



Tidings

Southern

FEBRUARY 2021

EMBRACING CHANGE: EXTENDING MISSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

JAMES EDSON
WHITE: A "NO
LIMIT" MAN

SIX STRATEGIES
OF THRIVING
CHURCHES

BUFORD MEMBERS
HELP THE HAND
ME DOWN ZOO

"ACTS OF PEACE"
REACHES NEW
NEIGHBORS

The Dignity of Humanity: A Basis for Reconnecting



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

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us,” Ephesians 2:13, 14.

Christ recognized no distinction of nationality or rank or creed. The scribes and Pharisees desired to make a local and national benefit of the gifts of Heaven and to exclude the rest of God’s family in the world. But, Christ came to break down every wall of partition. He came to show that His gift of mercy and love is as unconfined as the air, the light, or the showers of rain that refresh the Earth.

The life of Christ established a religion in which there is no caste, a religion by which Jew and Gentile, free and bond, are linked in a common brotherhood, equal before God. No question of policy influenced His movements. He made no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. That which appealed to His heart was a soul thirsting for the waters of life.

He passed by no human being as worthless, but sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul. In whatever company He found Himself, He presented a lesson appropriate to the time and the circumstances. Every neglect or insult shown by men to their fellow men only made Him more conscious of their need of His divine-human sympathy. He sought to inspire with hope the roughest and most unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them manifest as children of God.

Often, He met those who had drifted under Satan’s control and who had no power to break from his snare. To such a one, discouraged, sick, tempted, or fallen, Jesus would speak words of tenderest pity, words that were needed and could be understood. Others He met who were fighting a hand-to-hand battle with the adversary of souls. These He encouraged to persevere, assuring them that they would win, for angels of God were on their side and would give them the victory.

At the table of publicans, He sat as an honored Guest, by His sympathy and social kindness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity; and men longed to become worthy of His confidence. Upon their thirsty hearts, His words fell with blessed, life-giving power. New impulses were awakened, and to these outcasts of society there opened the possibility of a new life.

Though He was a Jew, “Jesus mingled freely with the Samaritans And while He drew their hearts to Him by the tie of sympathy, His divine grace brought to them the salvation which the Jews rejected,” *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 25, 26.

May we not slack in hastening the Good News to every human being we encounter during these challenging days of the beginning of 2021.

Let’s pursue the backslider with the encouraging message that God will heal our nation, communities, churches, homes, and individual lives. Let’s assure them that in the midst of whatever may have caused him/her to drift away from God, they have dignity. This dignity and worth of humanity are endorsed by the love of God through Jesus Christ. -RCS ❶



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Embracing Change: EXTENDING MISSION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

AdventHealth University (AHU) students prepare for careers in health, science, academia, and leadership. Early in 2020, faculty leaders in Orlando and Denver quickly innovated teaching for online platforms and adapted to new rules imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Support teams ensured that labs, simulation clinics, and digital technologies were up to the challenge, and during the worst health crisis in 100 years, their enrollment increased.

On the heels of 2020, AHU is poised for a new era of innovation and strategic growth. “The people of AHU are all heroes in my book,” said Edwin Hernández, Ph.D., AHU president. “Our amazing faculty kept our virtual doors open, embraced new technologies, counseled students through fear and uncertainty, innovated safe clinical education, and ensured that a fresh crop of graduates were ready to enter the workforce on time, with excellent skills, uncommon compassion, and an intense desire to serve.”

Since its inception, the University has been guided by biblical principles informed by its Seventh-day Adventist heritage, an honored and essential component of the University’s mission, vision, and values. AHU extends the healing ministry of Christ by transforming students through the power of faith-based education.

“The unique AIIM learning model at

AHU — active, innovative, interprofessional, missional — has served our students especially well throughout 2020,” Hernández said. “AHU’s AIIM education equips learners for the realities of modern health care, which encompasses scientific and academic research; lifelong learning in classroom, lab, and clinical settings; and top-quality care that connects physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.”

This triad of research, education, and health care is a “time-honored tradition in academic medical centers and in the Adventist faith tradition worldwide,” according to Hernández. At AdventHealth and AHU, the health system’s national university, the triad may also hold the formula for future insight and innovation in whole-person care, the promise of AdventHealth as advanced by Adventists 150 years ago.

“AHU is a foundational institution in AdventHealth’s journey to become a dynamic learning community. As we look boldly toward the future of health care, our aspiration is to build AHU into a national asset that will train a significant portion of our clinical workforce in the delivery of whole-person care — body, mind and spirit,” said Terry Shaw, president and CEO for AdventHealth. “When we treat people, we want to treat them from a whole-person perspective.”

With this shared commitment, both institutions are positioned to develop

“Faith is not simply an extra thing we do; it is the foundation upon which we build an ethic of wonder, curiosity, and compassion.”

Carla G. Park, Ph.D.

the research, training, and curricula to better prepare professionals to provide whole-person care.

A Community that Connects, Supports, and Equips

At AHU, a story is often retold about the difference between U.S. and Australian farmers’ approach to livestock in their care. U.S. farmers build fences to contain livestock, defining boundaries of ownership. In Australia, where farms (called stations) are much larger and fencing costs prohibitive, farmers contain animals by digging a well. The water,



AdventHealth University Orlando's campus is situated directly next to AdventHealth Orlando (building in background) so the students will have a uniquely close access to the site.

essential to survival, keeps livestock voluntarily close and within safe boundaries.

AHU culture reflects the well as a metaphor for its Christo-centric worldview: “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself,” John 12:32. By welcoming students of all backgrounds and beliefs, all three AHU campuses — Orlando, Denver, Online — are safe places where all can choose to strengthen their relationship with God. That “well” — one’s personal relationship with God — draws students to AHU, keeps them close, and then sends them into the world fortified with deep and abiding faith.

Savanah Watson, an AHU Denver stu-

and understanding in this amazing world we share,” Hernández said. “Alongside the brilliant minds at AdventHealth, AHU scholars, and academic research partners are embarking on a journey to uncover the still-unsolved mysteries of faith and healing, prayer and wellness, spiritual practice, and human flourishing.”

This research agenda could chart new pathways in the education of whole-person care professionals. Whole-person care, Hernández said, extends to the entire health care operation, including the discovery of new treatments, cures, and preventative vaccines, and the essential education of current and future health care professionals.

personal wholeness, skill building, research endeavors, and strategic vision. “Faith is not simply an extra thing we do; it is the foundation upon which we build an ethic of wonder, curiosity, and compassion,” Park said. “We encourage personal wholeness, in ourselves and in our students.”

In addition to advancing this research agenda, AHU is deeply committed to ensuring equitable access to education, opportunity, and purpose-driven careers. Hernández cited projected workforce shortages in health care, particularly in nursing and primary-care physicians, as a potential crisis that must be prevented, beginning in 2021.

Key to preventing future gaps in the health care workforce, according to Hernández, is expanding the education net to include more people with the potential, sense of purpose, and passion required for demanding health care, research, and academic professions.

To continue to support students, address impending workforce needs, and meet growing student demand, AHU has introduced new clinical degree tracks, an evening nursing program in Orlando, and a new master of science degree in spiritual care. But for many students, the challenge of funding their education persists. AdventHealth and AHU are exploring new avenues to make school more affordable for all students, particularly those with high potential and financial need. Geographic scholarship funds, innovative employment/education models, and employer-sponsored tuition are all under investigation.

Another key to preventing a health care workforce crisis: online education. Since 2001, AHU has been an early adopter, leader, and innovator in online learning. AHU’s e-learning includes its 100% virtual option, AHU Online, which offers seven degrees, including four master’s programs.

“With online access, all students who feel called to health care have access to AHU’s mission-focused education, no matter the physical distance,” said Deena Slockett, Ed.D., chief operations officer for AHU Online.



Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D., president of AdventHealth University, speaks with a group of students prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

dent, testified that her time at AHU was the driving force behind her decision to be baptized into the Adventist faith in November 2020. “At AHU, I felt welcomed, seen, heard, and loved,” said Watson. “I became part of a community that was unlike anything I had ever experienced. My professors believed in me, and they helped me build my relationship with God and my confidence. My life will never be the same.”

“My vision for AHU is grounded in collaborative and integrative research, the source of new human knowledge, insight,

“Once in a century is humanity faced with a global health crisis,” Hernández said, “one that calls on us to expand our knowledge of science and medicine. I believe we are called as believers to rise to the challenge before us and to fulfill our God-given purpose to extend Christ’s healing ministry.”

Carla G. Park, Ph.D., executive director of faith community strategy at AdventHealth and AHU assistant to the president for mission, frames whole-person care as the foundation of teaching and learning at AHU, including theological understanding,

University leaders stress that online learning is not only consistent with traditional Christian learning, it can sometimes provide a safer space for students to explore their faith. “The importance of our work in health care requires connecting students to our mission,” said Slockett. “AHU provides virtual forums, community worship services, and prayer gatherings to support spiritual growth in addition to professional growth.”

Additionally, support services are completely online, delivered by chaplains, coaches, and counselors whose concern for students encompasses their academic, mental, emotional, spiritual, physical and financial well-being. Counseling, tutoring, writing support, academic guidance, and coaching are created to provide a high-quality, personalized, and mission-centric focus to AHU’s online communities.

Transforming the Science and Practice of Whole-Person Care

As education and technology continue to evolve, AHU puts innovation at the forefront of its vision. On that front, the team behind AHU’s Immersive Technologies Lab (ITL) is critical to AHU’s growth. Focused on virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and 360-degree video projects, the ITL team initially created deliverables for the University to supplement in-person education and explore solutions to unique challenges in health care.

Founded by Dan Lim, Ph.D., vice president of educational technology and innovation, the ITL has exploded with growth in recent years. Projects range from equipment training to a recent award-winning project designed to help hospitals plan resource allocation and distribution amid the pandemic. Developed in partnership with Full Sail University, the project leveraged one of many new relationships AHU has developed in this space.

A whole-person care research project currently underway in partnership with ITL is using advanced learning technologies to train key components of whole-person care, including empathy and compassion. Video simulations based

on AHU’s chaplain rounding projects for graduate students give more students access to this invaluable, spiritual experience in a virtual learning environment. Now going into year two of the study, Lim reported receiving positive feedback already. One nursing student said that after experiencing the immersive chaplain rounding, she “finally understood the difference between sympathy and empathy.”

Another breakthrough came with an invitation to meet with Apple executives in Cupertino to explore a partnership piloting iPad Pros as a learning tool. Key professionals from AdventHealth and AHU traveled to California to learn how

care and great customer service in the health care marketplace,” said Lim. If the pilot groups are successful, they could serve as a foundation for an expansion of the program in the future.

Because of its core mission and aspirational vision *to transform the science and practice of whole-person care*, AHU is committed to strengthening efforts to innovate in e-learning and other education technology. AHU leaders embrace and explore all new initiatives with the intent to improve health care teaching and learning, expand scientific and academic inquiry, and develop influential leaders of uncommon compassion who will ad-



Brandon Baker, director of AdventHealth University’s Immersive Technologies Lab, demonstrates the VR COVID-19 planning project developed in partnership with Full Sail University.

online learning, research, assignments, labs, and assessments could be integrated on one device able to deliver AR content. With the support of nursing faculty leaders and a generous, private donor who expressed enthusiasm about the innovative project, Lim’s team is preparing to launch the pilot with nursing programs in Orlando and Denver.

“If the entire student learning experience is seamlessly executed on a single mobile device and confirmed by data, it could change the way we prepare health care professionals for seamless patient

vance the healing ministry of Christ.

“We’re not afraid of the future; we are embracing this moment of change as a brilliant opportunity,” said Hernández. “The future of health care and education demands a culture of learning, a hunger for excellence, and innovative leaders fearlessly committed to serving God’s healing mission.” 📌

Lisa Marie Esser is the communication manager at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida.

James Edson White: A “NO LIMIT” MAN

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

1849 — James Edson White is born July 28 to James and Ellen.

1870 — Marries Emma MacDearmon on July 28.

1873 — Moves to California to help his father with the Signs of the Times.

1878 — Publishes Song Anchor, the first Sabbath School song book of the denomination.

1893 — Has religious awakening after reading letter from his mother.

1893 — Reads “Our Duty to the Colored People.” Decides to work in Mississippi.

1895 — Morning Star arrives at Centennial Lake in Vicksburg on January 10, and opens Vicksburg School.

1898 — Forms Southern Missionary Society.

1900 — Moves to Nashville and opens Nashville Colored Sanitarium and Herald Publishing Company.

One of the pioneers who had a great impact in the development of the Southern Union territory was James Edson White. In eight short but challenging years, 1895-1903, he made a footprint on the work that is evident 125 years later.

James Edson White, born July 28, 1849, in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, was the second son of James and Ellen White. He married Emma MacDearmon of Wright, Michigan, on his 21st birthday, July 28, 1870. During his early professional life, he was a writer, printer, and publisher of numerous song books, and worked with the General Sabbath School Association for seven years, 1880-1887.

The Making of a “No Limit” Man

Edson was a man “subject to like passions as we are,” but God gave Edson extraordinary success despite his human frailties, the racial conditions of the South, and the organizational challenges he faced.

It all began with a religious awakening. On May 18, 1893, Edson White wrote to his mother, “I have no religious inclinations now in the least ...” Later in the same paragraph, he wrote, “I am not a Christian yet.” When his mother received his letter in Wellington, New Zealand, she was deeply troubled. She responded with a 10-page letter. In her letter, she recounted how she saw Edson drowning in an undertow. “When I was observing your peril, I cannot express the feelings I passed through. It seemed that my soul would dissolve. I have not recovered from the impressions made on my mind as I cried to you, ‘The undertow! The undertow!’” 8LtMs, Lt

123, 1893, par. 19. She understood the undertow to represent Satan’s efforts to destroy him, and appealed to him to accept Christ as his Saviour. She sealed the letter and mailed it with a prayer.

A few weeks after receiving his mother’s letter, Edson responded, “I have surrendered fully and completely, and never enjoyed life before as I am enjoying it now. I have for years been under a strain, with so much to accomplish, and it stood right in my way. Now I have left it all with my Savior, and the burden does not bear me down any longer. I have no desire for the amusements and pleasures that made up the sum of my enjoyments before, but have an enjoyment in the meetings with the people of God such as I never had before,” LT, August 10, 1893.

Soon after Edson’s religious awakening, he met Dr. J. E. Caldwell, of Knoxville, Tennessee, who told Edson about an appeal entitled, “Our Duty to the Colored People,” that his mother made to the General Conference leaders on March 21, 1891. Interested to know more, Edson found a copy and read it. Convinced, he decided to go work among the African-American people in Mississippi.

God had uniquely qualified Edson to accomplish the great work that lay before him in the South. He learned the printing trade as a youth. He was a prolific writer and publisher, loved boats, and possessed a vast vision and deep commitment to evangelize Blacks in the South.

God led him to a few supportive partners. He had a wonderful wife in Emma. He also had a committed friend in William O. Palmer. He shared his plans with them and, together with a few oth-

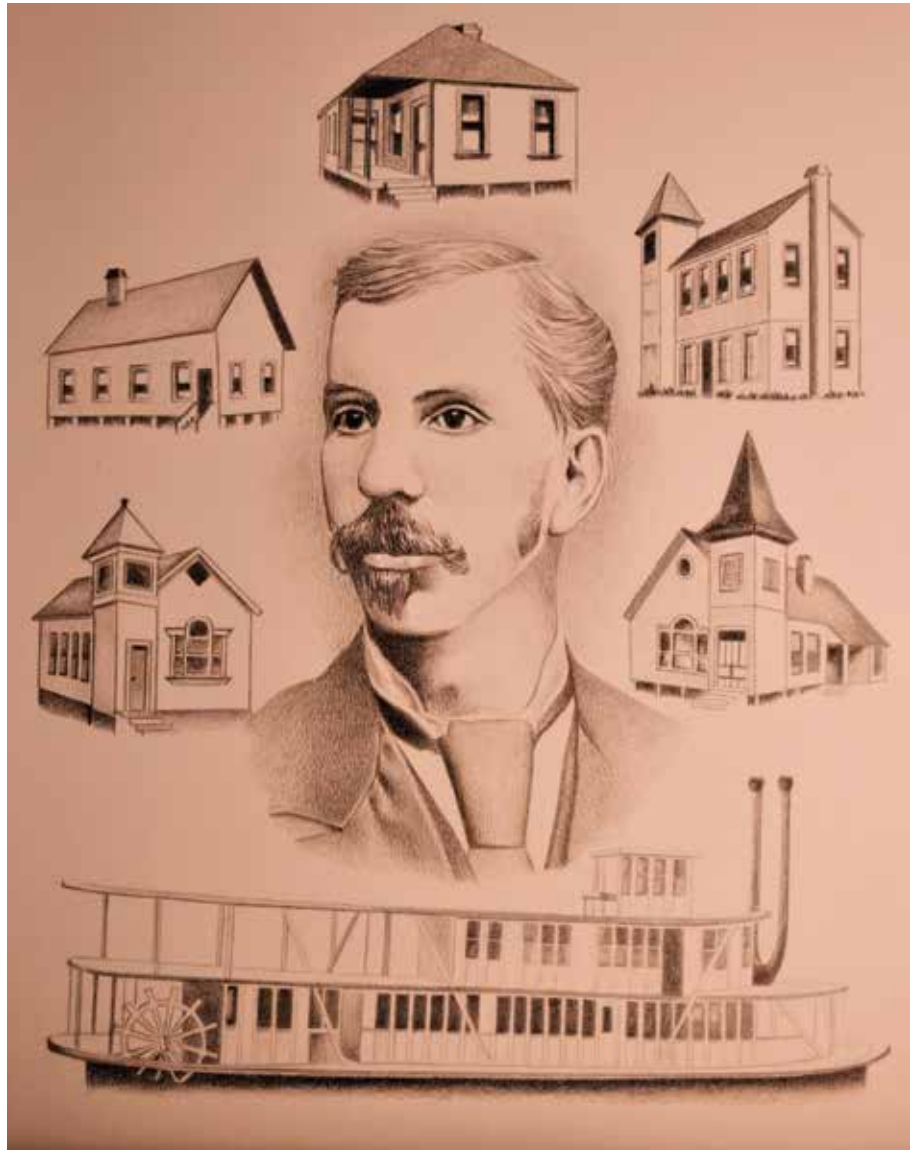
1912 — Moves to Marshall, Michigan.

1916 — Emma dies. Moves to Battle Creek.

1928 — James Edson White dies on May 30, in Otsego, Michigan. He was 76.

“There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 250



ART BY: ADRIA WARE

ers, they began to make preparations to go south to Mississippi.

He hired Captain A. T. Orton to build the hull of a steamboat he called *The Morning Star*. When the boat was completed in July 1894, Edson, Emma, Will Palmer, and company made the 1,500-mile journey from Michigan to Vicksburg, Mississippi.

In Vicksburg

On January 10, 1895, they steamed onto Centennial Lake in Vicksburg. He leased a lot near the river on the corner of Walnut Street and First East, and built a school at a cost of \$150. By winter

more than 150 students were crowded in attendance at night school.

Because that location was prone to flooding, a new church and school building, designed by W. K. Loughborough, was built at 209 Fayette Street to provide a more favorable location for the growing school. Next to the new church, a mission house and a janitor's home were built. On March 16-17, 1901, Ellen White preached for the dedication services for the Vicksburg Church.

Some of the teachers who taught at the Vicksburg School were Edson and Emma White, Fred Halladay, Anna Agee, and Anna Jensen. Some of the Black work-

ers were N. B. King, pastor, and Thomas Murphy, pastor, and his wife, who joined the Church hoping to find a better lifestyle; and J. D. Grimes, a colporteur.

Yazoo City

Edson purchased two lots in Yazoo City and another one in Lintonia, a suburb of Yazoo City at the time. A Sunday-school was opened in a private home in Lintonia. The school quickly outgrew this home, and in 1898, a “movable chapel” was built on the lot in Lintonia. Fred Rogers and his wife came from the West Coast to teach at the school in Lintonia. They began the day school in Decem-

ber 1898 with 15 students, and within months had 200 students in attendance. An addition was added to the back of the school and three teachers were hired. In 1900, Franklin G. Warnick moved to Yazoo City to become the first Black principal of the school which already had two black and one white teacher who had served under Fred Rogers' supervision. This was necessary because it had become dangerous for Rogers and other whites to work among Blacks after the Supreme Court affirmed "Separate but Equal" in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* in 1896.



Emma MacDearmon White



Warnick Nash Rodgers

The Southern Missionary Society

The work of Edson and his cadre of workers needed to be legally organized, so he formed the Southern Missionary Society (SMS) to serve as an umbrella for his varied and far-flung ministries. The mission of the SMS was "to carry the principles of Christian education to the people of the South," *Gospel Herald*, December 1899, p. 105.

Yazoo City was the headquarters of the Southern Missionary Society until Edson moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Some of the projects and organizations owned by the SMS were the Dixie Health Food Company, the Herald Publishing Company, and the Nashville Colored Sanitarium (1901-1903), which was later replaced by the Rock City Sanitarium in 1906. The SMS became a branch of the Southern Union in 1901. The October 1908 *Gospel Herald* reported that

the Society also controlled 28 mission schools with an enrollment of nearly 1,000 pupils.

The 1903 General Conference Session

At the 1903 General Conference Session in Oakland, California, three reports were presented concerning the work done by Edson and his team.

George I. Butler, president of the Southern Union, reported that in Mississippi "there are nearly as many colored believers as white. The treasurer's report at the last camp-meeting showed that the colored people, poor day laborers, had paid about half of all tithe that came into the treasury," GCB 1903, p.131. He went on to say, "I believe that the Southern Missionary Society has done a great deal of good. I will say it fearlessly before this whole Conference that there never

has been made an effort in this cause for the colored people that accomplished as much as that work has done for them."

Edson's report provided other details. He reported five schools "located at Vicksburg, Yazoo City, Columbus, and Jackson." Regarding churches and companies, he reported, "A few months ago the president of the Mississippi Conference united with Brother Rogers in organizing a colored church at Vicksburg, and one at Yazoo City. There are also companies at Calmar, Columbus, and Jackson. Our laborers have also carried forward efforts in Nashville, Memphis, and Edgefield Junction in Tennessee, and in Louisville and Bowling Green in Kentucky." The congregations in Nashville, Edgefield Junction, Louisville, and Bowling Green were organized and or pastored by Charles M. Kinney and Alonzo Barry. Edson continued, "Five ordained ministers have been



Students and teachers stand in front of the Vicksburg School and Chapel built in 1901 at 209 Fayette Street.

developed in the work of the Southern Missionary Society. All these ministers are now doing efficient ministerial work in the South.” Other workers included two public speakers, 13 school teachers, Bible workers, and medical missionary workers. “The superintendent and matron [Fred and Fannie Young] of the Nashville Colored Sanitarium were brought from private home life in the North. Two nurses are in training, and others are soon expected to begin a course of study in this department. One young man is being educated by the society as a physician, at the Meharry Medical College of Nashville, and another is being assisted in his course at the same school. Both are intelligent, well-educated young men. One will graduate in 18 months, and the other one year later,” GCB 1903, p. 200.

His mother, Ellen White, gave the final report. She commented, “By the work of the steamer ‘Morning Star’ much has been accomplished that otherwise could not have been done. Thus, the workers have been enabled to reach places that otherwise they could not have reached. The boat served as a home for them, and as a place to which to invite those interested in the truth,” GCB 1903, p. 202.

Edson’s Final Years

Edson and Emma continued to work in the South until 1912 when they were in their 60s and Emma’s health began to fail. They moved to Marshall, Michigan, and remained there until Emma passed July 29, 1917. Edson moved to Battle Creek. He later married Rebecca Burrill, and spent his final years operating a stereopticon business with his wife in Otsego, Michigan. He died May 30, 1928, and was buried in Battle Creek in the Oakhill Cemetery. 📍

Visit SouthernTidings.com for additional multimedia content related to Edson White’s ministry.

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

EDSON’S LEGACY CONTINUES

One hundred and twenty-five years have passed since Edson White steamed into Vicksburg. The work that he accomplished and the descendants of people he won continue to hold aloft the light of the Morning Star that illumined the South.

One school, the **E. E. Rogers School**, which started out as the Jackson School with Joseph H. Laurence as its first teacher, is still operating. Churches that were started by Edson’s work in Mississippi include the Morning Star Church in Vicksburg, Lintonia Chapel in Yazoo City, Brookhaven, and Columbus.

There were students at the school whose progeny continue to serve the church.

Etta Little-John, from Vicksburg, was one of the first 16 students at Oakwood. She was the mother of Charles E. Bradford, retired president of the North American Division. Her granddaughter, Sharon Lewis, is a retired Adventist educator.

Cynthia Gertrude Johnson, a student at the Yazoo City School, was the mother of the late Garland Millet, former president of Oakwood College. Her granddaughters are Carol Byars and Debbie Millet of Huntsville.

The writer had the privilege of knowing and interviewing several students and converts of Edson’s ministry. In 1992 Madeline Edwards, widow of a Vicksburg physician and former student from the Morning Star School, fondly remembered Edson playfully teasing her. She said, “He was a nice

man. He made me feel so special.”

John Champion Salfore Nipmach, a faithful deacon in the Temple Gate Church in Selma, recalled that Edson encouraged him to attend the Oakwood School.

Lula Johnson attended the school in Natchez, but remembered Edson White calling her a “diamond in the rough.” She was a faithful member of the Natchez Triumphant Church.

Retha Weathington Davis’ grandson, James Humphreys, was a pastor and later chaplain at Oakwood University before his death. Her great-grandson, Austin Humphreys (James’ son), is a South Atlantic Conference pastor. Her granddaughter, Elaine Humphreys Norman, was a teacher and employee of the South Central Conference.

The key to making an indelible imprint on time and eternity is to commit one’s life to building the Kingdom of God by saving souls. Edson’s ministry touched lives that became a multigenerational blessing that lasts even to today.



Adria Ware has been commissioned to create the art used for each history feature during 2021. A talented freelance artist and photographer, she received her fine arts education at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and Mississippi State University. Adria has two daughters, Crystal and Annah Ware, and is passionate about her relationship with Christ. We failed to give her a credit line for Elbert and Ellen Lane’s portrait in the January issue.

Six Strategies of THRIVING CHURCHES

BY KEN ROGERS

Most of us have heard the grim statistics that, across all denominations, church congregations are growing old. Many members, and especially younger generations, are falling away from both the Church and their personal faith. This trend, if it continues, certainly seems to indicate that many of our churches will die and be shuttered if we simply continue to operate as we always have. Researchers from The Fuller Youth Institute conducted thorough research with more than 250 churches to not just record what is wrong with today's churches, but to discover what churches are doing to engage congregants in vibrant life, and provide energy into the whole church experience.

The research indicated that churches that were thriving shared the following six core commitments or strategies:

1. Unlock keychain leadership.
2. Empathize with today's young people.
3. Take Jesus' message seriously.
4. Fuel a warm community.
5. Prioritize young people and families everywhere.
6. Be the best neighbors.

These six commitments are not necessarily novel or revolutionary. We have been introduced to the concepts previously, but when these strategies are intentionally adopted, churches are empowered with renewed mission and spiritual revival which generates a growing, young congregation.

Matthew 5 records the memorable words of Jesus in what is known as the Beatitudes. The BE-ATTITUDES, as it were, are actually eight character traits that identify an authentic disciple of Jesus



Christ. The eight attitudes ought also to be marks that identify a church congregation that is growing in the ways of the Lord. Each attitude has a corresponding promise connected to it. Jesus also emphasizes that with the correct attitude, one can grow to be the “salt of the earth,” a “light of the world,” a “city set on a hill that cannot be hidden.” When we are willing to be salt and light to the world around us, we cultivate in others an appetite to know God. This is no doubt the Good News of the Gospel — to cause people to want to know the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died for their sins and lives to provide eternal life for each one.

During the past couple of years, it has been exciting to witness the application of the BE-ATTITUDES in a young adult ministry outreach serving in the greater Orlando, Florida, area. SALT is the ac-

ronym for Service And Love Together. The faith and can-do attitude that this group of Seventh-day Adventist young adults exhibit is inspiring! They do not believe that evangelism is dead; rather, evangelism just might look different than we might traditionally think.

The leaders of SALT have embraced a philosophy of authentic Christianity, as well as a concrete resolution to be “Jesus” to those they serve. The importance of building relationships here and now dictates the ministry opportunities they engage in. Service And Love Together is not just a slogan, it is the foundation for ministry.

As SALT continues to model relational ministry to the homeless of Orlando, Florida, the ministry has not gone unnoticed. Recently the city government of Orlando has provided hundreds of thou-



ship referenced the homeless people as FRIENDS, a distinction that has not wavered. The ministry volunteers provide a listening ear to their friends at each event; they pray with their friends and they become personally involved with their situations.

From its humble beginnings SALT today is an incredible outreach ministry in the city of Orlando. Today, SALT operates four days a week with a hot meal service in partnership with other ministry outreach providers. SALT has acquired a shower trailer and provides hot water showers for their friends. Each Sunday in downtown Orlando at the Community Outreach Center, homeless

sands of dollars directly to SALT to continue its ministry to the homeless situation. The government leaders recognize that SALT can effectively provide services that the city has needed for a long while. SALT operates as a voluntary, not-for-profit status and is dependent on donations and volunteers. Donations come from many varied sources, and volunteers from varied denominational churches, local colleges and universities, as well as civic businesses, are providing needed assistance. It is truly a light set on a hill in the city of Orlando, that God is abundantly blessing.

There is much to be encouraged by as we witness the dedicated strategy that these young adults provide as members of the Adventist Church. It is obvious that the six identified core commitments are being celebrated in a practical and direct lifestyle approach. What could you do to embrace and bring about culture change in your local church community? Perhaps not to the extent that SALT is doing, but change can happen by choosing just one or two strategies to start with. The BE-ATTITUDES will work for you and your church in ways that one cannot even imagine. It's time for us to trust God and His provisions as we journey together to stop our churches from growing old and irrelevant. Let's resolve to make Jesus better known and loved!



In the early days of the group's formation, the young adults were cognizant of the growing homeless population in the city of Orlando. As the group leaders met together and prayed together for God's direct leading and providence, they decided that they could do something. One of the first needs that was evident was the need to feed hungry homeless people. The team enlisted volunteers from their friends and local church members, resulting in volunteers providing sack lunches and conversations one day a week to downtown Orlando locations. As other needs became apparent, clothing which was donated or provided by local businesses was distributed.

From the beginning, SALT leader-

friends can receive a warm meal, a new change of clothing, a haircut, a warm shower, assistance with a potential job application, and a concerned conversation about their well being.

One innovative local Adventist Church created a mobile stage platform by cutting a large hole in the side of a truck trailer and engineered a drop-down stage to provide for musicians and a preaching platform. The volunteers are discovering that when their homeless friends are fed up, cleaned up, cut up, and dressed up, they are more ready to be filled up with spiritual truth. 📌

Ken Rogers is the youth director at the Southern Union Conference.

Snack, Sleep, Repeat?

REVERSING UNHEALTHY HABITS IN A PANDEMIC

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

After months of varying levels of coronavirus restrictions, where people have been “locked down” with more snacks and stress and less sleep and activity than ever before, “gaining the COVID-19 pounds,” is a pretty common joke. But, is it possible to lose – not gain – weight in a pandemic?

It was for Yamiley Polycarpe, an R.N. at AdventHealth Altamonte Springs. Polycarpe, who suffered from high blood pressure, started her wellness journey in March 2020, at the very start of quarantine in much of the U.S. She lost 50 pounds.

“I said, ‘I don’t care what’s going on, I’m going to make sure I’m eating right,’” recalled Polycarpe. “I just said what I was going to do, and I just went with it.”

Throughout the pandemic, states and countries around the world have issued stay-at-home orders to combat the spread of COVID-19. A study published in the Obesity Society research journal reported on the habits developed during these lockdown periods:

- About 44% of the participants reported an increase in unhealthy snacking.
- Physical activity significantly decreased by 18 minutes per week.
- 44% of the participants reported worse sleep quality.
- Weight gain occurred in 33% of the individuals with obesity.

Instead of continuing these negative lifestyle behaviors in her own life, Polycarpe enrolled in two weight loss programs, including New Day, New Weigh by the AdventHealth Diabetes Institute. Through it she was connected to a nutri-



At the height of the pandemic, when many people were eating unhealthy foods and getting little exercise, Yamiley Polycarpe made the decision to improve her lifestyle.

tionist, exercise specialist, endocrinologist, and behavioral health specialist.

“Before starting the program, I was eating whatever I wanted whenever I wanted,” Polycarpe said. “I wasn’t exercising and I would go to sleep at 1 or 2 in the morning and I would wake up the next day and not eat until noon. I wasn’t thinking about it even though I knew I needed to take care of myself.”

Sherri Flynt, R.D., nutritional excellence manager at AdventHealth’s Center for Nutritional Excellence, said that the foods people typically gravitate toward in times of stress (like a pandemic) are more refined foods like chips and candies, which increase inflammation and weaken the immune system.

“We need to flip our mindset to getting more plant-based foods,” she said.

“Maybe not being vegan or vegetarian, but putting more plant and natural foods on our plate. The closer we eat to the ground, the better.”

In terms of exercise, Polycarpe has taken this time to enjoy workout DVDs at home, and safe, socially distant family bike rides around the neighborhood.

“I want people to know COVID is very poorly transmitted outside. So, people really would do well to get outside and get some sunshine in their eyes. Sunshine increases serotonin,” said George Guthrie, M.D., M.P.H., board-certified family physician in the AdventHealth Medical Group. Serotonin is the key hormone that stabilizes mood and feelings of happiness.

Polycarpe is already experiencing many benefits. Her blood pressure has gone down significantly, and weight and inches have been “falling off.”

“My clothes fit better, I smile more,” she said. “I’m happier because I’m healthy, and I can do more with my family because I’m not tired and sluggish like I was before.”

To reverse unhealthy habits you may have developed in the pandemic, Flynt suggests being mindful and intentional, and writing down a plan for what you will eat, how you will move, and when you will rest.

“Never discount those baby steps,” she said. 📌

Ingrid Hernandez is the stakeholder communications manager for AdventHealth.

Buford Members Help the HAND ME DOWN ZOO

BY KEITH INGRAM



SUBMITTED BY: KEITH INGRAM



SUBMITTED BY: KEITH INGRAM

The Buford Family Church members helped build enclosures for a Hand Me Down Zoo. The zoo is home to many exotic animals, including a kangaroo (below) named Abby and a sea otter (left) who is saying hello to Nathaniel Ingram.

Have you ever received a hand-me-down? Chances are, if you have ever had siblings, you might have experienced receiving clothing that they no longer were using.

Clothing is one thing, but in Kerry Ervin's case, she receives hand-me-downs of a very different sort. Ervin takes in exotic animals at her Hand Me Down Zoo. The animals often need a home because their owner can no longer take care of them, or they might need sanctuary and rehabilitation. She has made it her mission to provide help and shelter to these animals who typically require special licenses and permits. In founding the Hand Me Down Zoo, Ervin's focus is to provide the necessary haven, as well as to teach others about the fairytale vs. reality aspect concerning exotic animals.

When visiting the zoo, you can meet zebras, racoons, reptiles, a sea otter, Abby the kangaroo, and a variety of other exotic animals. Ervin operates

the Hand Me Down Zoo from her home property, and this non-profit often needs help to continue its mission.

The Buford, Georgia, Family Church met Ervin through a church member connection, and a community service mission project was formed. The Bible states in Genesis 1:26 that man was made in God's image and was to have dominion over all the animals. Members from the Buford Family Church felt their community should help animals as well.

In February 2020, church members gathered to assist Ervin and her family build animal enclosures. The Buford Family Church's community center ministry continues to assist Ervin and the animals by donating any leftover produce after it has helped about 80 needy families each month with food and clothing. Thus, the hand-me-down cycle continues. The church family asks for continued prayer for their work and the Hand Me Down Zoo. 🙏



SUBMITTED BY: KEITH INGRAM

Keith Ingram is the pastor at the Buford Family Church in Buford, Georgia.

“Acts of Peace” Reaches NEW NEIGHBORS

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

During the Christmas season of 2020, Acts of Peace, a ministry of the Montgomery First Church in Alabama, teamed up with the area food bank and the Montgomery Hispanic Church to deliver a unique holiday gift.

Since 2009, Acts of Peace has collected food and supplies for families in need during the holidays. Every year they assemble gift bags filled with toys, along with grocery bags filled with a variety of fresh perishable and non-perishable foods. This year, the ministry partnered with the area food bank and a local supply for children’s toys. In total, the church provided Christmas gifts for 248 children, along with a large box and bag of groceries to their 84 families.

The ministry is led by Amy Mapp, a Montgomery First Church member, and her husband, Bernell. The outreach effort includes monthly food distribution as part of a mobile pantry and other miscellaneous community programs throughout the year. Among the numerous volunteers at the Christmas event were Evelyn Maryland, church member, and her sister Miriam Kust, a church member from Tampa, Florida. As the sisters worked together to build the interest list of families and their needs, they came across an apartment complex that had many families in need. They started going door-to-door, offering to sign families up for the free food and gifts that would be made available closer to Christmas. At first, many weren’t answering the door or signing up for the giveaway. Maryland reached out to friends from the Montgomery Hispanic Church for their assistance in Spanish translation opening their pathway.

Additionally, Montgomery Hispanic



Miriam Kust (left) and her sister, Evelyn Maryland, worked to collect the information for 84 families in the weeks leading up to the event.



Volunteers arrange the gift and grocery bags for clients to pick up during the holiday event.

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Church rents an apartment in the complex to hold weekly mid-week services. This prompted more families to share their information. As they collected this information to shop for age-appropriate gifts, they also learned that many apartments had more than one family in them. Three of the small two-bedroom apartments that signed up for the service had 21 people living in them. Many of the homes had little to no furniture in them. Most families drove to the church to pick up their supplies, and the remaining families had their gifts delivered to their homes by additional volunteers.

Another volunteer who participated in the event was Dru Amos. Amos isn’t a church member but learned about the ministry through a flyer posted at an area YMCA, and has worked with the church ministry for more than a year. Amos helped with gift-wrapping, and then returned to help distribute on Sunday, December 17, 2020. Amos retired from the Air Force in 2015, but said she “wasn’t done working.” Amos volunteers at various community

services throughout the area, including the Montgomery Area Foodbank and a Tuskegee Airmen program.

The Christmas distribution event was a fantastic example of churches and people working together. The event’s success is credited to God and the efforts made by many people, including those who went door to door, translated English and Spanish, arranged the donations, packed the bags, managed the cars in the parking lot, and distributed to those that couldn’t get to the church. The partnership made with the area food bank and other community entities that provide resources also added to the event’s success.

If each church could work together with others to share strengths and partner with existing programs, many community needs could be met. It’s possible that people could be reached in the manner of Jesus, by recognizing and meeting their needs. ❶

Shane Hochstetler is the communication director at Gulf States Conference.

Spread THE GOOD NEWS

BY GARY PYKE



Gary Pyke

Gary Pyke shares his testimony about the literature distribution work.

My initiation into literature distribution started when I was just a kid. We would spend an hour or so on Sabbath afternoons rolling up pamphlets or magazines and tying them with string or rubberbands. Then my parents would drive us into town or subdivisions, and we would throw our bundles onto driveways and sidewalks. Maybe it was not the most efficient form of witnessing, but it was fun for us kids. It placed in our minds the need to spread the message.

The Lord allowed me an experience

in my early adulthood that propelled me more seriously into the literature work. We did demolition (highway sign removal) for the State of Florida. During time on the job, a state inspector, Richard Hayford, accompanied us. Richard did not appear to be a good candidate for giving a book to. But, on one of our trips to Florida, when I handed Richard a paperback book, he asked, “Was this written by Ellen White?” He knew about Ellen White because when he was a teenager, his dad had become an Adventist.

After that, Richard kept asking for more books, so we continued to give him more. Eventually, after joining the Church, he purposely left the books throughout the house, and his wife started reading them. She, too, was baptized. They both were on fire for the Lord and involved themselves in soul winning. Later, they commented that they were eternally grateful for the opportunity they received when Richard and I were disposing old signs in the county dump.

About five or six years ago, I was impressed to start sending high quality hardback copies of *The Great Controversy* to pastors. My goal was to get one to every active and retired pastor in the United States. The challenge was in getting names and addresses for the pastors.

One day, my wife told me that she was going to meet our daughter at McKay’s bookstore in Nashville, Tennessee, the next afternoon. I wanted to go but did not think that I would be finished with my job in time. Mirac-

ulously, I was, so I decided to go with her. Outside the store was a bin of free books. In that bin I found a 2019 Lutheran book with 9,260 pastors’ names and addresses, and a 2008 Church of Christ book with 6,000 names. A couple of weeks later, I was in Chattanooga at McKay’s, and found a 1994 Southern Baptist book with more than 52,000 names. Since that time, I have found numerous denominational websites with thousands of pastors’ names. I currently have ready access to well over 100,000 pastors’ names, with potential for many more. When books are sent to pastors, we often receive thank-you cards or requests for more books.

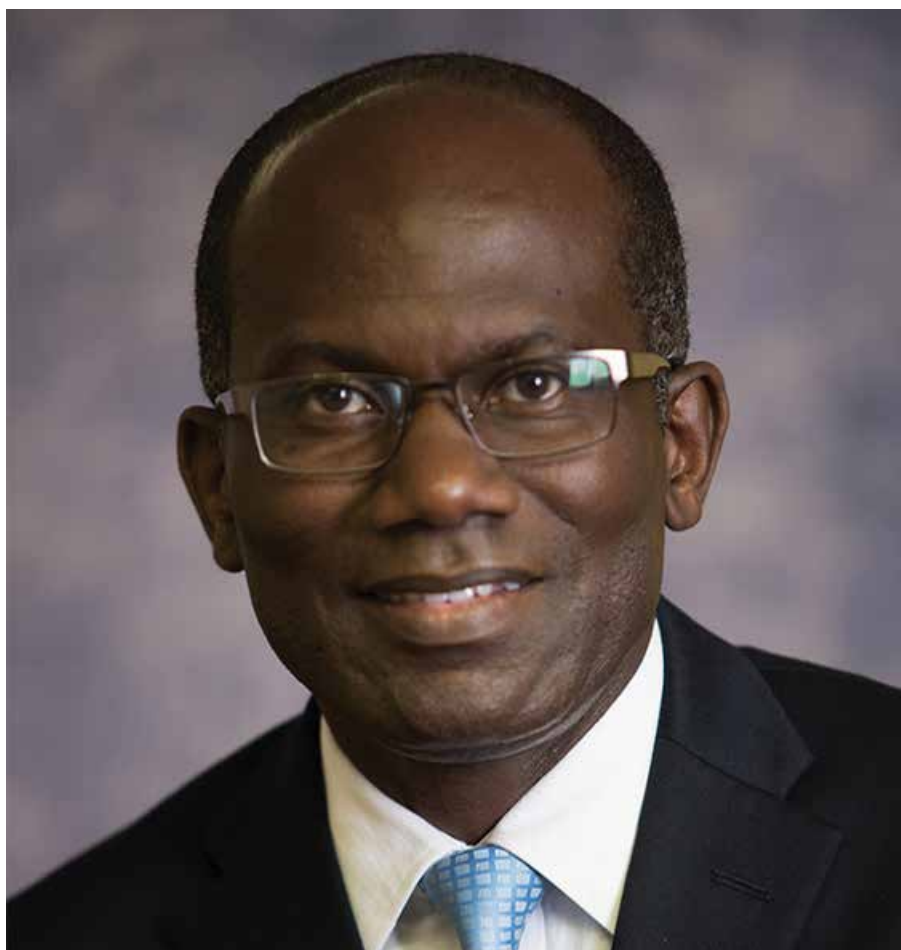
If we invest our means in the work of soul winning, we will reap the results. God gives us the awesome privilege of having a part in seeing souls saved for eternity.

“It is in working to spread the Good News of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour,” *Desire of Ages*, pg. 340. ●

Gary Pyke is a carpenter and fourth generation Seventh-day Adventist in McEwen, Tennessee.

Michael K. Agyei Owusu, D.Min., ASSUMES PRESIDENCY

BY SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Michael K. Agyei Owusu, D.Min.

Delegates to the 11th Regular Constituency Session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 2016 elected Gregory O. Mack, pastor, to serve as the sixth president of the Southeastern Conference. After leading Southeastern for almost five years, Mack unexpectedly passed to his rest on Monday, November 10, 2020.

While the Conference family grieve the loss of the former leader and president, the workers find comfort in the Word of God concerning those who have fallen asleep, and “sorrow not, even as others which have no hope...they believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him,” 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14.

The Bylaws of the Southeastern Con-

ference provide that in the event a vacancy in the office of the president “occurs within six months of the scheduled regular constituency session, the executive secretary shall serve as interim president until the regular session convenes.” On December 6, 2020, at the Southeastern Conference Executive Committee meeting, the Southern Union Conference officers — Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president; Jim Davidson, executive secretary; and David Freedman, treasurer — officially affirmed Michael K. Agyei Owusu, D.Min., as the interim president of the Southeastern Conference.

Owusu, who has served Southeastern Conference for more than 25 years, the last four as executive secretary, will serve as president and executive secretary until the next regular constituency session, at which time the delegates to the session will elect a new president. The constituency session is currently scheduled for April 24-25, 2021.

Owusu’s goal is to create an environment of healing within Southeastern Conference, and a renewed emphasis on the mission-driven initiative adopted by the Conference in 2016 under the leadership of Gregory Mack. He believes that, “Mission is the heartbeat of the Church, the very essence of what it means to be the Church of God, the purpose for which the Church exists.” Thus, it is his desire to lead the constituents of Southeastern in a deeper, committed relationship with Christ, and unite the Conference in fulfilling its mission “to reach communities within Southeastern Conference with the Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness.”

AdventHealth Hospitals Recognized for Safety, Quality

As hospitals across the country manage increasing patient admissions, safety continues to be a point of emphasis. The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit health care ratings organization, released its fall 2020 Hospital Safety Grades and Top Hospitals designations, highlighting the facilities across the country that have excelled in providing safe, high-quality care.

More than two dozen AdventHealth facilities earned an “A” grade in the fall Hospital Safety Grades release. The Hospital Safety Grades assign hospitals across the country a grade based on performance related to preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care. To issue grades, The Leapfrog Group uses 27 measures of publicly available data focused on hospital safety and rates more than 2,600 acute care hospitals across the country two times per year.

In addition, The Leapfrog Group awarded its Top Hospitals designation to a dozen AdventHealth facilities. Regarded as one of the most competitive hospital awards in the country, only 105 facilities received the distinction out of 2,200 that were under consideration. The recognition is

given across four categories - Top Children’s Hospitals, Top General Hospitals, Top Rural Hospitals and Top Teaching Hospitals.

“Safety and quality care have always been focal points for our organization. The emergence of COVID-19, however, has led to new and more stringent guidelines in addition to the robust safety protocols that were already present within facilities,” said William Scharf, M.D., executive clinical director of quality and safety for AdventHealth. “In a year where we have all dealt with some unprecedented circumstances, I am proud

of the way our hospitals have continued to prioritize the safety of our patients and the quality of care we deliver.”

To view The Leapfrog Group’s latest Hospital Safety Grades, visit Hospital-SafetyGrade.org. To view The Leapfrog Group’s latest Top Hospitals, visit LeapfrogGroup.org/Ratings-Reports/Top-Hospitals. ●

BY ADVENTHEALTH



100-year-old Veteran is Keynote Speaker

On November 11, 2020, Veterans Day, the city of Asheville, N.C., honored the men and women who fought and died for the citizens of this nation with a celebration from City Hall. City officials and members of the Buncombe County Veterans Council streamed live.

Allan Perkal, the master of ceremonies and former U.S. Air Force, introduced the keynote speaker, P.J. Moore, M.D., a 100-year-old World War II Army surgeon, and a member of the Fletcher, N.C., Church. Moore is retired from Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital (later named Fletcher Hospital, then Advent Health: Hendersonville) on the Campus of Fletcher Academy. Asheville Mayor Esther E. Manheimer honored Moore with a proclamation naming November 11, 2020 as “P.J. Moore, M.D., Day.”

Moore was drafted in 1942, his junior year of medical school at Loma Linda University, and tasked to the medical teams caring for soldiers on the front lines, many from the Battle of the Bulge. Delivering more than 1,000 babies and performing over 30,000 surgeries and innumerable amputations, when he retired in 2016 at the age of 96, he was the oldest practicing physician in North Carolina.

In his address, Moore prayed and then took the audience on a journey back 78



PJ Moore, M.D., and Esther E. Manheimer, Asheville mayor

years, to his memories of entering the war. His entire junior class of 80 students from Loma Linda University School of Medicine was drafted and had to keep up with their education while still participating in military training exercises.

After finishing his senior year, which was cut short, Moore served a straight surgical internship on inactive duty. He felt that this was his calling by God to become a surgeon.

After his internship ended, Moore worked at Lawson General Hospital outside of Chicago, Ill., which was one of three amputee centers in the United States. The wounded he cared for in his ward

were from the front lines in the Battle of the Bulge, where many others had lost their lives. These patients required re-amputations from field amputations or from infected injuries which were worsening. Part of his own method of recovery for his patients was to teach them to play golf.

Returning to North Carolina and separating from the service, Moore transitioned into civilian medical service for the next 70 years of his life. Moore also acted as a hospital director, medical director, chief of staff, and in many other positions. During this time he and his wife, Dee Moore, raised five children, all of whom attended Fletcher Academy. Four of his children are currently serving in the medical field in various capacities, and one is a university mathematics professor who taught at Southern Adventist University. After 57 years of marriage, in 2005, Dee passed away from complications from Alzheimer’s disease. In 2008, Moore remarried. He and his wife, Elaine, reside in the Hendersonville, N.C. area. ❶

BY PHIL WILHELM, FLETCHER ACADEMY PRINCIPAL, AND COURTNEY HEROD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Students Take on Community Project

Hysteria had begun to kick in due to COVID-19, and America feared what the future held as change became a constant. During these times, the staff members of Fletcher Academy in North Carolina pondered what the academy could do for those in need.

Fletcher’s principal, Phil Wilhelm, and

chaplain, Eileen States, came together to devise ideas that would serve as a ministry. Then, a local food distribution organization reached out to the academy asking for help in restocking in order to meet the high demand for food. They decided to combine a food drive and passing out the Great Controversy book.

Remnant Publications was chosen; however, the total cost for shipping and books proved too expensive. Help from God was the only thing that could save this promising plan, and that was exactly what happened.

States said about a contributing encounter she had, “I went to the acade-

my's finance office to find out how much money I had in my budget. A coworker heard about the project and asked what we were doing. When she discovered what we were doing, she was overjoyed and asked if the Great Controversy books could be passed out in her 600-home neighborhood and [she] would help to finance those books herself."

Remnant Publications went above and beyond to find a way to help secure as many books as possible for the least amount of cost. What originally was going to cost \$2300 for only 27 boxes of books, ended up costing \$2500 for 54 boxes! "That was a huge miracle," says States. "In addition to this, we sent out an email requesting for donations, and received over \$5600. We have enough to order another 2800 books and reach many more people with this message."

Many students who helped with this project shared their testimonies. Students Josh Norris and William Holt had an encounter with a man who was not as excited about the book being placed on his doorstep. "After dropping the Great Controversy book off at one particular door," Holt says, "the man proceeded to

give the book right back, but then stood there and talked with us for the next two hours. He wasn't trying to change our minds; he accepted that the Sabbath was the day of worship. We felt he must have known what the book was about."

Student Micaela Moffit also ran into a similar encounter while collecting donated food from the drive. Moffit and another student approached a house that had left the Great Controversy on the doorstep with a paper stuck to it, reading "we do not want any propaganda." Although this served as a negative, the very next house the pair went to belonged to a grateful couple who had really enjoyed the Great Controversy book, and donated not one, but four bags of food. "We went through this negative experience with the book, but were able to get a really positive impact right after," Moffit shares.

Student Hadassah Julien shares that while preparing the books with a personal note and putting each one in a hanging bag, everyone in her group started a major song fest of hymns and choir songs, and it was "a really great bonding experience for us since it was something we had never done before." Julien said she



was terrified about passing out books at first. However, "I realized I was doing God's work for a reason, and if He wanted me to do this, then this is what I needed to do."

With everything going on in history, fear has been stirred within the world. Thankfully there are many like those at Fletcher Academy, working to bring light to the people stuck in darkness. ❶

BY AALIYAH ALVA, CLASS OF 2021

The L.O.V.E. Project Heals Within

Raleigh, N. C., Seventh-day Adventist Church is proud to have members with roots from around the world, but this does not prevent Raleigh or any other church from being subject to the negative effects of racism or prejudice. In recognition of the hurt across the country and within their own community, Raleigh Adventist created the L.O.V.E. Project.

The acronym L.O.V.E. stands for Learning from Others' Vast Experiences. What started as a small group of five members has developed into a monthly video call with over 15 church members having an open discussion about how they can learn from each other and how to love more like Jesus. Some members have shared hurtful



experiences as others listened, unaware that such pain was being felt by members of their church family.

The L.O.V.E. Project was created so

that members can come together for Christ-centered conversations on love, unity, and reconciliation, as well as having challenging conversations about difficult experiences both inside and outside of the church. This also has created a platform for members to come together and work through self-analysis questions such as "Who am I struggling to love?" and "What does church unity look like?" The steering committee is hopeful to continue this project in 2021 and is prayerful for their monthly meetings to grow in attendance. ❶

BY JESSICA PIERETTI

Fort Lauderdale Church Celebrates Centennial

Fort Lauderdale Church, the oldest Adventist church in Broward County, Fla., observed its centennial services virtually, November 20-22, 2020. Willie Oliver, Ph.D., family ministries director for the Adventist World Church, was the keynote speaker.

The centennial celebration began Friday night with a preach-off. Seven preachers, mostly former pastors, preached one collaborative sermon which focused on the seven last sayings of Jesus from the cross. Five minutes was allocated for each speaker: Daniel Williams, Edward Richardson, V. Eric Kotter, Ken Burrill, Joel Honoré, Rob Stevenson, and Jeffrey Thompson. Infinite Praise Choir provided special music.

Pauline Smith chaired the Sabbath School program. Dan Woolf provided the mission spotlight and showed the connection his grandfather had with Ellen G. White. Afterward, a pictorial video showed the church's 100-year journey.

"Who Will Go?" was the title of Oliver's inspirational keynote address for the Sabbath worship service, shown on YouTube and Facebook. The sermon challenged members to continue focusing on the church's primary mission as the church celebrates what God has done in the past. Oliver and his wife, Elaine, who are specialists in family life, conducted a family strengthening seminar via Zoom video conferencing, entitled "Communicating with Grace," which received rave reviews.

Other highlights of the weekend included a centennial Adventist youth program, an international social coordinated by Beulah Shaw, and a gospel concert coordinated by Eleanor Sanderson. Meanwhile, Allan Machado, Ph.D., Florida Conference president, presented the final sermon for the historical weekend, entitled "God is Faithful."



PHOTO BY: JAMES COOKE

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., pastor, baptizes Shirley Gooding while raindrops fall on their heads.

Early Sunday morning, Shirley Gooding accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized on Fort Lauderdale Beach. "Imagine not even the torrential rain can stop this baptism from taking place," said Jeffrey Thompson, senior pastor. "Our church began with baptisms in 1920, and I think we should observe our centennial with a baptism."

The new convert's husband is Rawle Gooding, one of two architects who designed the new sanctuary of the church dedicated in 2013. As a youngster, he

worshiped at the church's first edifice on Andrews Avenue. Fort Lauderdale Church has given birth to five congregations in South Florida. ❶

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.

Ordination and Commissioning Services Held in Florida



Manuel A. Gómez and his wife, Bethzabé Gomez



Sidany Barclay and her husband, Jerome Barclay, and their three children

Manuel A. Gómez

Manuel Alejandro Gómez was born in Cuba to Enrique Gómez and Ester Labrador. He grew up in a family where Christian values, work, and honesty were the flag of the home. Working in the church was his passion, and, at a young age, he served as a youth leader.

In 2006, Gómez and his parents emigrated to the United States where they joined Hialeah Church. In spite of the many changes occurring in his life, his love for ministry was always steadfast and constant. At a youth missionary event in 2010, he met Bethzabé Rivero who would later become his wife. During this year, he also accepted God's call for pastoral ministry.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in theology in 2014 from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. At the invitation of Florida Conference, he then attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. On December 13, 2015, he married Bethzabé, the greatest blessing in his life. Gómez

graduated in 2016 with a master of divinity degree from Andrews.

During his time of study at Andrews, he received a call to be associate pastor of Hialeah Church (now called Revive), which was his home church. Manuel and Bethzabé Gómez have been happily serving God and meeting with this church since 2016. He was ordained on October 24, 2020.

Sidany Barclay

Sidany Barclay is a chaplain with more than ten years of experience working alongside interdisciplinary teams to provide spiritual and emotional support to patients, family, and staff. She was commissioned on October 28, 2020.

She is passionate about inspiring and equipping individuals to experience connection, meaning, and growth in every season of life. She is a comforting presence in her places of ministry and has been a source of peace to those she serves.

Sidany holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Northern Caribbean

University in Jamaica and two master's degrees from Loma Linda University in California: one in marriage and family therapy and the second in clinical ministry. She has received a chaplaincy health care endorsement from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and is an ordained elder.

Her most sacred ministry is being a mother to her three daughters: Alexandria, Victoria, and Katherine. She is married to Jerome who is a great support and partner in ministry. 📞

Dayton Community Chapel Experiences Rebirth

In the midst of a pandemic the pastors for the Dayton Community Chapel (DCC) in Dayton, Tenn., chose to have an in-person evangelistic series because the Word of God asks all to unite in sharing the gospel to those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The pandemic has caused trauma for each and every person, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of the Adventist movement has a remedy for trauma. Joshua Sholock, then Bowman Hills intern pastor, believes stepping out in faith during a time that Satan wanted them to stay away, made the difference. He likes what Light Bearers/Arise has coined, “The year you scared the devil.”

Richie Halversen, pastor for the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tenn, asked Sholock if he would help undergo re-planting for the nearby DCC. Sholock said, “Yes.”

According to Sholock, 35 people are listed as church members with only two attending occasionally. There are now individuals joining who have their membership elsewhere who want to help regrow the congregation.

A few of the baptismal candidates were once Adventist members, but due to encounters with legalism and perfectionistic teachings, they left the Church. Word has now gone out in Dayton that DCC desires to be Christ centered. It is a come-as-you-are church, not a get-better-then-come church. Sholock wants people to feel that they do not need to wear a “Sabbath, everything’s alright” mask. Everyone is dealing with some level of shame. This needs to be talked about, not pushed aside.

As they strategize with Halversen and meet with the core group to help energize and inspire for more growth projects, ideas they have include outreach events,



SUBMITTED BY: JOSHUA SHOLOCK

Dayton Community Chapel Church in Dayton, Tenn., was a church in decline until Joshua Sholock, Bowman Hills intern pastor, was asked if he would help replant the church. The congregation recently held an in-person evangelism series, and these individuals are new members through baptism and professional of faith.



SUBMITTED BY: JOSHUA SHERLOCK

Joshua Sholock (left) and Edward Zeller baptize Joanna Rogers at the Dayton Community Chapel in Dayton, Tenn.

community block parties, and things that would help grow the church younger. They want to make and keep evangelism as a main pillar of Dayton Community Chapel’s DNA.

Sholock is excited about the way God is already working to grow the small

congregation. He asks for prayer, both for himself as he starts seminary, and for the continued growth of DCC. ❶

BY JOSHUA SHOLOCK

Kingsport Pathfinders Lead Others to Jesus

It all began as a dream. When Matt Hallam came to the Kingsport Church, he had the wonderful idea to have a special evangelism series with Pathfinders leading out. The idea quickly caught on, and Pathfinders began to volunteer to speak. Despite the enthusiasm, it was many months before the dream finally became a reality.

On October 1-3, 2020, six of the Pathfinders presented the truth to all who would listen.

There were challenges to overcome. There was a limit on how many people could attend the series in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks to IT people, the series was able to be livestreamed. When one of the speakers became sick, another Pathfinder stepped up and presented with less than 24 hours' notice.

It began with presentations on the state of the dead and the second coming of Christ. The next night, two more Pathfinders presented on the spirit of prophecy and God's Sabbath. The third night, the final two Pathfinders shared the truth about the sanctuary and salvation. Each night received well over 100 views on-



SUBMITTED BY: RHONDA CUNNINGHAM

Pathfinders from the Kingsport, Tenn., Church, decided to have a special evangelism series and they would preach. Pathfinder participants include Lucas Hallam (left); Andy Cote; Maxwell Meyers, chaplain; Matt Hallam; Amy Cote; Amelia Meyers; and Megan deFluiter.

line, with some nights even having more than 200 views!

As people continue to watch and share these messages, even more people will learn truths these Pathfinders want to share with the world.

1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,

in spirit, in faith, in purity." These six youth from ages 12 to 16 took the calling and did their best to honor God's call and share the Gospel despite their age. 🙏

BY AMY COTE



SUBMITTED BY: RHONDA CUNNINGHAM

Amy Cote



SUBMITTED BY: RHONDA CUNNINGHAM

Lucas Hallam



SUBMITTED BY: RHONDA CUNNINGHAM

Megan deFluiter

Conference Places New Emphasis on Families, Children

Josue Sanchez, youth director of Gulf States, recently shared some news, updates, and plans at the year-end executive committee meeting at the Gulf States Conference office. Sanchez holds various responsibilities for the Conference, and among them are his positions as the director of family ministries and children's ministries. Sanchez shared that while he attended recent department meetings for the Southern Union, he realized that more needs to happen within these ministries in Gulf States.

Sanchez worked with his assistant, Belkys Vazquez, and they identified some potential needs these ministries could meet, and developed some plans for 2021. One of the first steps was creating a budget for children's ministries, which was virtually non-existent previously. With a budget in place, the de-

partment will immediately support local churches with resources that will help them establish effective ministries in their community. One of the resources the Conference will make available is the VBS starter toolkit that the North American Division produces each year. With this kit in hand, churches have the music and videos necessary to make their event a success. Vazquez has also been appointed as the coordinator for children's ministries and will lead in training churches on how to hold great events like VBS. They are also working to leverage children's ministry leaders' experience throughout Gulf States to assist churches with less experience.

Regarding family ministries, Sanchez believes that the best opportunity for spiritual development is in their home, led by their parents. "Some parents have

come to believe that it is the pastor's responsibility for the spiritual well-being of their children," Sanchez says, "but that just isn't true." When Sanchez encounters this issue, he asks these questions to parents, "What are you doing in your home to build their spirituality? Do you do devotions with your children that they understand and enjoy? Are you encouraging them to keep a prayer journal?"

Sanchez wants to help parents be courageous in their parenting and not be afraid to be the spiritual leaders God has called them to be. Programming is in the works for an event that parents can attend to be trained and inspired to be strong spiritual leaders. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



Children have the greatest potential to be positively influenced for Christ in their own homes by their parents.

Season Two of Health Nuggets Premieres



Following the Health Nuggets video series's success in 2018, the Gulf States Conference Health Ministries Department has filmed and produced a second season of helpful clips. Developed and hosted by Mark Sandoval, M.D., president of Uchee Pines Institute and director of health ministries for the Gulf States Conference, the series aims to produce enough videos for a local church or ministry to show one video per week for an entire year. Season one provided the first 13 videos, and this second season is on-track to add over 20 new episodes.

The new season begins with a multi-part series on obesity and type II diabetes. It offers helpful information on how human bodies use calories and what contributes to weight gain and other health issues. Sandoval also provides

advice on losing weight, and proposes that traditional dieting will not deliver the long-lasting results people are looking to achieve. However, the steps to attaining weight-loss are within anyone's reach, and Sandoval presents the first easy steps in his videos. At four to five minutes in length for the average video, they're easy to watch and reliable to show for a health emphasis time in the local church.

Sandoval again teamed up with the Communication Department of Gulf States Conference and filmed the new season in the Conference studio in just a matter of days in 2020. The episodes are in production, and several have already been completed and released to the Conference Facebook page and website at www.gscsda.org/health-ministries. The videos are available to be downloaded

and transported to churches that don't have internet connections. The use of the videos is encouraged for anyone or any place that may find it beneficial. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Historical Marker Placed in Madison



Ken Wetmore (left), senior pastor Madison Campus Church; Kristin Fulton, Madison Academy; Albert Dittes, local historian; and Luis Reyes, administrator Cumberland View Towers

The visionary and co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ellen White, spotted farmland for sale near Nashville, Tenn., more than 115 years ago. White directed Edward A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan, two Adventist educators, to that farmland in Madison, Tenn. A new historical marker on the property tells the story to those who pass by.

Sutherland and Magan bought the property with plans of offering students both practical experience and an academic education. The land remained a farm, but also became a school and sanitarium. They called the school Madison College and the sanitarium Madison Hospital.

Albert Dittes, a member of the Highland Church, helped lead the effort to install the marker. He said, "It had an important part in starting the Adventist community here in Nashville. The peo-

ple who came here in 1904 were not the first Adventists here, but they were the first to make really significant impacts."

Titled "Madison Adventist Origins," the historical marker is located at 1201 Cheyenne Blvd. in Madison in front of Cumberland View Towers. This historical marker is one of several thousand markers the Historical Commission has helped place across the state.

The site of the historical marker is in the district of Metro Councilmember Tonya Hancock. She had this to say: "The Madison Adventist origins in our community are far-reaching. They brought modern-day health care to Madison; most of us know someone that was born at Madison Hospital. They have given up land that has made way for other houses of worship as well as many of our neighbors' homes. The Seventh-day Adventists brought a healthy love and re-

spect for the land to Madison along with their love of the people."

The farmland White spotted in 1904 has changed over the years, but there is still a strong Adventist presence in the community. Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church provides outreach programs to the community, Madison Campus Elementary provides school for pre-K through eighth-grade students, and Madison Academy adds education for secondary students.

"It is good to be reminded of the past," Dittes said, "otherwise, Adventists could lose their sense of mission. It's very important to keep ourselves on mission; otherwise, we'll live for ourselves. These are people who didn't live for themselves." ❶

BY STAFF WRITER

Parsons PAC2 Crew Make a Difference

The Parsons, Tenn., Adventurers teamed up with the Pathfinders to make a difference during Thanksgiving as PAC2: Pathfinders and Adventurers Caring for the Community. Daysi Prado, Pathfinder director, made phone calls to two local schools, Decatur County Middle School and Parsons Elementary School, to ask for the number of families that needed help this year for Thanksgiving. One counselor said, "This year there is so much need. With sickness and joblessness there are many people who do not have much to spare, if any, for a Thanksgiving meal." Prado was given a total of 22 families.

A Pathfinder staff member made tickets and gave them to the schools. The tickets were marked with a pickup time, date, and location of the drive-thru area. The children brought the baskets to each family's car and loaded it for them. Baskets were pre-made with everything for a traditional Thanksgiving meal, from



Adventurers wait for the next car to pull up and receive their Thanksgiving basket.



Pathfinders, Adventurers, parents, and recipient pray together.

mac-n-cheese to dressing to dessert and drinks. Anything you could think of that is not perishable was put in. Their church family donated so much to the cause, that they had enough to include a \$15 grocery gift card! They also put in a copy of *Ministry of Healing*. An invitation to the

church Christmas program was added, as well as a coloring book. The Pathfinders and Adventurers handwrote and drew on cards, too.

Fourteen families came to pick up their baskets. There was one that was so delighted to see the children eagerly handing out the baskets, that she came back to thank them and shake hands. She came back yet again, and they found her crying outside, thanking and hugging the co-director for such an amazing deed. She said she had just prayed one morning, crying out to the Lord, asking Him what she was going to do for Thanksgiving, and then her daughter came home with the ticket voucher and she just broke down into tears of joy and thankfulness. The Pathfinders and staff prayed for her and were all moved. All the hard work was worth it, even if it had been just for her. Another man said, "You have no idea how much this means to us. You just made our holiday! You seriously have no idea what you have done for our family." And, one woman who grew up Adventist was so grateful to see the church doing something for the community. What an amazing experience for all involved! 🙏



The Pathfinders, Adventurers, and staff prepare the Thanksgiving baskets.

BY DAYSI PRADO

Ministry in a Pandemic



Staff present for the voter registration drive

COVID-19 has been an incredibly difficult time for ministry. With churches closed to promote social distancing, many of the ways church members are accustomed to servicing the communities have been halted. Yet, with political turmoil, racial tensions, simultaneous rent and food crisis, God's Church is needed now more than ever.

Through ingenuity and partnering with local organizations, God has created alternative opportunities for His servants to meet the needs of His people. In collaboration with "The New Georgia Project," a nonpartisan effort to "register and civically engage Georgians," the West End Church, Atlanta, Ga., sponsored a voter registration drive on their campus. The event pro-

vided an opportunity for residents of metro Atlanta to register in time for the November 2020 elections, as well as the vital local elections.

In an attempt to assist single parents in metro Atlanta, West End Church hosted a diaper drive. The collections began in January 2020, and thousands of diapers were donated by the congregation and other participants. On the date of the drive, August 29, 2020, an estimated 10,000 diapers were distributed in a socially distanced drive-thru style service.

Lastly, as African-Americans continue to experience the highest mortality rate by COVID-19* in the U.S., the members found it imperative to offer the West End Church campus as a testing site to promote health and safety

in Atlanta's West End area. In collaboration with Fulton County, West End Church has hosted three free drive-thru COVID-19 testing events. ❶

**"COVID-19 deaths analyzed by race and ethnicity" <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race> APM Research Lab, October 15, 2020.*

BY PASTOR MYLES YOUNG

Elijah and Irene Lewis Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Elijah and Irene Lewis celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on November 22, 2020. The couple married in 1950 in Pascagoula, Miss., when Elijah was 21 and Irene was 17. They attended Dearburn Church in Mobile, Ala., and later joined the Adventist church in Milwaukee, Wisc., where they relocated in 1955.

With few other men of the church, Elijah established the Sharon Travelers Gospel Quartet, and shared the Word of God through praise and worship. The Sharon Travelers sang for more than 25 years, and their success propelled them to be on TV and radio. Additionally, they were known for singing “I Have a New Home,” which celebrates the claim that by faith Jesus has made room for us in Heaven. When he’s not singing, Elijah enjoys the tranquil thrills of fishing in a lake near his home, and gardening with Irene.

Irene’s focus has been on supporting, loving, serving her family, and friends. She has been a devoted wife, an affectionate mother, and compassionate friend. She also enjoys tending to her home garden, cooking delicious meals, and crocheting various items for her household.

After Elijah’s retirement in 1991, the couple moved to Thomasville, Ala., where they now reside. Elijah has held the position as head elder of the Thomasville Church since 1997. They both have served the church with dignity and integrity, being pivotal to the church’s growth and stability. Their much-loved posterity includes two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. With a growing household they have prioritized family by vacationing with their children every year.

When asked, “What’s the key to a happy marriage?” The reply was simply,



Irene and Elijah Lewis

“Truthfulness and not keeping scores. A good marriage is being willing to say the hard things in love. Marriage thrives when it’s with someone you know will be honest with you and love you.” The Lewis’ encourages that young couples avoid the traps of vengeance and score-keeping, citing 1 Corinthians 13:5, “[Love] It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

Through their many years of marriage one Scripture has been a constant reminder of God’s goodness when facing frustrating situations and trying times,

Roman 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.” With 70 years of marriage under their belt, they pray for many more. 🕊

BY ALEXANDER MILLER

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Receives Accreditation

On December 13, Southern Adventist University's first cohort of 11 physical therapist assistant (PTA) students graduated from the university's newly accredited PTA program. The program achieved full accreditation on November 3 for an initial five-year term.

"I am delighted that the accreditation of the program was granted on the time frame we expected so that students who completed the program are eligible to sit for licensure examinations," said Robert Young, senior vice president for academic administration at Southern.

Christopher Stewart, DPT, program director, began developing the program in 2017, following guidelines from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education to pursue full accreditation. According to Stewart, accreditation

is granted to developing programs through a two-step process: candidacy for accreditation, followed by accreditation. Southern's PTA program achieved candidacy in April 2019, opening the door for the first group of students to enter the program that fall.

"By receiving accreditation this fall, this first group of graduates could become licensed as physical therapist assistants as early as January 2021," Stewart said. "This milestone is one of personal satisfaction in that we, as a department, are able to promote Southern's mission of servant leadership by training students to be extensions of Christ's ministry of healing in our community."

"I am thankful to the faculty for putting in their time and effort to develop a strong program," said Becka Tennant, December 2020 PTA graduate. "As a member of the



Program Director Christopher Stewart instructs students during a physical therapist assistant lab.

first PTA class to graduate from Southern, I highly recommend the program for anyone who is interested in it. We had great professors who did everything in their power to help us succeed." 📌

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

Theology Students Published in Adventist Encyclopedia

Two theology majors in Southern's School of Religion were recently published in the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* (ESDA). Dan Catangay and Ryan Walker began the work — researching and writing the historic biographies of two influential church pioneers — while taking a church history class from Kevin Burton, instructor in the History and Political Studies Department at Southern, in Spring 2020.

Catangay wrote about J.L. Tucker (1895-1989), pastor and founder of the international evangelistic broadcast ministry the *Quiet Hour*. Walker focused on medical missionary nurse and educator Esther Bergman (1894-1935) and her work in the United States and Ethiopia. Despite the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the spring semester, both students were under-terred in completing their assignments.

"Shortly after I assigned the project, Southern's campus shut down as we shifted to online learning to help ensure the health and safety of our students and employees," Burton said. "Dan and Ryan found ways to persevere through the chaos of the pandemic while researching and drafting thorough and impressive papers that will impact church members and scholars for years to come."

With minimal editing by their history professors and ESDA historians, the works of Catangay, a junior from Apopka, Fla., and Walker, a senior from Nine Mile Falls, Wash., are now publicly available,

marking the first time either student has been published in a peer-reviewed format.

Launched this past July as the Church's first online reference site, encyclopedia.adventist.org includes thousands of articles, plus accompanying photos, media, and original documents. This ongoing project is funded by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Additional writing assignments are already underway with other Southern students, so I fully expect that the university's contributions to ESDA will be ongoing," Burton said. 📌

BY TINA FRIST SMITH

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ENROLLMENT FOR 2021 at Atlanta Adventist Academy is now open! Atlanta Adventist Academy offers excellent Adventist education locally (Atlanta, GA) as well as virtually through our live online program for homeschoolers and distance campuses. To enroll your student, call 404-699-1400 or visit aaa.edu/admissions [2, 3]

"THE CITIES ARE TO BE WORKED from outposts. Said the messenger of God, 'Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.'" Evangelism 77.4 As you prepare to transition out of the cities for rural and country locations, Advent Construction Services is here to provide you with construction management solutions in the following areas of need: new construction, renovations, alternative energy systems installation, etc. *Marcus Gaines, MEng, Advent Construction Service: 205-910-2552, adventconstructionservices@gmail.com, <https://adventconstruction2.wixsite.com/website> [2]*

Want to be a Better Steward?

The South Atlantic Conference provides assistance in planning for the future and advanced planning for gifts to help finish the work of God. If you are looking for ways to be a better steward of the gifts God has entrusted to you, we provide resources for estate planning, wills, trusts, gift annuities and other plans.

► Call your local conference or University Trust Services Director today, to see how you can leave a legacy to your local church and help others come to know the love of Jesus Christ and His saving power.

Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

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MARCH 13, 2021



Commander Liam's reputation is that of a hard man who has complete control over his country's military.

In fact, to ensure his continued success and protection from his enemies, a few months ago he hired a modern-day "witch."

Recently, he received an unexpected text message. It had a link to the **Unlocking Bible Prophecies** series from **Adventist World Radio**. He wasn't sure who'd sent it, but he enjoyed the powerful presentation and the speaker's soothing voice that seemed to calm his soul. New messages began arriving daily, and as he listened, something changed in his heart.

Soon his resident "witch" began to notice the change in him and demanded to know who was sending the messages. She said, "That woman you're listening to has a magic more powerful than mine—I want some of that power! It gives me a strange sense of peace I haven't felt before. How can I receive these messages too?"

That's the power of Adventist World Radio and cell phone evangelism—you never know who's listening and how the Lord is working on their hearts. To read the rest of this story and see how your support is reaching millions around the world, **visit awr.org/offering.**



TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT AWR:

On **Sabbath, March 13**, mark the offering line on your tithe envelope.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALUMNI OF HOOVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, BRAKEWORTH JUNIOR ACADEMY, AND BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR ACADEMY – April 3. Please join us to celebrate 73 years of Adventist education in Birmingham, AL. Call 205-987-3376 or email office@hooverchristianschool.org for more information.

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. The children, placed in a family group creates a sense of belonging—where they live in loving home environments with native house-parents. The loving care provided helps to meet all the needs of the children; including their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, providing a sense of security that enables growth and stability. Following the commission in Jesus to “care for the fatherless,” James 2:27, ICC’s unique care establishes little villages of care-homes supported by village industries such as the jalapeño farm in Mexico. Sustaining our children and growing village industries requires assistance from loving donors like you. Make a difference today in the lives of many orphaned children. To learn more contact ICC Southern Union regional coordinator, Deborah Zirkian, at (423) 647-1826, ordeborah@ForHisKids.org

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Presidents’ Day Holiday – Feb. 15. Conference office will be closed.

Pathfinder Teen Challenge – Feb. 19-21. An event just for Pathfinder Teens who will have a challenge in some form. TBD.

ACF Connect Retreat – Feb. 26-27. A retreat for Adventist Christian Fellowship young adults who attend public universities. Online.

Hispanic Couples’ Retreat – Feb. 26-28. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience (Conference Level) – Feb. 27. Online.

Regenerate (Youth and Young Adult Festival) – March 6. Online.
Adventurer Fun Day (Regions 3 & 4) – March 14.


Please check the website for the latest details, www.gccsda.com

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Makoto Fujimura Presents Online – Feb. 25. Southern Adventist University welcomes internationally acclaimed artist and speaker Makoto Fujimura as he presents on the topic “The Theology of Making” in an online presentation at 11 a.m. The talk will share his deep exploration of the spiritual calling to creativity, blending Asian history and Christian principles while highlighting a unique artistic journey. Fujimura’s art has been featured in museums around the world, including the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., for the inaugural exhibit. Visit southern.edu/faithandart to learn more.

SUNSET

	FEB 5	FEB 12	FEB 19	FEB 26	MAR 5	MAR 12
ATLANTA, GA	6:13	6:19	6:26	6:32	6:38	6:43
CHARLESTON, SC	5:56	6:03	6:09	6:15	6:20	6:26
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:56	6:03	6:10	6:16	6:23	6:29
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:13	6:20	6:27	6:33	6:13	6:20
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:20	5:27	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:52
JACKSON, MS	5:38	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:07
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:11	6:19	6:26	6:34	6:41	6:48
MEMPHIS, TN	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:53	6:00	6:06
MIAMI, FL	6:08	6:12	6:17	6:21	6:25	6:28
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:23	5:29	5:35	5:41	5:46	5:51
NASHVILLE, TN	5:18	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
ORLANDO, FL	6:09	6:14	6:19	6:24	6:28	6:32
TAMPA, FL	6:14	6:19	6:24	6:28	6:33	6:37
WILMINGTON, NC	5:46	5:53	5:59	6:06	6:12	6:17





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