident that his long life was a gift from God for he was a loving, kind, caring, and compassionate person. He is survived by three daughters: Beverly Jean Roberts, Brenda (Ray) McCarroll, Carol (Skip) Ramsey; two sons: James B. Carney Jr., Calvin (Sandi) Carney; 13 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one sister: Nancy (Ted) Estes; two brothers: Jerry (Dianne) Waller and Randy (Vickie) Waller. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Frances Aileen Campbell Carney; four sisters: Sue Perry, Jeanie Smith, Mary Jo Cantarutti, and Judy Vaughn; six brothers: Tino, Fred, Gene, and Phillip Carney and James, Robert, Wendell Waller.

JACOBS DOUGLAS, MINA JUNE HICKS, 83, born Aug. 23, 1937 to Burl and Inez Hicks in Selma, AL, died Sept. 22, 2020. She was the eldest of two children. Mom received her elementary education in Selma. After completing the 11th grade, Grandmother Hicks decided that it was time for her daughter to receive a Christian education. In 1953, she was sent to Oakwood Academy for her senior year. Shortly after her arrival at Oakwood, she was spotted by a young freshman named Lawrence Jacobs Jr., while riding past the dorm on a tractor. After seeing mom, the young man declared, "I am going to marry that girl!" A few years later, this bold

prediction did come true. It was always our mother's goal to become a professional secretary. She pursued her degree in secretarial science and graduated from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, AL, in 1959. Later that same year, she and Lawrence were married in her hometown of Selma. Soon after, the young couple began their careers in Washington, DC, where mom was a secretary for the Social Security Administration. They returned to Huntsville two years later, along with their first-born child, Monica Lynne in tow. Mom continued her civil service at Redstone Arsenal, having two more children along the way, Michael Anthony and Lawrence Conley. The family moved again in 1968 to Atlanta, GA, where she served for three years at the Federal Aviation Administration. In 1971, they finally returned to their forever home in Huntsville. It was there, that mom returned to Redstone Arsenal to become the first African American to serve as an executive assistant. Mom enjoyed her work and was proud to have served on both the civilian and military side of the Arsenal. She often received commendations for her work. After 30 years of exemplary service, she retired as the executive assistant to one of the high-ranking civilians at Redstone Arsenal. In 1992, she lost her first love, Lawrence Jacobs Jr. After his passing, her grandchildren brought great love and joy to her life. She was affectionately known as "Ma-Ma." In 1998, she was blessed to fall in love again with Pastor Robert Douglas. To this union, she gained two additional children: Patrick and Robert Jr., and four grandchildren. Mom loved the Oakwood University Church where she was a faithful member for 61 years. She also served for many

years as church clerk, deaconess, and Alumni Association secretary. She embodied a natural grace and beauty. Her bright smile lifted the spirits of so many along with her joyous and infectious laughter. Mom was the consummate host. Her house on Plummer Road was a home away from home for many Oakwood students. She loved the countless pot luck dinners and Easter Egg Hunts that took place for many years. She made everyone feel right at home. She had a genuine love for others and became known as Aunt June to hundreds in the Huntsville community. She is survived by her devoted husband, Robert Douglas; one sister, Rosa (Daniel) Jack; one brother, Frank Moore; children: Monica (Kenny) Johnson, Michael (Lisa) Jacobs, Larry (Tamera) Jacobs, Robert (Jean) Douglas Jr., and Patrick (Sanitha) Douglas; nine grandchildren: Ashley (Gregory), Kristen, Cameron, Larry IV, Kyle, Sydney, Jenee (Derek), Jasmine, Janelle (Karsten), and Je'Lynn; great-grandchildren: Zara and Shayla; a host of nieces; and nephews. The funeral service was held October 2, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

NEHER, JACK N., 87, born Nov. 6, 1932 in Enumclaw, WA, died June 21, 2020 in Paducah, KY. He was a member at the Hopkinsville Church in Hopkinsville, TN. He was a devoted member and elder of his church. He retired from Western Electric after 30 years of service as an electrician. He was also a U. S. Army veteran. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Barbara Loraine Neher; three daughters: Diane Ferguson, Kari Sue (Rick) Larribe, and Teresa (Dennis) Ingle; two sons: David Neher, and Kevin (Michaleen) Neher; nu-

merous grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

PHILLIPS, KRISTOPHER EVERT, 42, born Oct. 14, 1978 in Jackson, TN, died Nov. 15, 2020 in Nashville, TN. He was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. Kris was a fun, loving, and easy-going person. He was witty, caring, and a helpful young man. His son, who he affectionately called "Jetty," was the light of his life and he loved spending time with him. Kris lived most of his life in Madison. He was creative and artistic. He graduated from Nossi College of Art in Madison, and was a graphic designer. Kris is survived by his parents: Lanny and Bonnie Phillips; one son, Remington Jett Phillips; three sisters: Shonna Widuch, Jennifer Phillips, and Pam (Leith) Benedict.

PIERCE, MANNING E., 84, born June 23, 1936 in Indianapolis, IN, died June 22, 2020. He was a member of the Pulaski Church in Pulaski, TN. Pierce enjoyed two careers, schoolteacher and registered nurse. He also served two years in the U.S. Navy. He enjoyed family, friends, church, and his many pets. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his second wife, Carol Pierce; two daughters: Dawn Heavyside and Karil Morgan; one son, Benjamin Pierce; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by first wife, Virginia G. Pierce.

QUALLEY, BARBARA, 95, born Nov. 12, 1925 in North Hollywood, CA, died Dec. 5, 2020 in Gallatin, TN. She was a member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. Barbara was a switchboard operator for the Adventist Media Center in California, when she retired. She

enjoyed nature, especially bird watching, and working in her flowers and garden. She loved collecting dolls and spending time with her family and friends. She is survived by one son, Steven (Debbie) Hall; three daughters: Carolynn (Jerry) Brizendine, Claudia Wiggins, and Cheryl (Joe) Pearles; three stepchildren: Duane, Ron, and Sonja Qualley; 13 grandchildren; four step grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands: Clifford Green, Lloyd Hall, and Max Qualley; one sister, Gloria Jean Packwood.

SLOAN, ROSE MARIE JANISCH, 66, born July 24, 1954, died June 22, 2020. She is survived by two daughters: Misty Dady and Kristi Tunnell; four granddaughters; and family in Tennessee and Florida, including Ann Flynn.

SMITH, GEORGE A., 86, born March 17, 1934, died Jan. 13, 2021 in Union, MS. George was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Army National Guard, and the Army Reserves. He was a member of the Meridian, MS, Community Church. George is survived by his children: Shelia Stamper (Richard), Brenda Harper (Benjamin), and Stuart Smith (Michaelle) all of Decatur, MS; grandchildren: Adria Miles (Justin), Nathan Stamper (Leanne), Matthew Smith, Cameron Harper (Mystie), Marcus Smith, Caleb Harper, Caitlin Hoggard (Cade), Savannah Glover (Chuck), and Sydnee Smith; 17 great-grandchildren; brothers: Bud Smith (Felicia) and Milton Smith (Dianne); a host of nieces; nephews; and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Lois Smith; and his parents: Al-

bert and Biddie Smith. A funeral service was held Jan. 15, 2021 at Meridian Community Church, with Pastor Stanley Luntungan and Nathan Stamper officiating. Interment followed the service at Newton County Memorial Gardens in Newton, MS.

SYKES, ELGIVA MULL, 90, born Jan. 17, 1930 in Morgantown, NC, died Nov. 2, 2020 in Asheville, NC. She was the daughter of the late S.R. and Zella Orders Mull. She was a member of the Asheville North Church. She is survived by her son, Garry W. (Judy) Sykes; grandchildren: Heather (Brad) Colburn and Jennifer Hannah; great-grandchildren: Tyler and Logan Colburn, and Macey and Garrett Hannah; daughter-in-law, Dianne Workman; and sister-in-law, Lourene Preston. She was preceded in death by her husband, Garlon L. Sykes; her son, Eugene L. Sykes; and her sister, Iris Westcott. A private family service was conducted at Pisgah View Memorial Park by Pastor David Graham, former pastor, Ed Couser, and George Grow.

THORNBURG, ELEANOR JOYCE FROST, 93, born Feb. 20, 1927 in Nova Scotia, Canada, died Nov. 18, 2020 at AHC-Meadowbrook in Pulaski, TN. She was a member of the Pulaski, TN, Church. Eleanor was a devoted mother, wife, and faithful church member. She had lived in the U.S. since 1962. She is survived by four daughters: Deanna (Leslie) Walls, Shirley Minard, Margaret Ladouceur, and Connie Cobein; one son: Eldon Lynch; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one son, Lloyd Lynch; second husband, Harrison Thornburg; and parents: Garnet and Ethel Mailman Frost.

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"ABRAM DWELLED in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were

wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven ... But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. Remember Lot's wife." Genesis 13:12, 13; Genesis 19:24-26; Luke 17:32. Advent Construction Services (ACS) has the construction management solutions you need as you transition out of "the cities of the plain" for rural and country locations. With our 20-plus years of experience, broad construction knowledge, attention to details, and unwavering integrity, we are prepared to plan, budget, schedule, manage, and quality-control your new residential or commercial construction projects, renovations, land and site development projects, and alternative energy projects. We serve the southeastern United States. *Contact us for more information. Phone: 205-910-2552, email: adventconstructionservices@gmail.com, website: <https://adventconstruction2.wixsite.com/website>* [4]

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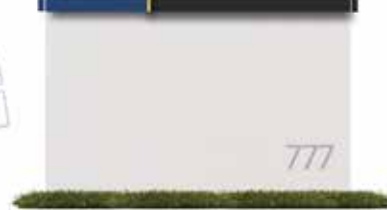
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**Names changed to remain anonymous.*

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CAROLINA

MPA Academy Days and Home Show - April 30-May 2. Feb. 12-14. MPA.

Virtual Hispanic Camp Meeting - May 14, 15. A. Cruz, A. Bullon, R. Hernandez.

MPA Graduation - May 21-23. MPA.
Carolina Conference Virtual Camp Meeting - May 30-June 5. See Schedule at carolinasda.org.

FLORIDA

Florida Camp Meeting Schedule

English: April 16, 17
Theme: Reconnect
Speaker: Derek Morris
Virtual Broadcast
Broadcast Information: floridaconference.com/campmeeting

Spanish: April 23, 24
Theme: Reconnectados
Speaker: To be announced
Virtual Broadcast
Broadcast Information: floridaconference.com/campmeeting

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Father/Daughter Spring Wildflower Campout - April 16-18. Men's Ministries invites fathers and daughters of all ages to camp at Elkmont Campground. Space is limited, register by April 9. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN.

Virtual Pathfinder Bible Experience (NAD Division Level Finals) - April 16-17. Online.

How the World Church Impacts Everyone with Ted N.C. Wilson - April 17. Join this online conversation with Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, presented by the Georgia-Cumberland Adventist Elders' Consortium with moderator Mickey P. Evans. Online.

Sermon and Health Rally with E.W. Dempsey - April 17, Rally 2-5 p.m. Crossville, TN, Church.

Virtual Pathfinder Regionals - April 23, 24. Online.

Health Rally with E.W. Dempsey -

April 24. Rally 2-5 p.m., Dayton, TN, Community Company.

Women's Seminar: Discipleship (Part 2) - April 27, 6-7:30 p.m. With presenter Mary Maxson, certified discipleship trainer. Join us as Mary helps us find answers to questions she has wrestled with throughout her 49 years of ministry life. To join this seminar, please email Donna at dcrandall@gccsda.com to receive the Zoom link. Online.

Master Guides Bible Bowl - May 1.

Health Rally with E.W. Dempsey - May 1. Rally 2-5 p.m. Hixson, TN, Church.

Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Preview Southern - April 15. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, and have a one-on-one financial appointment with an admissions counselor. Two nights of lodging and some meals will be provided. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

Virtual Academic Summer Camps - June 14-16. High school students can enjoy an interactive camp experience from the comfort of home this summer. Southern is hosting several academic camps online, with topics such as computing, journalism, photography, vegetarian culinary arts, and video production for social media. For more information and to register, visit southern.edu/camps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Sept. 8-11, 2022. Orlando, FL.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE, ICC, a member of the General Conference Adventist Possibilities Ministries, operates in 13 countries providing high-quality care, including Christian education, for orphans and vulnerable children from infancy through University. To learn more, contact ICC Southern Union regional coordinator, Deborah Zirkian, at 423-647-1826, or deborah@ForHisKids.org.

SUNSET

	APRIL 2	APRIL 9	APRIL 16	APRIL 23	APRIL 30	MAY 7
ATLANTA, GA	7:59	8:04	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:26
CHARLESTON, SC	7:41	7:46	7:51	7:56	8:01	8:06
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:46	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:09	8:14
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:03	8:08	8:14	8:19	8:25	8:31
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:09	7:14	7:20	7:25	7:31	7:36
JACKSON, MS	7:21	7:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:07	8:14	8:21	8:27	8:34	8:40
MEMPHIS, TN	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:40	7:45	7:51
MIAMI, FL	7:38	7:41	7:44	7:48	7:51	7:55
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:06	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:26	7:31
NASHVILLE, TN	7:10	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:40
ORLANDO, FL	7:44	7:48	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:04
TAMPA, FL	7:48	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:04	8:08
WILMINGTON, NC	7:34	7:39	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01

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