

TIDINGS

Southern 

MARCH 2021

REACHING OUT.
TOUCHING HEARTS.
HEALING LIVES.

Seventh-day Adventist Health Care in the Southern Union Territory

ADVENTIST CHURCH
ISSUES COVID-19
VACCINATION
STATEMENT

COVID-19 CAN'T
STOP WORK OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

WHERE GOD
WANTS US

AIDING HOSPITALITY,
SERVICE WORKERS
AMID PANDEMIC

A Case for Reconnecting



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

“He said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine,” Luke 15:31.

Poles apart, the two sons troubled the father — one so open and fun-loving, the other withdrawn and scheming. How could He help them find values that counted? What would make the younger care about others? How could the older see himself as totally self-centered and calculating?

The younger came stumbling up the path in rags. The father had thought this moment through, but this went beyond his worst dreams. Where had the excitement of youth gone? Who had put fear in those eyes? His heart cried out for this sorry boy, back from a bitter lesson about life. “Run to him, then; have compassion. Hold him to you.”

Later he would chuckle over the son who did not know how to connive and scheme, yet came with what he thought a cunning plan. Fool his father asking to be a servant? The father read him before he ever uttered the words. He didn’t need a job; he needed love and restoring.

He had no plan at hand to deal with the older boy. How could he have predicted the haughty, furious response? How could that scheming mind go so far as to reject brotherhood? Did he not see that if he had no brother, he also had no father?

Before the angry youth lowered his accusing finger, the father did all that he knew. He entreated him, reminding him of who he was, what he had in store for him. “Son, you don’t need a kid. You never were one for a party and friends. What you need is love.” Surely that should be enough.

When the barriers go up, what can God do? He can see the need. He knows the devious thoughts. He reads the sorry defenses. Schemes of repayment, or service to pacify the urgent sense of guilt, He brushes aside. He has the answer to them. Let me give, He says. Don’t you try to give just yet. Let me be the Giver.

For those who will have nothing of the celebration of God’s love, the task of reconnecting to missing members of God’s family grows harder. The father entreats and goes on entreating. “All that I have is yours,” He says. “I am no poorer because I gave to your brother. I grow rich by giving My love. Won’t you take your share?”

“The gift of Christ reveals the Father’s heart ... He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work,” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 254.

In our quest here in the Southern Union to reconnect with the scores of thousands of our missing members, I remind us to bear in mind that Christ taught His disciples that the amount of Divine attention given to any object is proportionate to the rank assigned to it as the creation of God. The value of people, the estimate God places upon us, is revealed in the cross of Calvary.

– RCS

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REACHING OUT. TOUCHING HEARTS. HEALING LIVES.

Seventh-day Adventist Health Care in the Southern Union Territory

BY INGRID HERNÁNDEZ WITH KEVIN EDGERTON

In Matthew 15, we find Christ in a crowd of more than 4,000 people healing physical, mental, and spiritual brokenness. His care was compassionate, indiscriminate, and focused on affirming a singular truth — each individual is a child of God.

Today, AdventHealth is poised to extend the legacy of Christ's healing ministry into the future with bold, transformative plans where every patient and every consumer is connected to a seamless network of whole-person care.

"Whole-person care — caring for every person in body, mind, and spirit — represents everything we wish to achieve as a system," said Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO. "It's the way Christ cared for others, and the way we aspire to bring healing and wholeness to our broken world."

AdventHealth's vision for the future of health care stands on the shoulders of Seventh-day Adventist medical pioneers who revolutionized care across the country, including in the Southern Union territory.

Extending Across the Southern Union and Beyond

The story of Adventist health care starts in a time when Church members were pooling resources to construct sanitariums similar to the one in Battle Creek, Michigan. Many efforts across the Southern Union began in places like Atlanta, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee, but the oldest surviving facility is located in Orlando, Florida. At the start of the 20th Century, Rufus Wells Parmelle, president of the newly organized Florida Conference, offered \$9,000 for an

Visit www.southerntidings.com/healthcare for a video of President/CEO Terry Shaw sharing AdventHealth's Vision 2030 plan for achieving whole-person care.





abandoned lakeside property when only \$4.83 was available in the treasury. The Florida Sanitarium (now AdventHealth Orlando) opened in 1908.

In Kentucky, the Oneida Mountain Hospital (now AdventHealth Manchester) opened in 1917 with a staff made entirely of nurses. “The tiny hospital began when Dr. C. Adeline McConville, a New York ophthalmologist, discovered the extreme medical need of the people” in the region (*Southern Tidings*, May 1972).

A couple hundred miles away in Asheville, North Carolina, during a 1909 visit by Ellen White, local resident Martha Rumbough was encouraged to start a school and medical facility that became known as the Mountain Sanitarium before formally adopting the name

Visit www.southerntidings.com/healthcare to learn more about the Florida and Madison (Nashville) sanitariums, two legacy Seventh-day Adventist institutions in the South.

Fletcher Hospital (now AdventHealth Hendersonville). “In the beginning the hospital ... catered to people suffering from respiratory ailments” (*The Times-News*, July 14, 1983, p. 28).

It wasn’t the only time White encouraged the opening of a medical facil-

ity. Many others were inspired by her prompting to do similar work. In 1904, White asked Nellie Druillard, who had served as treasurer and auditor for several Church entities, to build a sanitarium for the black community, and she did, investing nearly \$250,000 of her personal funds.

Druillard served Riverside Hospital until the age of 80, when she passed ownership to the General Conference. It was “the only institution of its kind in North America for the colored people ... The personnel [was] made up of consecrated men and women” (*Atlantic Union Gleaner*, December 16, 1936).

“Riverside became a national landmark, really, for people who came from all over the country for health care services because it was the only acute care hospital the Church operated at the time it opened,” said Womack Rucker, former AdventHealth vice president of corporate relations and mission enculturation, who also served as Riverside Hospital president in the 1980s.

To hear more about Riverside Hospital from former CEO Mack Rucker, visit www.southerntidings.com/healthcare



Opened by Nellie Druillard (top) in 1927, Riverside Hospital (bottom) served the Nashville community for more than 50 years.



Don Welch, first president of the Southern Adventist Health and Hospital System, which eventually became AdventHealth.



In the 1970s, many of these legacy facilities formed part of the Southern Adventist Health and Hospital System (SAHHS), now AdventHealth. While Riverside Hospital and several others have since closed due to financial pressures, the reorganization into a larger system served to strengthen and support many of the Adventist standalone hospitals.

Today, AdventHealth is a comprehensive, connected system of care with more than 80,000 team members unified under one mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. AdventHealth has hospitals, physician practices, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing

facilities, home health agencies, and hospice centers across the country, from rural towns like Manchester, Kentucky, to bustling cities like Orlando, Florida, and Denver, Colorado.

Beyond the U.S., AdventHealth maintains strategic long-term relationships with Adventist medical institutions in 10 mission footprint locations, including countries like Honduras, Dominican Republic, Peru, Rwanda, and Nepal, where the system can extend support, donations, and resources, like CREATION Life DVDs, study guides, and Vacation Bible School kits.

Healing the Body, Mind, and Spirit

The origin of the CREATION Life philosophy is closely tied to the origin of AdventHealth Celebration in Florida. As the organization worked toward the opening of the hospital campus in 1997, leadership came to a key decision point: how much to share about their mission and understanding of God in that setting, said Des Cummings, former president for the AdventHealth Central Florida Foundation. The town of Celebration, a planned community by Disney, was to be a showcase that would bring tourists from around the world.

“We found that there were some executives in Disney’s development company who were Christians, and we began to have Bible studies together,” Cummings recalled. “We studied Genesis because we firmly believed if we could take the perfect ideas of Genesis to a broken and imperfect world, we would have superior healing capability. We learned a tremendous amount from Disney about expressing that message.”

CREATION Life is designed to meet the needs of the body, mind, and spirit, understanding we are whole beings created in the image of God. Even in critical care, this fundamental belief rings true.

Connie Hamilton, former chief nursing officer for AdventHealth’s Central Florida Division — South Region, joined the organization in the 1970s during a time of new medical findings, equipment, and specialties, including critical care.



Riverside Hospital was the third Black medical institution in Nashville, Tennessee. The first — Nashville Colored Sanitarium — began with the efforts of James Edson in 1901. The Nashville Colored Sanitarium was connected to the Oakwood Sanitarium, East Hall, opened in Alabama in 1909, through Lottie Blake, M.D., one of the first two Black Adventist physicians and a graduate of the American Medical Missionary College, class of 1902.



The Florida Sanitarium (now AdventHealth Orlando) opened in 1908.

“In critical care, there is an intensity and urgency in caring for patients, so the priority certainly is the body and how to intervene through medications and treatments,” she said. “But, behind that is a very intensive spiritual component because the individual and that individual’s family are going through a crisis like they never have before. In nursing, you’re not only ministering to the patient, you’re also ministering to those who are important to them.”

Nearly 30 years after her start with AdventHealth, Hamilton was instrumental in the development of the Spiritual Ambassadors program, a grassroots initiative

that trains nurses and other non-clerical staff for the delivery of spiritual care.

“Soon, we had spiritual ambassadors in almost every unit,” she said. “It was almost as if we had given them permission to ‘mission’ more deeply.”

Watch Connie Hamilton talk about her calling to leadership in a video available at www.southerntidings.com/healthcare

A Ministry that will Continue into the Future

In recent years, AdventHealth's commitment to mission and innovation has led to a unique intake process that screens patients for the spiritual indicators of love, joy, and peace — based on Galatians 5.

A “no” answer to any of the screening questions triggers a referral and a call from one of the organization's e-spiritual caregivers. As of December 2020, AdventHealth has conducted 1.6 million of these screenings.

“I think the [spiritual care] initiative is incredible,” said Tom Werner, AdventHealth CEO emeritus. “And, there are going to be other ideas I can't even begin to envision, but I think the door is wide open because human needs never really change. I think AdventHealth will continue to grow, and, more importantly, there are going to be souls in the Kingdom because of their contact with AdventHealth.”

Now in the COVID-19 pandemic, AdventHealth, like other health systems, has had to quickly adapt and respond to a virus of which very little was known. AdventHealth has led the charge in its communities, even providing education and personal protective equipment to its mission footprints.

As the world transitions from responding to a previously unknown disease to fighting back with new treatments and a cutting-edge vaccines, the goal for Seventh-day Adventist health care in the Southern Union and around the globe is the same. As the goal was when the Florida Conference purchased an abandoned property in Orlando, so it will be when AdventHealth achieves its vision for wholistic care. To extend Christ's healing ministry.

It all starts and ends with Him. ①

Ingrid Hernández is AdventHealth's senior communications specialist for corporate communications.

Kevin Edgerton is the director of corporate services communications for AdventHealth.

“THIS JESUS BUSINESS”

One day at AdventHealth Orlando, Tom Werner, AdventHealth president/CEO from 2000 to 2006, received a phone call from a physician who wanted to introduce him to a 93-year-old patient with terminal cancer. The patient was a very wealthy man, but didn't have any family. After their introduction, Werner was able to spend a good amount of time with him, getting to know him better.

After his discharge, Werner and others on staff continued to reach out to the older man. Werner even had the opportunity to visit him in his home on several occasions and hear his story. He learned that the older man had emigrated from England to the United States without his parents at the age of 13. He started a business here, becoming very successful and eventually owning a 20,000-square-foot home, several sports cars, exquisite artwork, and much more.

Numerous times during their meetings, Werner would introduce a spiritual element to the conversation, but the older man was not interested. He said he didn't believe in “that stuff.” But one day, during what would be his last readmission to the hospital, Werner got a call to come down and visit with him.

“I went into his room and we had some small talk,” recalled Werner. “After a bit he said, ‘tell me about this Jesus business.’ So, I shared what I believed.”

Werner said the man simply listened intently. He didn't answer yes to anything, and he didn't say no to anything. He just listened.

“Our conversation ended and

in a short time later, he passed away,” said Werner. “I don't know if he'll be in the Kingdom — I hope he will be — but there was an occasion where a professed atheist came to know about ‘this Jesus business’ because of his exposure to AdventHealth. I expect that kind of thing occurs more often than we know, and we're not going to know this side of Heaven what the ultimate impact has been.”



SCAN ME

View additional videos by using your cell phone camera to hover over the QR and opening the web address that appears, or go to www.southerntidings.com/healthcare

Aiding Hospitality, SERVICE WORKERS AMID PANDEMIC

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

When the Shelby County, Tennessee, Health Department placed significant restrictions on area restaurants and other businesses in December because of the coronavirus, Adventist Reginald Coopwood, M.D., and his family decided to do something to help those impacted.

The Coopwoods set up the “Pay It Forward Mid-South” campaign, which ran through January 31, 2021. During that time, all donations to the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund were directed to agencies supporting hospitality and service industry workers who lost employment, or whose work hours and pay was decreased, according to the website of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, which oversees the Response Fund.

Shelby County restaurants were limited to 25 percent capacity for indoor dining, which meant likely hardship for hundreds of workers in the hospitality and service industries.

Coopwood, who is president and CEO of Regional One Health, said one Sabbath he was reading a book called *Double Blessing* by Mark Batterson, about the “blessing of giving,” when God gave him an idea.

“As I was reading, the Lord put this on me pretty hard,” recalled Coopwood. “I thought, let’s do something for the workers. I put the book down, and that’s when I called my wife and said, the Lord has put this on me. She accepted it as well, and that’s how it took off.”

“When Reggie came to me with what



The Coopwood family: Riley (left), Reginald, Erica, and Rebecca

the Lord put on his heart, I just kind of went into operation mode,” said Erica Stiff-Coopwood, Esquire.

The couple’s daughters — Riley, 15, and Rebecca, 12 — came up with the name for the campaign. Stiff-Coopwood contacted her friend, Kimberly Perry, whose husband, retired NBA player Elliot Perry, is on the Community Foundation board.

“I thought about who can help us get this word out the quickest,” said Stiff-Coopwood. “And Elliott and Kim are both our mutual friends. Reggie gave Elliott a call, and they were both excited about it.”

It wasn’t long before the support started pouring in.

Regional One Health, Baptist Memorial Health Care, and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare made the leadoff gifts, totaling \$100,000, to the campaign.

FedEx, First Horizon, Truist, and other businesses joined in soon afterward to push the fund to more than \$200,000.

The Coopwoods launched a social media challenge to other businesses and the community, and they were interviewed by a local television station. By the end of the campaign on January 31, close to \$500,000 had been raised.

The Coopwoods say the spirit of giving is powerful, and they hope others will be touched by it.

“We don’t give to get, but we get in order to give,” said Stiff-Coopwood. “The needs of people can be met, if more people adopt that mindset.”

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

Isolation Caused BY COVID-19

BY FRANK SANCHEZ

Isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a detriment to dysfunction and addiction recovery. However, there are solutions provided through modern technology.

People recovering from various dysfunctions and addiction have had relapses in their recovery due to the isolation caused by the pandemic. One meaningful tool in recovery is attending recovery meetings on a regular basis and interacting with others who have the same common enemy. Most people in recovery attend at least one meeting a week and are bolstered by the sharing of strength, hope, and experience by the attendees.

The pandemic has caused a majority of recovery meetings to shut down in order to not add to the spread of this deadly virus in their communities. Many recovery meetings are held in churches and government buildings that are not allowing meetings to be conducted following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for gatherings. Most have worked their recovery programs by staying in contact with other meeting members and their sponsors, which helps greatly. The accountability to a sponsor is one of the strongest things that prevents relapse.

The best preventive medicine, however, is to surrender to God and let Him work in your recovery (step 3 of the 12 steps of recovery). Isolation creates problems because it's sometimes easy to fall into old patterns of being self-centered, and think we can handle it all on our own. The dysfunction/addiction is cunning, baffling, and powerful, and thus can confuse the recovery process;



Adventist Recovery Ministries training meeting in Avon Park, Florida

we can forget that we are powerless over it (step 1 of the 12 steps of recovery), and that is very dangerous.

The biggest danger of this isolation that has taken place during the pandemic is to those in early recovery. The newcomer has not practiced the principles of recovery for a period of time that would enable them to be strengthened for the battle, which is lifelong. They have not yet surrendered fully to God as, in many cases, this is a brand-new concept. The isolation allows time to get into improper thinking, and those struggling move back to the dysfunction or addiction. The problem has intensified throughout the pandemic, and news of folks relapsing and dying has been dramatic and painful.

The good news is that God has been at work to meet our needs. Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory," NIV. Today's technology in video conferencing, which has been in the business world for a while, is now widely available. Programs like Zoom and Skype and others have allowed online recovery meetings to take place. Meeting

programs, along with YouTube, have allowed church services to be brought into the homes, and that has been a blessing for many. God is so good, as shown to us in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it," NIV. He has, through technology, given us the resources to overcome our isolation situation during this pandemic.

Persons in recovery who have been struggling with their addictions or dysfunction can now attend virtual support groups such as AA (https://www.thetokenshop.com/Online_AA_Meetings), NA, Celebrate Recovery, and Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARM), to continue their recovery process.

Interested persons can visit the ARM web page at <https://nadhealth.org/recovery/>. It has much-needed information on Christ-centered recovery: "The study and practice of the biblical principles of recovery which leads to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ." There are links on this page to "The Twelve," an online Zoom "Journey to Wholeness" meeting being held each Thursday at 7 p.m., Eastern, for facilitators of the program. There are links to training and information on how to start a group at your church. We can provide online or in-person awareness programs. Contact the ministry or me at gailileol@yahoo.com. 📞

Frank Sanchez is the coordinator for Adventist Recovery Ministries in the Southern Union territory.

Adventist Church Issues COVID-19 VACCINATION STATEMENT

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

The world headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church has addressed COVID-19 Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations. The Southern Tidings is sharing highlights, but the entire statement as well as the Church's stance on vaccinations can be found online: <https://adventist.news/en/news/covid-19-vaccines-addressing-concerns-offering-counsel>.

Following are excerpts quoted from the statement about important concerns or questions raised by Church members:

- Mrs. White's Experience: Ellen White modeled practical prevention in the face of the lethal disease in her era — smallpox — and took the immunization herself, as did those close to her.
- Mark of the Beast: One recent view ... has put forward the theory that the upcoming vaccines produced to combat COVID-19 belong to a process of control that will lead to the application of the mark of the beast. It should be noted, however, that Adventists hold to the conviction that the end-time controversy will center on the law of God, and particularly on the fourth commandment (Revelation 14:12). Moreover, the third angel's message will warn against the reception of the mark (Revelation 14:9–11) and will enlighten humankind as to the issues involved it should be made clear that Seventh-day Adventists understand the "mark of the beast" to be not a literal mark, but a sign of allegiance that identifies the bearer as loyal to the power represented by the beast.
- Animal Products: ... the consumption

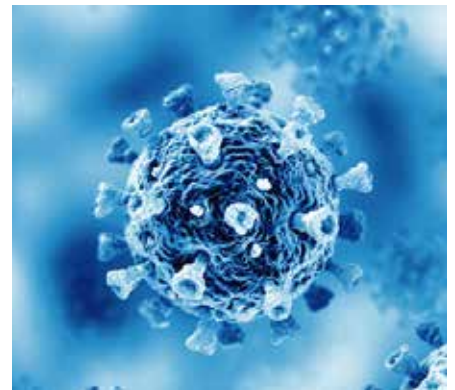
of unclean food and blood (Leviticus 11:1–20; 17:11–12; Acts 15:20) do[es] not apply to vaccines for the obvious reason that vaccines are produced as medication to save lives, not to serve as food. [Also, COVID-19 vaccines are vegan, and contain no animal nor fetal tissue.]

- Preservatives: There are no preservatives in these two COVID-19 vaccines, which is why they require deep freeze/freezer facilities for storage....

- DNA/mRNA: mRNA ... technology has been used in medical treatments for the past 15 years. The vaccine enters ... the fluid within the cell, where it stimulates the production of antibodies to fight the SARS-CoV-2's spike protein. Since it does not enter the nucleus of the host cell, it does not change the DNA or genetic structure/function.

- Church Stance on Vaccinations: The Seventh-day Adventist Church places strong emphasis on health and well-being. The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writing of E. G. White ... and on peer-reviewed scientific literature. As such, we encourage responsible immunization/vaccination, and have no religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our adherents to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunization programs. We value the health and safety of the population [and] ... "herd immunity."

- Vaccination Exemption: We are not the conscience of the individual church member, and recognize individual choices The choice not to be immunized is



not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

- Controversy and the Church's Mission: Using the introduction of a vaccine to stir up an eschatological scenario of spiritual and cosmic proportions, or to oppose it on the basis of a faulty interpretation of Scripture, only distracts sincere believers from the real prophetic issues and the Adventist Church's commitment to proclaim the gospel.

The Church's statement reiterates, "The decision to be immunized or not is the choice of each individual, and should be taken in consultation with one's health-care provider We ultimately rely on following biblical health practices and the Spirit of Prophecy, and following God's leading in our lives, which will bring us peace and assurance in our decision making." ①

Amireh Al-Haddad is the religious liberty and public affairs director at the Southern Union Conference.

David M. Jones, HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, HISTORIAN PASSES

BY JAMES LAMB, PH.D.

David M. Jones, pastor, was born July 17, 1936 in Jacksonville, Florida. His mother believed in Christian education, placing her son at the Ephesus Junior Academy in Jacksonville for elementary and junior high school. He continued his education at Pine Forge Academy for high school. After graduating from Pine Forge Academy, he enrolled in Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) where he received a bachelor of arts degree. Jones continued his studies at Andrews University in Berrien

Springs, Michigan; the Institute of America in Bible Philosophy, Kansas City, Missouri, and the Georgia Baptist College & Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received an honorary doctorate of divinity.

Jones, who was affectionately called “D.M.,” served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a literature evangelist, Bible worker, pastor, teacher, evangelist, director of Sabbath School and children’s ministries, and safety officer. He was the first vice president for administration for the South At-

lantic Conference, and most recently served the Conference as health ministries director and archivist/historian.

Although he served in an administrative capacity, his greatest love was as pastor and evangelist — pastoring some 27 congregations. He was a member of the Centurion Club for many years where he baptized 100-plus souls. He was also a member of the Quinquagenarian Club for several years and baptized 50-plus souls.

Jones served as director of security and medical for the Southern Union,



David M. Jones, pastor



Ephesus Church in Greensboro, N.C., construction site



Ordination service

North American Division and at the International Pathfinders' Camporee. He was awarded by Pine Forge Academy faculty, Alumnus of Distinction in the Field of Gospel Ministry.

Jones was a board member and chairman of the Offender Aid and Restoration for the Eastern Division of North Carolina in Wilmington, North Carolina. He served as a lifestyle consultant and was certified by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. He additionally served as a member of the Mayor's Minority Affairs Committee in several cities where he pastored.

He served many years as a civil rights activist, and assisted Ocala and Marion County, Florida, as a civil rights spokesman and coordinator during times of unrest.

Jones served on the South Atlantic Conference and Southern Union Conference Executive Committees, as well as the South Atlantic Conference Board of Education. He served as chaplain for various police and sher-



The highlight of David Jones' ministry was baptizing his parents, Hampton and Queenie Jones, and his aunt, Leslie Roundtree (seated), on March 19, 1977, while preaching a spring revival in Jacksonville, Florida.

iff departments, and before his death, served as chaplain for Newton County Georgia Sheriff's Office.

God used him to organize and build several churches. He bought a new school building and added two grades to Ephesus Jr. Academy in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was a member of the United States Jaycees,

and was the first Black Jaycee in North Carolina in the early 1970s, and was instrumental in organizing the East Salem Jaycees (Winston-Salem) Chapter 0455.

Jones passed on January 3, 2021. He was married to the former G. Delores Monroe of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have three adult children, Denise R. Jones, Darlene A. Jones, and David M. Jones II; and three grandchildren, Desiree, Darkari, and Daylin.

Jones loved people and enjoyed being called "pastor." He believed when you are called to be a minister, you do it to make history, not to make money. He appreciated his calling and baptized more than 2,500 for the Kingdom of God! Whenever he attended a meeting, after the closing prayer, you could hear him say, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." ●

James Lamb, Ph.D., is the human resources and communication director at the South Atlantic Conference.

COVID-19 Can't Stop WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

BY PAUL RAU



Plymouth-Sorrento Church in Apopka, Florida, celebrated nine baptisms in 2020. It started with a young couple choosing to be baptized, and then the very next day they exchanged wedding vows.

Lowell Hargreaves, from Amazing Facts, presented an in-person evangelistic meeting, "Everything Is About to Change." The church followed suggested guidelines and put wearing masks into practice. Social distancing meant atten-

dance in the church was limited to every other row. Overflow rooms with monitors were used for those who couldn't fit into the church. Members and guests alike commented on the great blessings received from the meetings. Five more made decisions to be baptized.

Two other people decided to give their hearts and lives to Jesus near the end of the year and were baptized. Plymouth-Sorrento members praise God for each and every new member. ①



Where God WANTS US

BY ANGELA BAERG

For as long as they can remember, the Nelson quadruplets have done everything together. They had swum, skied, hiked, painted, drew, and — up until their senior year of high school — taken every class together. When it came time for Andie, Nikki, Neal, and Sydney to decide where they would attend college, they made that decision together, too.

Originally from California, the decision to attend Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, was a big one for the quadruplets and for their parents. They had heard excellent things about the diverse academic opportunities, potential for outdoor adventures, and uplifting spiritual atmosphere at Southern. Although their parents were sad about the siblings going so far away, they were happy about their children's decision and supported them in their new adventure.

In the past, if one quadruplet was interested in something, the others would try it as well. Now, for the first time in their lives, they are pursuing different courses of study. Neal chose animation, Nikki is learning about nutrition and dietetics, and Sydney is studying elementary education.

Andie, inspired by several family members, decided to become a nurse. Rather than feeling daunted by the age of COVID-19, Andie has been inspired by the heroes that she's seen all around her.

"My aunt works at the ER," Andie said. "This year we haven't gotten to see her much. She's right in the thick of it all, and I know it's been really hard. Still, in spite of all the difficulties, she remains really passionate about helping others. I want to be like her."

Since weekdays are tricky with their



Quadruplets Sydney, Neal, Andie, and Nikki Nelson are thrilled to be attending Southern Adventist University together.

conflicting course schedules, the quadruplets have made weekend time together a priority, exploring places such as nearby Raccoon Mountain and Southern's extensive trail system. Nikki enjoys the convenience of walking right from her dorm room to miles of wooded trails. After a hard week of classes, the siblings love going to vespers for a spiritual reset to remind them of what is truly important, and participating in Week of Prayer reenergized them.

"Honestly, we are just thrilled to have the opportunity to study in person* this year," Neal said. "It really helps us stay motivated. None of our friends in California are getting to go to class and have the true college experience that we're getting, so I'm very grateful."

Their favorite part of school is the social aspect. The welcoming spirit they have encountered from students and faculty at every turn has made them feel like they

belong. Being around others who are spiritually oriented and focused in their studies has been another inspiration. As the quadruplets have explored different majors, guidance from professors and feedback from new friends has been pivotal.

"Everyone here has been so friendly and accepting," Andie said. "Both students and professors seem excited to accomplish their goals, but still make it a priority to have God in their lives. The more time I spend on campus, the more it confirms in my heart that this is the place God wanted us to be."

**To learn more about the safety measures Southern has put in place to hold in-person classes as safely as possible, visit southern.edu/coronavirus.* ①

Angela Baerg is a Montessori preschool teacher who graduated in 2006 from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

AdventHealth to Build Hospital in Palm Coast

AdventHealth has announced that it will build a 100-bed hospital in Palm Coast, Fla., marking the single-largest health care investment in Flagler County.

Construction will begin September 2021 on AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway, a \$100 million project near Bridgehaven Drive. The four-story hospital is scheduled to open in late 2022, and will join AdventHealth Palm Coast to provide additional convenience and comprehensive care, including world-class orthopedics services to Flagler residents.

Flagler County is poised to grow more than 7% over the next five years, and it is important that acute-care services keep pace with this growth to meet the community's health care needs.

"We look forward to bringing our world-class services closer to home for more people in this growing region," said David Ottati, president/CEO for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division — North Region. "COVID-19 has shown us the importance of strong health care infrastructure, and, while these plans were in motion before the onset of the pandemic, our recent experience underscores the need for fast access to quality health care."

AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway will include an emergency department with full-service imaging; five operating suites; endoscopy services; an outpatient laboratory; heart catheterization labs; and 20 critical care patient rooms and 80 for general medical or surgical care. Plans also call for a 30,000-square-foot medical office building to be constructed on the 10-acre site in the future.

"The ability to get to an emergency department in minutes can mean the difference between life or death for our patients," said Paul Mucciolo, M.D., chief




The project will provide 100 more beds and \$100 million investment in Flagler County.

of staff at AdventHealth Palm Coast. "I'm thrilled that even more families will be just a few minutes' drive from our world-class care."

This project marks AdventHealth's latest investment in Flagler. In 2019, the organization provided nearly \$15 million in community benefit in the county. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AdventHealth continues to serve Flagler residents and support other local nonprofits that are dedicated to improving the health of the community. These efforts include the recent donation of \$50,000 to Flagler Cares, a county-wide initiative that brings new health, wellness, and social welfare infrastruc-

ture to Flagler residents to help reduce health and social disparities.

"We are delighted to strengthen our presence in this community with a second world-class hospital, and look forward to deepening the relationships we've built with our partners here," said Ron Jimenez, president/CEO for AdventHealth Palm Coast.

AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway is expected to provide 400 new jobs, and that figure is expected to grow to as many as 700, with an average salary of \$67,000. 

BY ADVENTHEALTH STAFF WRITERS

Students Connect With Jesus at Mount Pisgah Academy



This school year, the students at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) have continued to find ways to connect with Jesus on a regular basis in a variety of ways. Every evening in the dorm, the deans hold worship to begin the evening. Typically, the deans will either lead out in a worship thought themselves, or they will have a student share their Christian experience. Once a week, the students have hall worship in the dorm where the resident assistants share a worship talk.

On Friday evenings, the students have a special Vespers program in the auditori-

um. This program is often looked forward to by students as they get to dress up and worship together. Students lead out in contemporary praise music. "Pastor Jo" then gives students the chance to share H.O.G. (Hand of God) awards where they share how they have seen the Hand of God during the past week. A special speaker will then share a thought-provoking talk for the students to enjoy. Speakers this year have included local pastors and various staff members.

In addition to regular Vespers, the students enjoy several faculty family Vespers throughout the year. On November

13, 2020, the students experienced their first faculty family Vespers of the school year where they got to visit staff members' homes and worship together with friends in a more intimate setting.

Church is also a special time for the students, especially when they have the opportunity to participate in the service. On October 31, 2020, the freshman and sophomore classes were in charge of the entire service. Students led out in singing, prayers, and even the sermon portion of the church service. These types of Sabbaths are always special as students learn from one another and the experiences their peers have gone through. Additionally, the students were able to travel earlier this school year to local churches in North and South Carolina to assist in the services there.

The students at MPA are so blessed to have a variety of opportunities to connect with God throughout the week. They invite you to join them. Follow their Facebook page to watch the live Vespers and Sabbath School programs each week. 📺

BY ABBY KING, MPA MARKETING DIRECTOR

Charleston Magabook Winter Program Achieves Results

God brought a small group of Carolina youth together during the Christmas break to spread His Word through Magabooking. Josh Mapes, Danny Mapes, Mark Mapes, Abbie Wait, Seth Wait, William Holt, and their parents met in Charleston, S.C. Heidi Supit also joined them from Ten-

nessee. They went to serve God and see the Lord work, while also raising funds for tuition to Southern Adventist University, Fletcher Academy, and Mount Pisgah Academy.

Each day the students read and prayed a whole lot so they could have strength to meet all kinds of people. The very first man

William Holt talked to was a Toyota lover and owner, much like Holt. After taking a book, he not only gave him good advice about learning a trade, but showed Holt his newly rebuilt engine. It was a positive way to start the week.

A man who Mark Mapes canvassed asked him whether the books were

Jehovah's Witness or Seventh-day Adventists. Without thinking, his mom replied, "The Jehovah's Witness have their own Bible; these follow the King James." The man then asked, "Are these books Seventh-day Adventist?" Mark and his mom both said, "Yes." Then he asked, "Are you Seventh-day Adventists?" Mark and his Mom again both replied, "Yes." He took all three books saying that he wasn't an Adventist, but he had his children in an Adventist school which he really appreciated.

When Heidi Supit was asked how this had been a life changing experience, she responded by saying, "I have learned that I get nowhere without prayer. I'm very scared of public speaking and approaching strangers. The first two days I was here, I did not want to get out of the car, I was so scared. I prayed and I asked God to take away my fear, and He did. I re-



PHOTO BY: SUSAN HOLT

alized by constantly keeping a prayer in my head, I kept Jesus with me and kept the fear away."

The students found it really meant something when people would compliment them, pray with them, and donate to their education, whether it be a handful of change or a \$100 bill. Not everyone was like that. A handful of people were very mean and cutting. The students recalled a woman who told them, "I don't want to raise a daycare." Thankfully, the majority were pleasant and nice to talk to, no matter if they took a book or not.



PHOTO BY: SUSAN HOLT



PHOTO BY: SUSAN HOLT

Each morning one of the student teams would give worship for the group. After a particularly hard day on Wednesday, Danny Mapes felt the need to go to his car and read his Bible. He was looking for faith and hope. This is what he came up with.

Psalms 119:114 (UKJV), "You are my hiding place and my shield: I hope in your word."

That led him to 1 Corinthians 13, where it says, "We have hope, faith, and love, but the greatest of these is love." In looking for faith and hope, he realized love was the most important and

that's what he needed to share with the community. The group identified with his thoughts as he shared them the next morning for worship.

They saw many miracles and were touched by stepping into people's lives for a brief moment. Holt is reminded of a Lowe's worker who was sitting in his truck waiting to go to work. He didn't have enough to buy both books that he really wanted. It was a stretch to buy the one about fighting disease. However, seeing the yearning he also had for the one entitled, *They Call Him Jesus (Desire of Ages)*, it was satisfying to have the ability to put those words of peace and joy in his hands.

The group passed out 497 books, found 12 Bible study interests, collected more than \$10,000 in donations, saw God hold back the rain, and interacted with a city about their spiritual relationship. The intended goal was an intense spiritual mountaintop experience. The Holy Spirit abundantly met that, and it was a blessed week that will not be forgotten. ❶

BY SUSAN HOLT

God Called — From Big City to Small Town

God's timing is perfect, so when He called for a church to be planted in the western part of South Carolina, the Columbia Midtown Adventist Church heard the call, and the small rural town of Batesburg-Leesville, S.C., was selected. A multitude of signs pointed to fields ripe for harvest in this area, and several members attending the Midtown Church lived in the vicinity of this town.

The initial challenge was to find a place to worship, but God already had that worked out! In His foreknowledge He knew there was a congregation that would open its doors to this small group of Adventists — the Mount Hebron Lutheran Church, which was just outside the town limits. At that time, Mark Bredholt, pastor, who has since retired, was the pastor of this church. He was well acquainted with Seventh-day Adventists, having worked for the Adventist hospital system in Florida. Due to his influence, the Mt. Hebron congregation welcomed the infant Adventist church plant to become established.

Group status was obtained in March 2015 with 16 members, and then company status quickly followed in September 2015 with 30 members. The climb to church status was five long years, filled with many obstacles and challenges. The congregation grew together as a body of believers dedicated to bringing the last-day message of Jesus and His soon return to their little corner of the globe. Then, on May 11, 2020, the Carolina Conference Executive Committee granted church status to the Batesburg-Leesville Three Angels Company. The church was dedicated in a ceremony on Sabbath, November 21, 2020, with Gary Moyer officiating.

The Three Angels Church is dedicated to outreach. The church has a part-



PHOTO BY: LISA MOYER



PHOTO BY: LISA MOYER

time Bible worker who, along with his wife, is teaching members how to visit and give Bible studies. Membership has grown to 64 as a result of this effort.

The church also has an internet radio station, 777 Radio. 777radio.org now has a regular listening audience of more than 1,000 in the United States and in 17 other countries. The numbers have increased significantly since the station came online this year, and God's Word is reaching the little town and the world.

The challenges in the small town are significantly different than those in the city. Cultural tradition is a major barrier;

however, no matter what the challenge, the past five years have shown that the bigger the challenge, the greater the opportunity for God to reveal Himself and His plan for His people. Praise God for what He has done for the Three Angels congregation in the past, and what He will do for His church in Batesburg-Leesville in the future! 🕊

BY HELEN KOON

Florida Conference Commissions Winsome Wint

Winsome Wint, affectionately known as Winnie, serves AdventHealth Heart of Florida in Davenport, Fla., as senior chaplain and Polk County market leader. Wint is intentional about making a meaningful connection with patients and their families, as well as staff.

Wint attended the University of the West Indies, Spelman College, Concordia University, and Andrews University Theological Seminary. She holds degrees in organizational leadership, education with specialization in child development, business administration, and pastoral ministry. Currently, she serves as an ordained elder, treasurer, and Pathfinder director at Solid Rock Church of Orlando.

As you get to know Wint, you will discover several interesting things about her. Sometimes, Wint reflects on the first one who pointed her to ministry — her father, Richmond Carlton Wright.

The more you get to know Wint, you will discover several interesting things about her. She actually enjoys pulling weeds in her garden! Gardening is special to her, and she loves to share pictures of plants and pictures of her most recent harvest. In her spare time, she



Winsome Annette Wint was commissioned on December 18, 2020. She is shown with her husband, Michael, and her goddaughter.

especially enjoys hiking, camping, and traveling. She never considers herself lost if there is gas in the car.

But, the joy of her heart is to have a quiet evening with her husband, Mi-

chael. They celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on December 21, 2020. They are both loved and supported by their mothers, Winnifred Christian and Veta Wint. ❶

Florida Conference Ordains Joseph Nesbit

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Joe Nesbit was blessed to have parents who shared an understanding with him and his two brothers of a God who was loving, kind, and merciful. His parent's nightly prayers with the family and their con-

sistent example of living the Gospel with warmth, generosity, and optimism, helped him to glimpse the beauty and the value of a life lived for God.

As a student studying electrical engineering at Walla Walla University, Nesbit was called to ministry at the age of

21 in answer to the prayer: "Father, if you want me to be a pastor instead of an electrical engineer, simply ask me to speak somewhere." The next day he was asked to speak at a local church. He was taken back by the answered prayer, declined the invitation, and wrestled

with God for more than a decade before humbly accepting the call to ministry. “It has been an incredible journey with God ever since,” says Nesbit.

A native of Washington State, he later served six years in the United States Army as a military intelligence specialist in Korea, Germany, and Afghanistan. Today, he is happily married to Trisha, a fellow pastor and a native of New York, whom he met at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. They recently celebrated their 12th anniversary. Nesbit holds a master of physical therapy from Loma Linda University and a master of divinity degree from Andrews University. He is currently a doctorate of theology candidate at Andrews University with an emphasis in systematic theology and Adventist studies.

He is passionate about helping people discover the love of God the Father, the hope of new life in Christ, and the beauty of unity in diversity through the power of the Holy Spirit. ❶



Joseph Nesbit was ordained on December 5, 2020. He is shown with his wife, Trisha.

Leo and Lucila Ranzolin Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

Leo and Lucila Ranzolin met at Brazil College in the 1950s. Leo graduated from the college in 1954 with a degree in theology and Lucila from the normal school.

They got married on February 20, 1956, at the Voice of Prophecy headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Lucila’s father, R.M. Rabello, was the pioneer of Voice of Prophecy in that country. The couple came to America for further education, and Leo earned a master of divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

They returned to Brazil in 1965 and served in youth ministry in Paraná Conference and South Brazil Union. In 1970, Leo

was called to serve in the General Conference youth ministries, secretariat, and vice president’s offices for 33 years. Lucila was a special teacher for dyslexic students at Sligo School in Takoma Park, Md., for 20 years.

The Ranzolins have three sons, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They retired in Florida and joined the Fort Myers Church, where Leo has served as one of the elders since 2004. Leo helped with different entities through the years, including Christian Record Services where he served as board chairman for 13 years and as a member for 30 years. ❶



PHOTO BY: CYNTHIA RANZOLIN

BY LEO RANZOLIN

Lucila and Leo Ranzolin

Hamilton Church Family Connect the Disconnected



SUBMITTED BY: DAVE G. KETELSEN

A team of church members from the Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., are ready to serve their neighbors a meal. What started as a way to help after a tornado struck their town is now an opportunity to serve a meal to 250-300 people each Tuesday evening.

The Mission Statement for the Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., is “Connecting the disconnected by sharing Jesus through loving and serving.” Never in a million years did they expect to get so connected with their community using food.

After a tornado hit their church on Easter Sunday 2020, they decided to feed their neighbors and the volunteers. They fed about 150 hot meals every day, and continued to feed them for about a month. Then they decided to keep it going! So, every Tuesday evening they set up a tent by their busy crossroad on Shallowford, and about 50 neighbors would come through.

Word spread that they were serving meals, and it grew to 75 and then 100 meals served. It’s become so popular with their neighbors that they are now serving 250-300 meals each Tuesday evening.

The team will fix homemade burritos with Spanish rice, salad, and a dessert. The

next Tuesday they might have lasagna, garlic bread, veggies, and dessert. Then they might serve pizza and burgers (real and veggie). Each meal is prepared with love and a prayer. Parents come through line and say how much it means to them to not have to cook one night a week.

One woman takes a few meals to give to the elderly in her neighborhood. A doctor came by and said, “I really like what you’re doing; here’s a donation,” and then he drove off. One five-year-old boy, Flint, each week gives his allowance. He even made the volunteers a homemade card.

Church members took a survey among those who eat the meals and found that many wanted to learn English. Now Hamilton Community Church offers an ESL class every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

The church was recently given a car and the owner had it in tip top condition. The members went to the Lord in prayer and found a single mom in need. One couple

from the church even decided to help with car insurance so the new owner wouldn’t have to worry about expenses for an entire year. The single mom drives up on Tuesday evenings with her brand-new-to-her car to get a few meals, and will often attend church services.

As a result of the Hamilton Community Church Tuesday evening meal ministry, the members plan to start a single moms’ car ministry. They will change oil and do minor mechanical work to help keep the cars in good working condition.

Perhaps the best of all is that church members are getting to know their neighbors. They have become friends and some have dropped by to worship on Sabbath mornings. It’s all about connecting the disconnected. 🕊

BY DAVE G. KETELSEN

Athens Members Love Baptisms



PHOTO BY: PRINCESS CRAWFORD

Those who assisted with the baptism of Tina Hockman include Jerry Frady (left), Bill Harper, D'Angelo Morris, Carol Bauthot, Gail Wooten, Aubrey Porter, Tina Hockman, and her husband, Ross Hockman, Wendy Childers, Sherrie Adams, Martha Crawford, Robin Crawford, and David Wendt.

Baptisms are a sign that the body of Christ is growing. Baptisms are also a great time to acknowledge all the members who helped along the way. In fact, the Bible tells that if people took the time to acknowledge and thank those who are working behind the scenes, it would help avoid divisions in the Church.

Tina Hockman, being led by the Holy Spirit, showed up for church one Sabbath. However, this was not her first time coming to the Athens, Tenn., Church. Several years earlier, she came to church and received Bible studies from Ron Wooten, then pastor, and his wife, Gail, who have since retired. It's a real joy to have the opportunity to see the fruit of their labors.

Hockman continued to come to church and was also faithful in coming to prayer meeting. Many times prayer meeting turned into a Bible study for Hockman. Her thirst to know God better generated many questions. Bill Harper, prayer meeting leader, along with several regu-

lar attendees, gladly supported Hockman by patiently answering her questions, giving her material to read, and making her feel at home. In no time at all, she was cleared for baptism.

Hockman's baptism was a special day. After going over her baptismal vows, she gave a short testimony about her conversion experience. At the end of her testimony, she had several people she wanted to thank for supporting her on her journey. After her baptism they were all called forward along with several other people who helped with the baptism.

Jerry Frady was responsible for filling the baptismal tank and other details. Bill Harper led out in the Bible studies at prayer meeting. D'Angelo Morris, also recently baptized, was a great support in the prayer meeting studies. Carol Bauthot heard Hockman's testimony and brought a gift for her baptism. Gail Wooten helped her husband, Ron, with the original Bible studies. Audrey Porter supported at prayer meeting and also filled out the

baptismal certificate and aided Hockman at her baptism. Hockman's husband, Ross, has been very supportive even though he has not yet decided to join her in baptism. Wendy Childers, Hockman's sister, is an Adventist and a great influence. She traveled over an hour and a half to support her sister. Sherrie Adams, Martha Crawford, and Robin Crawford were a great support at prayer meeting, as well as through phone calls and texts. Also in their group picture is a very happy pastor, David Wendt. The whole church should be thanked for their warm smiles and friendly atmosphere.

Truly, many people had a role in Tina Hockman's baptism. Some planted, some watered, and God gave the increase. The church family asks God to continue to bless us as they work together for Him. ❶

BY DAVID WENDT

Birmingham First Hosts Training Seminar

The Birmingham First Church in Birmingham, Ala., hosted a leadership training day to equip various church leaders with the resources and experience they need for success. The event was made available to local members who already hold positions in the church, and those interested in participating in the future, along with members from outside the church.

The day began with a presentation from Brian Danese, president of Gulf States Conference, during the worship hour. Danese preached on the church's greatest need, love, and the way to obtain a complete understanding of love, spending time with its originator, God. Danese appealed to consider where all spend their time, as there are many distractions, and choose to spend more time with God instead.

Following the sermon, the church offered light pre-packaged refreshments in their gymnasium, with chairs set apart to observe social distancing. In the afternoon, a general introductory session was led by Christian Ronalds, pastor of Birmingham First, and attendees were given packets with information on the five different classes that were available that day. The pack included a response card that could be filled out if anyone wanted more information or wanted to request prayer.

The five classes were deacons and deaconesses, elders, small groups, church planting, and prison ministry. Each of the presentations was given at the same time in different rooms throughout the church. Danese presented the elders' training, and Ronalds delivered small groups training. Other local church and Conference leaders presented the remaining topics.

A Zoom session was set up to record the presentations for archival purposes



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

Christian Ronalds, pastor, offers instruction and advice on small groups and their potential for discipleship and church growth.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

Brian Danese, president of Gulf States Conference, presents for the morning worship hour.

in each room. This component setup was made much easier because the church already had a camera, microphone, and sizable display ready in each room. On a regular basis, these media structures are utilized to incorporate additional attendees to Sabbath School classes and other special events.

"We had this event scheduled for last year," says Ronalds, "but we had to cancel it because of COVID. Since then, we've had a lot more experience with operating within the COVID guidelines, and are happy to be bringing a modi-



The church uses Zoom and a camera and monitor setup in each room to include more participants, and archive classes when needed.

fied version of this event into 2021." Attendees were pleased to learn more about how the various church positions worked and the mission opportunity available in each one. ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Bay Church Has Communion Miracle

Pau Mung, pastor of the Bay St. Louis Church in Miss., recently shared his communion experience from a past visit to the Grace Place Church in South Bend, Ind. He was impressed by the supper-like portions distributed at the service, and how the whole experience had a greater sense of genuineness. "It was as if you were eating a real meal, with the bread and juice," Mung said.

The Bay St. Louis Church decided to try this for themselves, and arranged for a New Year's communion service at their church on Sabbath, January 2, 2021. Because the pieces of bread would be larger, they decided to make only enough for the regular number of church attendees. As they planned for this event, they determined the number of pieces needed would be 22.

When the service began, there were some visitors in attendance, and they concluded they would need three more pieces. Mung instructed the first elder that the two elders and himself would take half pieces, so the rest of the church could enjoy the full larger pieces. They broke those pieces, prayed over the bread, and the deacons began to distribute the rest to the church. "The deacons didn't know we broke the extra pieces,



PHOTO BY: PAU MUNG

The number of pieces left over reminded Pau Mung, pastor, of the story of Jesus feeding the multitude.

and they just continued with the distribution as they usually do."

When the plates came back to the table, and the elders and deacons each took their pieces, the first elder began to cry. "Are you alright?" asked Mung. "Pastor, look at the plates," said the elder, "it was supposed to be just enough for each person to get one piece and nothing left over, but there are six pieces left in each plate!"

"It reminded me of when Jesus fed the multitude with only five loaves and

two fishes, and there were 12 baskets left over," recalls Mung, "I felt the presence of the Lord so overwhelmingly that morning. What a good way to start the new year knowing that the Lord is with us."

Mung had been fasting and praying the day before, asking God to let them know that He is with them. "And He answered! God is so good to us!" ❶

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Vice President for Administration Retires



Steve and Doreen Rose



Emmaline Litchfield was baptized by her grandfather, Steve Rose, in the ocean at Port St. Joe, Fla., on September 14, 2019.

After 37 years of denomination work, Steve A. Rose Sr. retired on March 1, 2021. Rose and his family moved to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference when he was 8 years old. He graduated from Highland Academy in 1967. Shortly after graduation, he joined the military and served in Vietnam, returning home in January of 1970.

He began his denominational service in 1971 at the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital. He then became a teacher at North Ridge Elementary School in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Rose spent several years as an administrator in Sunbelt Health Care Centers, and then he felt the call to become a pastor.

In 1989, he joined the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference where his first pastoral district was Frankfort and Cynthiana, Ky. On May 29, 1993 at the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting, Rose was ordained. H.M.S. Richards Jr. gave the sermon. He moved to the Gulf States Conference and stayed there until 2003.

Rose graduated with a master of arts from Southern Adventist University on May 11, 2003. After graduation, he and



Olive Rose (front), Octavia Rose (left, second row), Fernon Rose, Steve Rose, Doreen Rose, Emmaline Litchfield, Cara Litchfield, Malaki Anderson (left, back row), Steve Allen Rose, and Chad Litchfield

his family made a move to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference where he served as the Southern Region ministerial director. In June of 2012, he returned to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and served for more than eight years as the vice president for administration.

Steve Rose married Doreen Retzer on August 5, 1973. They have two chil-

dren, Cara (Chad) Litchfield and Steve Allen (Octavia) Rose; four grandchildren, Emmaline Litchfield, Malaki Anderson, Olive Rose, and Fernon Rose. They plan to stay in the Springfield, Tenn., area. 📞

BY DENISE POPE

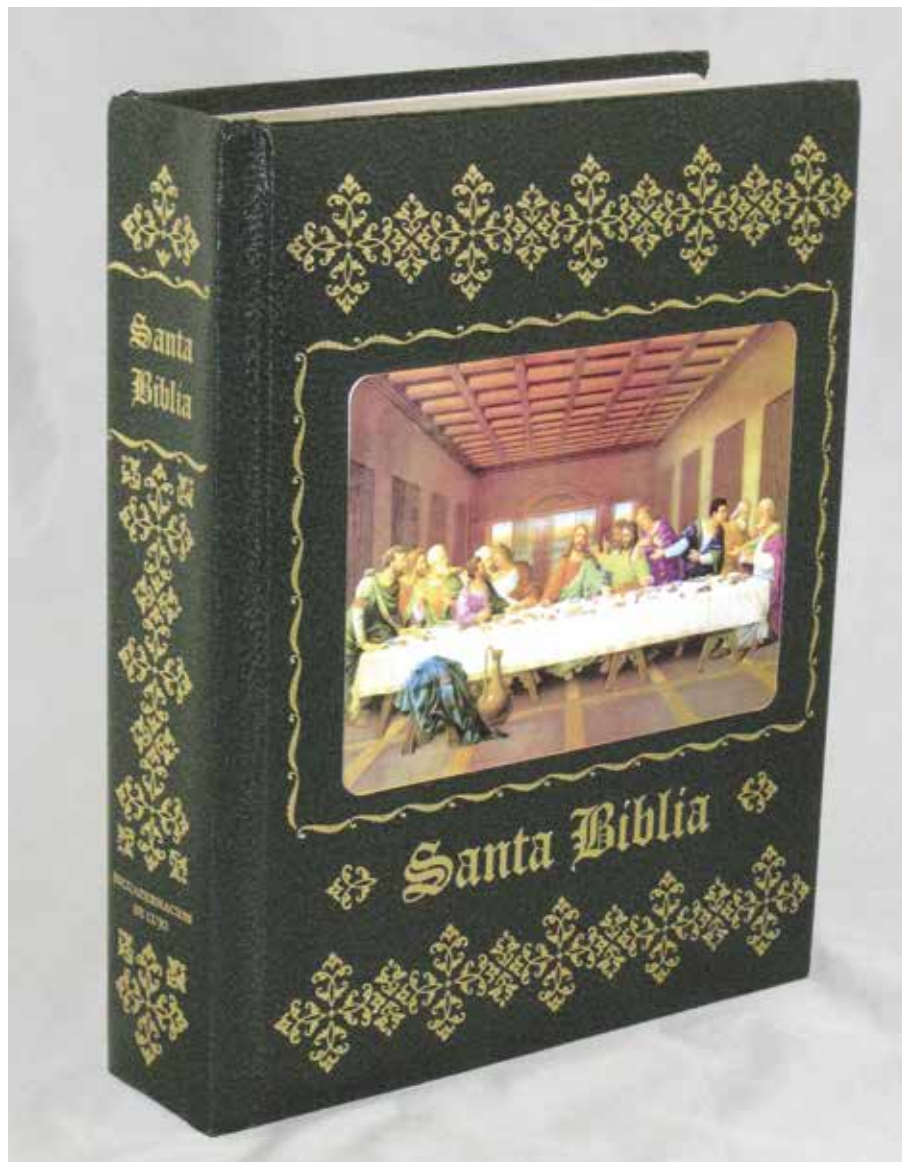
Faithful Customer Spreads the Word

Victor Lopez is a faithful customer who has bought books four times. This time he said, “It’s been a while since you came by!” and reached out with \$100. First, he purchased the Children’s Century Classics set and an English Family Bible. Then he purchased a Spanish Family Bible, a Spanish *God Cares*, and a set of *Daniel and Revelation*. Now he is making payments on a Spanish Children’s Century Classics set. His primary language is Spanish, but his family is bi-lingual. There have been good talks several times between Lopez and Hans Smars, the literature evangelist he purchases from, but this time he was especially serious and to the point. Lopez was concerned about current world events, and had been studying the books he had purchased. He was amazed at how accurate and clear the books were about history, fulfillment of prophecy, and last day events.

Early on, Lopez had read something about the Sabbath. At first, he thought it was not very important what day of worship is observed, but as he studied more, he realized its significance. He had begun keeping the seventh day Sabbath.

Lopez has worked as a roofer for many years and told the people he works for that he could no longer work on Saturdays. It is hard for him sometimes, because they will ask him to finish up a job on Saturday, but he has made up his mind. Not only has he accepted truth for himself, but he yearns to share it with others. On his desk are piles of various printouts that he gives to co-workers and others he knows. They are photocopies of Bible studies from the back of the Family Bible. Some are English, some Spanish.

Lopez is very involved with his Sunday church and has spoken with his pastor about the Sabbath several times. The church now holds services both Sundays and Saturdays. Smars sensed Lopez needed some brotherly support, and since he cannot speak Spanish, he asked



him if he would like to get together with a Sabbath keeper who speaks Spanish. He said he would. The personal ministries leader in Smars’ church is fluent in both English and Spanish, so he put him in contact with Lopez.

Smars prays that Lopez will become rooted and well established in the truth, that the church he has been attending will become a Seventh-day Adventist Church, and that many more in his circle of influence will accept the Seal of God

and be neighbors in Heaven.

“The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost, after the disciples had received the Holy Spirit,” *Evangelism*, 692.2. ①

BY HANS SMARS

Berean Church Breaks Ground for Elevator Installation

The Berean Church in Atlanta, Ga., recently held a historical ground-breaking ceremony for an elevator that will enhance the church experience for countless members and visitors for years to come.

Under the leadership of Sherwin Jack, Ph.D., senior pastor, and support from the South Atlantic Conference, the 58-year-old, three-story building will be retrofitted with an elevator that could accommodate up to six people comfortably.

The project is poised to allow senior citizens and physically challenged attendees to finally see parts of Berean Church that they couldn't access since the building's purchase almost 22 years ago.

Jack said, "We trust that it will be a blessing not only for the near future but in going forward to enhance what we do at the Berean Church."



PHOTO BY: BRIDGETTE MACK

Participants include Alicia Harris (left), treasurer; Sam Palmer, head deacon; Norman Smith, deacon; Kenneth Frazier, deacon and project manager; Sherwin Jack, Ph.D., senior pastor; Gregory Saunders, associate pastor; William Winston, South Atlantic Conference president; Louis Merritt, treasury staff; Dorothy Mants, senior ministries leader; Michael Spann, head elder; Theresa Blakely, Berean audio team; and Joann Dickson-Smith (seated), disabilities ministries leader.



PHOTO BY: BRIDGETTE MACK

Rosie Pearson, Berean treasury staff, holds a commemorative bookmark.

Because the socially-distanced ceremony was held during a pandemic, it was live-streamed with few in attendance, including the Conference president, William Winston; the associate pastor, Gregory

Saunders; first elder Michael Spann; head deacon Sam Palmer; Senior Ministries leader and local elder Dorothy Mants; Disabilities Ministries leader Joann Dickson-Smith; project advocate and deacon Norman Smith; and project manager and deacon Kenneth Frazier.

Bookmarks with artist renderings were distributed to commemorate the occasion.

Mants spoke on behalf of the seniors, stating how the elevator will eliminate their fear of falling on the stairs, and will improve their level of participation in church activities.

The six-month project is scheduled for completion in July of this year.

God has shown His hand in the process. The project received approval of the exacting Atlanta Urban Design Commission with no discussion or questions; the general contractor held the lowest bid well past its expiration date; and, a glitch at the City of Atlanta provided just enough time for the permitting process to

be completed without having to start all over again.

Deacons Frazier and Smith have been involved with making this vision a reality ever since members of the elder and deacon boards joined forces in 2006 to explore its feasibility. But, it wasn't until recently, with the help of the church's R3 Project Committee, that plans gained traction.

Frazier said he's stuck with the vision all these years because of what he's witnessed on those Sabbaths when he was assisting churchgoers into and out of the building.

"While helping them, I'd see them struggling to get up steps, struggling to get down steps, every single Sabbath," he said. "That's what helped me to push this." 📌

BY LESSIE SCURRY

“Pop-Your-Trunk” Meals Distributed

The community around Gethsemane, N.C., Church and its members found themselves in uncharted territory as the states issued stay-at-home orders and businesses closed their doors in March 2020. During the challenging times, the call was heard and the members felt inspired to help the community as well as the church members in the course of the pandemic. The church and community are in an area where the spread of the virus is one of the highest in the state of North Carolina. People were out of work, not knowing where their next meal will come from, and were trying to do all they could to stay safe. Gethsemane held its first “Pop-Your-Trunk” Meal Distribution on April 25, 2020, in partnership with the Wake County Government, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, the Hindu Society, and Jersey Mike’s. Ten volunteers served approximately 60 families with four per household.

Gethsemane has continued to serve the community every second and fourth Sabbath, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Outreach numbers have more than doubled since the initial food distribution. The van ministry delivers meals to homebound members, senior citizens, and individuals living in transitional housing.

Gethsemane volunteers follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendations and state guidelines by conducting temperature checks upon arrival, and wearing face masks/covers and gloves. However, the members’ recipe for success is to start with prayer. The distribution begins at 12:30 p.m., but the actual work begins much earlier. Volunteers arrive on site at 10:30 a.m., to receive assignments and begin unloading donated food and supplies. Cones are placed throughout the parking lot to set up the multi-lane delivery system. Tents are erected and tarps are laid to store donated items. Other volunteers work to bag produce and any other bulk items received.



Gethsemane volunteers



Set-up takes the team an hour and a half or more, and usually volunteers get a breather before it is time to serve the long line of cars. Volunteers stay motivated, greet neighbors with a smile, and say, “Thank you for coming and next time bring a friend.” Some recipients of the meals have turned into volunteers.

The music ministry sets a harmonic atmosphere with the sounds of gospel music for all to hear. Returning community members and passersby see the road signs and begin to form a line as early as 11 a.m. Participants are offered information regarding voter’s registration,

the Census, COVID-19 education, and other community resources. In addition, the Gethsemane members proudly support and partner with local Black-owned businesses for the community outreach event.

There is a statewide mandate requiring people to wear face coverings in public areas. The volunteers give out 3-ply face masks with the meals. Thanks to WakeMed Health and Hospitals, they have been able to give out more than 2,100 masks.

Larry Johnson, pastor, and the volunteers of Gethsemane Church are delighted to provide healthy food options consisting of fresh produce, canned and baked goods, frozen food items, hot meals, personal protective equipment, and, most importantly, evangelistic literature.

Rain or shine, whether 10 or 25 volunteers, they create an environment of love, unity, and fellowship while serving their neighbors and making a difference. ①

BY LA VERNE ROBINSON

Southern Distributes Free Food to Local Community

So far this school year, Southern Adventist University has distributed more than 40,000 pounds of free food to the local community, feeding approximately 1,400 individuals.

“Food insecurity has grown exponentially because of COVID-19,” said Melissa Moore, director of humanitarian engagement at Southern. “When I heard that one in five adults and one in four children in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area is going hungry, we knew we had to step up.”

While downtown Chattanooga has numerous nonprofits and social service agencies, the area surrounding Southern still faces food insecurity and has fewer food pantries. To address this need, Moore organized a food box distribution site on campus, inviting community members and students to pick up free groceries twice a month.



Volunteers, including Anaya Realin, freshman biology major (front), distribute free food to the community.

The day before a distribution, Southern students packed approximately 250 boxes with groceries provided by the Chattanooga Food Bank. Occasionally, humanitarian engagement supplements this with items that are out of stock at the food bank.

On the day of a distribution, volunteers ask each driver a few questions about his

or her household size and determine how much food to load into the trunk. The Chattanooga Food Bank has established a set of criteria for eligibility to ensure that those with the greatest need receive the free food. However, so that no one is turned away, Southern students prepare separate boxes for those who do not qualify for the food bank’s free food.

“I have a passion for outreach and evangelism,” said Tracey-Ann Hutchinson, who is currently pursuing her master of science in clinical mental health counseling. “Working with the food box distribution team has been a great experience and testifies to the truth of the Bible where it says, in Acts 20:35, that when we give to others, we ourselves are blessed.”

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

Automotive Technology Program Ranks Fourth in Nation

Southern’s automotive technology program has been ranked fourth in the country by College Choice. The ranking is based on the program’s reputation, retention, and graduation rates, affordability, and graduates’ early salaries.

This hands-on program was introduced at Southern 28 years ago, and it has grown to include bachelor’s and associate’s degrees, as well as a one-year certificate. The program currently has its largest enrollment to date.

“We frequently receive calls from shops looking for technicians,” said Dale Walters, associate professor in the University’s Applied Technology Department. “I could place 10 times our graduates just

here locally. During economic downturns, this occupation is usually quite stable, and transportation remains key to a successful economy — even during a pandemic.”

Students in the program develop hands-on skills along with critical thinking and problem-solving, and earn Automotive Service Excellence certification in various areas.

“It’s nice to know how to fix something people use every day,” said Randy McCorkle, junior automotive technology major. “It’s like a puzzle. Even coming to Southern knowing a lot about cars, the program has been harder than I expected, but having people like Mr. Walters assisting makes this a good kind of challenge.”



PHOTO BY: CALVIN SERBAN

Dale Walters runs the Applied Technology program, which includes automotive technology, and has worked at the University for more than 30 years.

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

COVID-19 Pushes AHU Students to Online Mission Trip

Irma Henry, director of physical therapy at Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH), looked at the technicians seated around her, and then through a mobile device at the students looking back at her from another country. Her virtual audience included physical therapy students and faculty of AdventHealth University (AHU) who transitioned their mission and training trip to an online format as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every year, the Department of Physical Therapy at AHU organizes an overseas mission trip as an international service-learning component of the curriculum. Students and faculty previously traveled to Haiti Adventist Hospital, but when the pandemic hit last year, faculty decided that a virtual mission and training trip could still strengthen the relationship between the two institutions. AdventHealth Global Missions served as the connector between AHU and HAH for the opportunity in December 2020.

“The first day was reserved for introductions,” Henry said, “and we had some of the local physical therapists and physical therapy students in Haiti share their experience.”

Henry reviewed with the students the current ratio of physical therapists compared with the population in Haiti, demonstrating the great need for the profession. Many locals don’t realize they can see a physical therapist for certain injuries and conditions. While some doctors in Haiti will refer patients to a physical therapist, locals most often seek healers who use spiritual means and home remedies. Yarah Lugo Caballero, a third-year physical therapy student at AHU, learned that only about 30 PT professionals provide care for a population of 10 million people. Even with these staggering numbers, the hospital continues to educate the community and –



Physical therapy students at AdventHealth University transitioned to an entirely online format for their virtual mission trip with Haiti Adventist Hospital.

through the virtual mission trip – AHU students that there is hope for the field.

During the training on Zoom, students were split into four groups and assigned to a hospital patient and specific topic or condition. The team at HAH used a communication cart donated by AdventHealth Global Missions with a mobile device attachment to allow the virtual audience to see the patients and inner workings of the hospital.

“It was interesting to see the different techniques used at the hospital in Haiti,” Lugo Caballero said. “We learned as much from them as we were able to share.”

Day two was presentation day. In addition to hearing a limb lengthening specialist share his expertise, students virtually toured the facility’s orthopedic clinic. Local parents often line the walls of the clinic with their children and babies seeking care for conditions like clubfoot, a common birth defect in Haiti.

“I feel like this virtual experience renewed my fervor for physical therapy,” Henry said. “I was excited to meet with like-minded individuals who may develop a passion for the mission field even if they remain in the U.S. after [finishing

school].”

The final day of the mission trip, students interacted with patients through Henry’s translation, and reviewed patient assessments and helped identify possible treatment options.

AHU students learned in this final session that the HAH team sometimes has to find creative ways to care for their patients due to limited supplies, or because they utilize equipment from other areas such as the operating room. They also learned the role physical therapy plays in restoring economic independence for Haiti’s injured street vendors who rely on their work to support their families.

“I think that we are most profoundly impacted by the change that the patients see in themselves,” Henry said. “Many of the street vendors ... believe they will never walk again even though it’s important that they do so for their job and their family. After physical therapy, however, they have an independence that they could only have imagined. These transformations are so powerful!”

BY SHANNON HILL, CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS RESIDENT AT
ADVENTHEALTH



BAKER, JOHN EDWARD, 91, born June 18, 1928 in Knoxville, TN, died peacefully at home on June 16, 2020. He was the son of John W. Baker and Buena Cogdill Baker. After serving his country in the Korean conflict as a medic, John taught elementary school in Appalachia, VA, Bowling Green, KY, Madison, TN, and Collegedale, TN, where he received a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt University in 1968. In 1970, John and his family moved to South Lancaster, MA, to accept a position in the Education Department of Atlantic Union College (AUC), where he taught elementary method classes to future teachers, and was chairman of the Department for three years while obtaining his doctorate (Ed.D.) from Boston University in 1980.

John retired from AUC in 1990, and he and his wife, Murndal, returned to Collegedale. He was recruited by Southern Adventist University to obtain state certification for the Education Department and taught four years in that department.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Murndal Adler Baker; two daughters: Karen L. Baker (Bob) Stupik, and Sharon E. (Michael) Mohr; four brothers: Elmer, Jim, Henry, and Billy Baker; two grandsons: Daniel Mohr and Robert (Alexis) Mohr; one granddaughter, Lindsey Kingsnorth-Coletti (Jimmy); and two great grandchildren: James and Ally.

FOSTER, BEVERLY, 90, born Jan. 26, 1930 in Allen, MI, died Oct. 25, 2020 in Chattanooga, TN. She was a member of the McDonald Road Church. She was a beloved teacher, teaching for many years in both the Michigan and Georgia-Cumberland conferences. Her husband, William, and daughter, Connie Chandler, preceded her in death. She is survived by her son, Steven (Tricia) of Ooltewah, TN; son-in-law, Jim Chandler of Chattanooga; grandson, Jason (Julie) Foster of Apison, TN; granddaughter, Shannon Chandler of Chattanooga; great-grandson, Jace Foster; brother, Barney (May) Chase; nieces; and nephews.



GARRICK, CHARLOTTE BROWN, 89, died Nov. 5, 2020 after a long service for the Lord, and is now resting in Jesus awaiting His second soon coming.

Religion played an important role in her life, giving her heart to Jesus at the early age of 7 years old. Charlotte began playing the piano at an early age. Music and playing the piano was her life. She was also proficient in the playing of many string instruments. She sang and played with several singing groups and quartets. Charlotte played the piano and sang for different evangelistic teams that she and husband Pastor George Garrick were associated with. First with the Water's Evangelistic Team for two years, The Brownlow Evangelistic Team for two years, and with Ron Halvorson's evangelistic team for 12 Years. Also, meetings with Shawn Boonstra with It Is Written.

Charlotte and Pastor Garrick did evangelistic meetings in the Southern Union. After which Charlotte and Pastor Garrick took a call to the Arizona Conference to pastor the Springerville Church, and later the Wickenburg Church for 12 years.

Charlotte is survived by her husband, Pastor George Garrick; three daughters: Vickie Klumb, Paula Howerton, and Renata Ballard; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one sister, Janice Redding.

GRAHAM, LOIS EILEEN, 100, born Oct. 5, 1920 in Magundy, New Brunswick, to Truman and Myrtle (Embelton) Graham, passed away at 100 years of age on Dec. 27, 2020 in Walla Walla, WA.

She was a teacher and administrator in the nursing and counseling fields at Hinsdale College, Columbia Union College, Catholic University, Southwestern Adventist University, and after retiring as the Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick, she relocated to Fletcher, NC.

She loved her time in Fletcher, in the Adventist community, and later in the retirement home at Fletcher Park Inn.

As her health failed, she moved to Walla Walla to be near her nephew and family. She was preceded in death by her step-daughter, Sherry Cardinale; and two siblings: Elwood and Rhea. She is survived by numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and nephews.





HARP, DOROTHY DAWSON, 105, born Aug. 18, 1915 in Spencer County, IN, died Oct. 13, 2020 in Loganville, GA. She was the fourth of six children born to William and Daisy Dawson. They were a farm and business family and each child was taught the value of hard work. Though it was not common for young women of the time, Dorothy always knew she wanted to go to college, but didn't know how she'd accomplish that with little encouragement from her family or community. Most young women in her town married a local boy and settled down to raise a family. At the age of 19 or 20, she was working as a personal assistant and housekeeper for a senator's wife who was wheelchair bound. Her employer was aware of her aspirations to attend college and gave her a *Reader's Digest* article about a college in Tennessee where a young person could work to earn their tuition and attend. That was her ticket. She did not know anything about Madison College or anything at all about Seventh-day Adventists, but she knew it was a Christian college that could help her make her dreams come true. So, at 21, she left home and started

her life as a college student in Madison, TN.

She had plans to become a teacher and obtained a bachelor's degree in home economics. Her time there and her own study of the Bible led her to begin believing in the Adventist faith. She met her future husband, William Harp, who was attending Madison College to fulfill his own dreams of getting a degree in preparation for medical or dental school. They married after Dorothy's graduation in 1942. She was baptized into the Adventist Church soon after.

William's graduation dreams were put on hold as he was drafted into the service because of World War II. But he had obtained certification as a lab and x-ray technician, which allowed him to serve stateside rather than overseas.

Dorothy was eventually able to follow him on each assignment and in most places, they were able to find other Adventist military couples to share housing with. They formed lifelong friendships with these couples. When William was released from service, he finished his college degree and attended Emory Dental School in Atlanta, GA. In 1955, they settled in Marietta, GA, where William started his dental practice. By that time, they had two little ones, John and Joan. Dorothy designed and drew up the blueprints for the home they built in the more rural area of Marietta. The couple were charter members of a new Adventist church in Marietta and filled many leadership rolls there. She was Sabbath School superintendent often, treasurer for many years, head deaconess, and many other supportive rolls. There were few Sabbaths when she did not invite visitors home for lunch. Dorothy truly was a "Proverbs 31" woman. She could cook, sew, garden, and write creatively. She was up to any task asked of her and gave freely of her time. One dream that got put on the back burner, however, was teaching. During their time in Marietta, she had a couple of opportunities to be a substitute teacher and resolved that that would have to satisfy her dream. Around 1974, Dorothy and William got an "itch" to do some mission work. Their conference president convinced them that their mission was close to home and persuaded them to go to Cookeville, TN, to help provide leadership in a small, newly forming church. They accepted the call. William sold his dental practice and opened one in Monterey, TN. They stayed for 11 years before retiring to Snellville, GA, to be near their children and grandchildren.

The "itch" remained, however, and in the late 1980s, Bill and Dorothy had an opportunity to go to Africa to relieve a missionary dentist and his family. They spent three months in Cameroon. Dorothy and Bill celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1992 surrounded by family and friends. Bill died suddenly of a stroke in 1995, leaving Dorothy a widow at 80. At 83, she moved in with her daughter, Joan, and her family.

They allowed her to turn their double garage into a suite for herself, and she designed, measured, and drew up the plans for every inch of space, imagining how she could fit in her favorite pieces of furniture to make it feel like home to her. It was a perfect little apartment for her where she could live independently but have help as needed. No one, least of all her, would imagine that she would occupy that blessed little space for 22 years! Dorothy became a charter member of the Loganville Church, and was a very beloved member and loved them in return.

When she turned 100, they facilitated a wonderful celebration for her that was attended by more than 150 people from many states. In 2020, the church celebrated again for her 105th birthday with a "drive by" party and parade, which was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Just four weeks after her 105th birthday, Dorothy fell and fractured her femur. It was a severe fracture and required surgery. Though she came through surgery well, her kidneys failed, and it became clear she would either have to go on dialysis or go to hospice. She chose hospice, and her family was able to gather around her and show her love as she was fading. Dave and Marlene Colburn and their precious children, along with Dennis and Bobbie Milburn, brought worship and sweet music to her hospice room on Sabbath morning, Oct. 10, 2020. It was to be her last Sabbath on Earth. How sweet it was for her to enjoy the fellowship, music, and worship one last time. A memorial service for the family will be held in May 2021.

HARRIS, JOHN F., 89 of Loveland, CO, born Dec. 19, 1931 at the family home in Nashville, TN, to the late Charles P. Harris and Argie J. Nelson Harris, died Dec. 25, 2020 at home surrounded by his wife, Donna; two daughters, Elizabeth and Nicole; sons-in-law, Jeff and Dave; along with other family members

John was a life-long member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He graduated from Highland Academy in Portland, TN, in 1950; from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1955, with a degree in re-



ligion; Potomac Seminary in Maryland, graduating in 1957; and Andrews University in 1966 with Master's degrees in Religion and Religious Education. John began his life-long vocation as an ordained pastor in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference before going to the seminary in 1957. In 1959, John and his family accepted a call to go to Thailand to be missionaries. John learned to speak, read, and write the language of Thai, which he said was the most difficult task he ever accomplished. John continued to converse with his sons in Thai at every opportunity until his death.

John built and pastored the first Christian church on the island of Phuket, the Bankian Church, and was the first pastor of the church (before the building was actually finished and occupied). He was a member of the King's Heralds Quartet, Thailand, singing on the Voice of Prophecy Radio Broadcast. In 1969 he moved to Singapore with his family and taught religion at the Far Eastern Academy. On two different occasions, he, along with several other teachers, took a

group of students on singing evangelistic tours by school bus from Singapore to the northern tip of Thailand, and on the second trip from Singapore, south to Bali. In 1973 they returned permanently to the USA.

The last churches he pastored in the U.S. were in the Rocky Mountain Conference. The Gunnison, CO, Church, and the Nucla, CO, Church. His final call came once again from his beloved Thailand in 2002, where he was asked to pastor the Ekamai Church in Bangkok from Oct. 2002 to Oct. 2004. John continued preaching until Sept. of 2016. John loved to sing and throughout his life, he was a member of various quartets, and other singing groups. The first quartet he sang with was with his father and two brothers and his sister.

John is survived by his wife, Donna R. Jones Harris of Loveland, CO; sons, John F. Harris, Jr. (Rick) of Plainfield, IN; William Daniel (Jackie) Harris of Sarasota FL; Ruben Gerald Harris of Orlando, FL; daughters, Elizabeth Argie (Harris) Kresge (Jeff) of Loveland, CO; Laura Jane (Harris) Adair (Jerred) of Grass Valley, CA; his brother, Charles P. (Ruth) Harris Sr. of Nashville, TN; bonus children, Donald Norman of Rough and Ready, CA, David Norman (Christine) of Leonardtown, MD, and Nicole (Norman) Watson (Dave); 10 grandchildren: Casey (Heather), Tiffany (Bobak), Stephanie (Sonny), Rebecca (Erik), Jonathan, Lia, Elijah, Nicholas, Adrienne, and Ryan; nine great-grandchildren: Giovanna, Gabrielle, Nathan, Bennett, Parker, Kayley, Isla, Lilly, and Kaylyn; many nephews; and nieces. John was preceded in death by his parents, Charles P. Harris and Argie J. Nelson Harris; his sister, Margaret Francis (Harris) Osborne; and his brother, William Nelson Harris.

Celebration of Life services will be held in Loveland, Grand Junction/Palisade, CO, and in Centerville, TN, in the spring. Dates will be announced later. View Donna's Facebook page for more information.

JOHNSON, PATRICIA (PAT) ANN, 88, of Apison, TN, born Jan. 20, 1932 in Monon, IN, to Orville and Elizabeth Victoria Blankenship, died April 14, 2020.

The family moved to Pimento, IN, where Pat grew up on a farm, and graduated from Pimento High School in 1950. She married William Earl Johnson in Terre Haute, IN, in 1954. The family relocated to Collegedale, TN, in 1966.

Pat worked for many years at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) until her retirement. She was the executive director of housekeeping, supervising students over the years in Jones Hall, The Conference Center, and Thatcher Hall.

She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

Her husband, Earl, completed their home in Apison in 1979, where they resided until their deaths. In retirement, Pat enjoyed spending holidays with family, luncheon visits with friends, growing flowers, and corresponding the way of her generation; handwritten, via the U.S. mail.

She is survived by her brothers: Norval Blankenship and Arthur Blankenship; sister, Carole Elwell; two sons: Dr. Lester (Cindy) Johnson, William E. (Danielle) Johnson III; two daughters: Donna (Jerry) Shelton and Beth (Ryan) Glick; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents; brother, Norman Blankenship; two sisters: Dolores Brandom and Barbara Lawrence; her husband, William Earl Johnson; and one grandson, Loren Johnson. A private graveside service and interment were held at Collegedale Memorial Park with Pastors Fred Fuller, and Cherie Smith officiating.



MCKINNEY, M.D., JAMES RAY, 86, born May 20, 1934 in Morristown, TN, died Sept. 24, 2020 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center following a brief illness related to a fall. He was the son of Eura Davis and John McKinney. James graduated from Morristown High School and then Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955.

He graduated from Loma Linda University with his Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in 1959. He completed his medical intern year at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. James married Phyllis Moyers in 1961 after launching his medical and surgical practice at Takoma Hospital in Greeneville, TN. James' lifelong dream of



becoming a doctor was initiated by experiencing double pneumonia at age 6. He was filled with awe by the compassion and concern that his doctor exhibited while saving his life. After finishing medical school, he joined Dr. Coolidge at Takoma Hospital planning to work for one year before returning to California for more training. That one year turned into a span of 58 years of medical practice in Greeneville at Takoma Hospital and Medical Group. He loved his patients, and they, in turn, loved him. James was active in the community, serving on the boards of the Greene County Medical Society, Community Concerts, and First TN Bank. He was the recipient of the Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds Award, L.E. Coolidge Lifetime Achievement Award, and Tennessee Hospital Association Meritorious Service Award. He was active in his church, serving as board member, organist, elder, visiting preacher, and Bible teacher. He presided over many funerals for patients and families in East Tennessee. His love of music and church was also combined in a long-running annual series of family Christmas concerts provided to the community in memory of his son, Barry. James supported the Seventh-day Adventist church by serving on the General Conference Executive Committee, Southern Union Executive Committee, Georgia-Cumberland Executive Committee, Adventist Health System Board of Trustees, and the Southern Adventist University Board of Trustees.

He is survived by his wife of more than 59 years, Phyllis McKinney; one son, J. Mark (Barbara) McKinney; one daughter, Karen (Ervin) Brown; grandchildren: Joshua (Julie) McKinney, Caleb (Lauren) McKinney, Nikoli Brown, Jordan Brown, and Gabriel Brown. He was preceded in death by his son, Barry Allen McKinney; one sister, Billie Jean McKinney; and his parents: Eura and John McKinney. A memorial service was held online on Sept. 27, 2020. A private graveside service was held for family only with his grandchildren serving as pallbearers. Interment was at Greenelawn Memory Gardens.

MOBLEY, JOAN ELIZABETH, 67, born in Plainfield, NJ, on Feb. 7, 1953 to the late Wilford Charles and Dorothy Elizabeth (Baker) Montross, died Feb. 21, 2020.

Elementary and junior high school attendance was at Lake Nelson Adventist Academy. After graduating 10th grade, she finished her high school years at Garden State Academy in 1971. That summer she worked as a student Literature Evangelist, and then enrolled at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) finishing a degree in art and design graduating in 1975.

Jerry and Joan were married August 17, 1975. They began pastoral service with the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1976, upon Jerry's graduation from SMC. Joan served by Jerry's side as best friend and wife and mother and pastoral assistant with countless hours in children's and youth ministry.

Her 'spare time' was spent for many years as an award-winning cake decorator with Publix.

A bold fight with ovarian cancer ended when Joan was admitted to hospice care on January 8, 2020. She stayed strong, refusing to miss a celebration or opportunity to support her family and community. Her precious grandchildren (Josephine, Jacob, Jaylee, Jenevieve, Liam, and Lily) shared many days and every weekend, in recent months, brightening Grammy's eyes and heart. Kenneth Michael Bennett, nephew and "son," and his wife, Trish, with their girls, also brought strength and comfort. In the hours before passing, Joan was surrounded by her husband of 45 years, Gerald "Jerry" Leon Mobley; three children: Jeremy Ryan Leon Mobley, and wife, Jennifer; Justin Richard Mobley, and wife, Sarah; Julianne Elizabeth Mobley, and wife, Jill; and one brother, Roger Charles Montross, and wife, Mary.



RICE JR., LAWRENCE J., 95, born Jan. 20, 1925 in Charlotte, MI, died Oct. 16, 2020 at Erlanger East in Chattanooga, TN. He was a printer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the College Press. He is survived by his daughters: Diane Crane and husband Daryl, and Cheryl Peasley; one brother, Lavern Rice and wife Linda; one sister-in-law, Lana Rice; 11 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews. A memorial service will be held at Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, TN, at a later date. He was preceded in death by his parents: Lawrence J. Sr. and Martha (Avery) Rice; and his wife of 58 years, Delores (Satterlee) Rice; brother, Nevin Rice; and sister, Lenna Mae MacIvor.



STEWART, ALICE CLARA (EROH), 100, born Dec. 7, 1919 in Hudsonale, PA, died Nov. 26, 2020 in Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Merwin Stewart, Nampa, Idaho; daughter, Ruth Larrison, Norlina, NC; as well as many grandchildren; nieces; and nephews.

Alice was the fourth of six children born to Ralph and Mary Eroh. Alice grew up on the Eroh family farm in rural Pennsylvania with her two brothers, Edwin and Mark, and three sisters, Agnes, Mary, and Cleo. There they tended a large vegetable garden, an apple orchard, and a blueberry patch, as well as operating a dairy and a sawmill.

Alice began her classroom education in a two-room schoolhouse near her family's farm. When she attended her local high school, she walked two miles with her brothers and sisters to the nearest town for their daily classes. Most of Alice's summer days were spent working on the family's 65-acre farm.

Alice was baptized at the Pennsylvania Camp Meeting in 1931 after attending evangelistic

meetings, graduated from high school in 1936, and continued her education at what is now named Washington Adventist University. She graduated in 1942 with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and business, and began working in the school's business office.

She soon met Alvin Stewart, who was also attending Washington Adventist University, and they began dating, marrying in mid-1944. The newlyweds spent a few weeks on their honeymoon before traveling to Cuba to serve as missionaries. Alvin spoke fluent Spanish, but Alice learned the language during their time in mission service together. Their next mission assignment took them to Costa Rica, where Alvin was ordained to the ministry, followed by Nicaragua in 1947, and finally the Dominican Republic.

After 10 years of mission work, they returned to the United States, where they adopted two children. Alice's husband began pastoral work with churches in Texas, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, where Alice worked as a note teller for the New Jersey National Bank.

Three years later, Alvin and Alice returned to mission work in Puerto Rico, where Alice served as the administrative secretary to the Mayaguez Hospital director, and Alvin held the dual responsibilities of hospital chaplain and church pastor for the next four years.

In 1975, they returned once again to the United States, where Alice served as secretary to the pastor of the Madison, TN, campus church and Alvin worked with the Layman's Foundation's self-supporting boarding school programs. It was during this time that Alice learned to drive and got her first license at the age of 56.

Alvin and Alice retired in 1982, moving to Cumberland Heights, TN, where they both enjoyed a variety of activities with other Adventists in the community as they adapted to the challenges of country living, including planting a large vegetable garden. During the weekends, Alice enjoyed playing the church organ for worship services, and Alvin played his baritone horn with the other church orchestra members. Forty-three years after they married, Alvin died in 1987, and Alice moved to Idaho in 1998 to live near her son, Merwin.

Alice found a house just a couple of miles from Merwin in Nampa, Idaho, spending her time sewing, knitting, crocheting, and quilt-making. While working on her craft projects at home, Alice was a faithful viewer of 3ABN programming, and enthusiastically supported their ministry as well. Although Alice was a member of the Meridian Church, she enjoyed spending Tuesday mornings with the Nampa Church Community Services Center members once each week. There they would create quilts together for those in the community who needed them. She sewed hundreds of dresses in her craft room at home for distribution by International Children's Care to orphanages in various foreign countries. She also knitted children's sweaters and caps for premature babies, then used remnant yarn to crochet children's ponchos. Alice's generosity also extended to providing financial support for the education and living expenses of orphan children through the International Children's Care organization.

When Alice wasn't working on a craft project, she liked to read, and especially enjoyed the "Christmas in My Heart" book series, which she collected. Other pursuits included assembling jigsaw puzzles, creating stained glass objects, tooling leather for custom book covers, reupholstering furniture, and playing organ music. Her many activities required Alice to be very organized with her supplies and tools, and she had an inventory of craft materials equal to that of a small store. She was also known for greeting her friends with hugs every time they met.

Alice continued living independently and driving her own car until she was 97, and was able to remain in her own home until the age of 99. She died on Thanksgiving morning, 2020, just 11 days short of her 101st birthday. Her hands that created so many things for others remained strong right up until the day she died. Her family and many friends look forward to the time Alice will be reunited with them as they travel together to spend eternity with the gracious God who will renew their lives for eternity.

DOVE, MICHAEL ALLEN, born Aug. 21, 1965 to Mary Helen Dove and Henry Dara Dove (who preceded him in death), died Dec. 21, 2020. He was the eldest of three siblings. He was a member of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Sylva where he served in many roles including deacon and Sabbath School teacher. Michael was a devoted community member, serving those most in need by routinely volunteering his time mowing yards, doing carpentry, running errands, and delivering food. A naturally gifted artist and an avid self-taught carpenter, Michael could draw or build anything his mind could conceive. A quiet man, he never complained, but you could always count on him sharing his opinions on matters that were dear to his heart, and he had a heart for God. Michael's greatest desire was to please God. He also had a heart for animals, especially his beloved "Broketail," his faithful companion. He leaves to cherish his loving memory, his dear mother, Mary Dove Dyse; his sisters: Karen Dove-Odumosu (Emmanuel), and Cassandra Brown (John); five aunts: Janie Dove, Marlene Warren (Herman), Mildred Hamilton, Helen Epting (Lester), and Cora Torrence (Ervin); one uncle, who was like a brother, Jerry Windham; two nieces: Courtney Brown and Ingrid Jackson; and one great-nephew, Warrington Jackson.

DUNNING SR., ROY ALBERT, 88, born Aug. 23, 1931 in Guilford County, NC, to the late James Wiley Dunning Sr., and Fleta Sue May Dunning, died July 10, 2020, awaiting the resurrection and joyful reunion with his family at the time of Jesus' return as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Roy lived out his Christian faith in a way that inspired his wife and all who knew him. He read his Bible faithfully every morning and

evening. He was a member of the High Point, NC, Church for over 80 years. Roy is believed to be the longest attending member. He enjoyed listening to Christian music and his joyful voice was often heard hardily joining in. He was self-employed as a general contractor, building residential housing. He was the previous owner and operator of Yadkin Memorial Gardens in Yadkinville, NC. He loved to work, almost as if it were his hobby. Roy did enjoy an occasional game of golf. Roy was a people person with a great personality and sense of humor. He loved to laugh and we loved to hear his boisterous laughter. But mostly Roy loved his family, his wife, his children and grandchildren. He loved holidays because he knew all the family would be together. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a generous man, always willing to help those in need. He served in the U.S. Army, and was stationed in Germany. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Celia Y. Dunning; son, Roy A. Dunning Jr.; two daughters: Judy (Gary) Burke of Florida, and Jo Ann (Lee) Sapp of Archdale, NC; sister, Juanita Connor of Cheraw, SC; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife and mother of his children, Grace C. Dunning; three brothers: James W. Dunning Jr., Robert Dunning, and Harold Dunning; five sisters: Becky D. Burke-Callahan, Carolyn D. Ratliff, Mary Minor, Martha Dunning, and Evelyn Dunning in infancy. The service was held July 14, 2020, at the High Point Church. Officiated by Pastor Mark Kent, Pastor Steve Beitz, and Pastor Serban, with burial following in Floral Gardens Park cemetery.

FOSTER, BARBARA J., 80, born

Jan. 26, 1940 in Orlando, FL, died Nov. 24, 2020 in Longwood, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for approximately 35 years. She was a nurse, attorney, and educator. She was compassionate, intelligent, and a gracious woman of faith. She valued higher education and never stopped learning. Her family always came first, and she raised her girls with the same values. Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Richard E. Green; three daughters: Lisa (Dana) McIntosh of Gainesville, GA, Lori (Sean) Adams of Birmingham, AL, and Leslie (Christopher) Hazen of Longwood; one brother, Donald (Pat) Foster of Tallahassee, FL; and 11 grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Lewis Hendershot at Forest Lake Church. Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

HART, HOWARD M., 95, born Sept. 16, 1925 in East Point, GA, died Nov. 19, 2020 peacefully at the Pruitt Healthcare in Fairburn, GA. He was the son of the late Hickson Hart and Anne Inez Bozeman. Howard became an Adventist in 1963 and was a member of the Fayetteville, GA, Church. He worked for Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Anderson who own Southern Saw Company until his retirement. He was married to Dorothy Stacks for 68 years; she preceded him in death in February 2020. Howard and Dorothy, along with others from the old Kirkwood Church, decided they wanted a church closer to home. The late Dr. Schneider gave land on Cascade Road to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for the members to build a church. Later, the members established the Cascade Road Adventist School, where Howard's children attended. The school later became Atlanta Adventist Academy, where his grandchildren at-

tended. When the church was sold, some of the members formed the Smyrna Church, while others decided to rent a little church in Fayetteville until once again, the members could find land and build the Fayetteville Church. Howard loved his church and Jesus, and he looked forward to going to Heaven. He is survived by two sons; Gregory H. and Gordy M.; three daughters: Joan (Randy) Haugen, Carole (Fletch) Lewallen, and Linda (Stanley) Abercrombie; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

NEWMAN, MYTONIA HARTLEA, 43, born Nov. 7, 1977 to Anthony and Sonia Paul, died Nov. 29, 2020. She had seven brothers and she was the seventh child. Kudos to Mrs. Zeola Allston, her multi-grade 3-5 teacher, whose love and commitment was dedicated to academic excellence which developed Mytonia into a well-rounded intellectual who could interject her thoughts on any topic. She was an active participant in all school activities. Mytonia's administrative skills were further noted as she successfully won the nomination for Senior Class President in 1995. After being in Christian education from K-12 and having completed undergrad at Oakwood University, she enrolled at Loma Linda University where she continued Christian education and completed a Master's degree in Public Health. One of the highlights of her matriculation through graduate school was a required trip to Cuba to review the Cuban Public Health System. It was there at Loma Linda University that she met the love of her life, Naeem Newman, a second-year medical student. On August 31, 2003, the couple sealed their vows in holy matrimony in the presence of 300 guests. Having completed the re-

quirements for a medical degree, the newlyweds were off to the east coast to begin a surgical residency at the Washington Hospital Center. Mytonia was very ministry minded. As a Public Health Coordinator for the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services, she successfully developed Street Calls—a service designed to reduce non-emergency 911 calls. While at Howard University she developed a program for a Level 1 Trauma Center. Her job description for this service was preventing traumas by injury prevention and violence prevention. She was successful in assisting cancer patients with simple diet changes. She trained and instructed believers and non-believers referred by her surgeon husband with the tools for healthy living through diet. Food demonstrations were her specialty. She and her husband were a team, and they believed in saving souls for God's Kingdom through a weekly Bible study held in their home. Another project she maintained for the past three years was the Christmas Wish List for The Children's Home (a residential care facility for youth) located in Catonsville, MD. The teens were asked to complete a "wish list" of things they wanted and needed for Christmas. Donations began to pour in with everything you could ever imagine: MP3 players, chess sets, sneakers, warm up suits, gift cards, and other gifts. Mytonia ensured that whatever it took, each wish list was satisfied. She was always one who cared for the "least of these"—a trait she learned from Jesus and her earthly Dad. There was a young man who could not go home, and all he wanted was size 16 sneakers because his own had worn out. Mytonia took pride in knowing his need and desire, and made certain that his wish came true. That's how she was compassionate, kind

to strangers, loving, and a witness to others. It would be nothing for Mytonia to pay for the groceries of a stranger. "You may add whatever you need to my bill," she'd say. Mytonia lived a full life and was very ready. Her service on Earth was complete. She fulfilled God's purpose for her life on Earth as a caterer while serving "the least of these." She looked forward to Jesus' coming any day now. It is our prayer that when she hears the sound of the final trumpet, she will see all her family, friends, and loved ones in God's eternal Kingdom. She leaves to be inspired by our blessed hope, a devoted and loving husband, Naeem; a loving Dad, Anthony; an incredible mother, Sonia; best friend, Dana Wilson Lightborne (Vance); a wonderful brother, Myon (Felicia, Kennedy, Kyle); two daughters, radiant Rhiane, blooming Mya; and a remarkable son, Naeem II (Deuce); a tried-and-true sister-in-law, Mandisa (Phillip, Caleb, Nina, Nora); a loyal brother-in-law, Seth (Bryce); a prospective sister-in-law, Mica; a kind and sweet mother-in-law, Lauren; a humorous father-in-law, Gregory Newman (Deborah); a loving "Grandmommy;" the Gethsemane Girls; a host of family; friends; and loved ones.

OCHS, DARLENE ANDERSON, 83, born Oct. 2, 1937, died Nov. 7, 2020 in Bradenton, FL, while in Hospice House. Darlene was a registered x-ray technician at Paradise Valley Hospital, National City, California where she worked for 15 years. She played special music (saxophone) for the Voice of Prophecy Evangelistic Crusade in San Diego, California. She will be remembered as a compassionate, caring, helpful and other-centered person all the time. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Gordon Ochs; two daughters: Lori Blake and Lisa

Stopper; two step-daughters: Dena Stankiewicz and Cherisa Hodges; one granddaughter, Leslie Banks; grandsons: Jasper Blake, Logan Stankiewicz, Spencer Chaney, and Styrdier Hodges; one great-grandson, Trai Banks; nieces; nephews; and many friends. She was predeceased by her son, Leonard Blake (2014). A service to celebrate her life will take place early in 2021 for family and close friends.

REMPHER, MARGARET FISH, born Jan. 25, 1944, the 2nd child and only daughter of Loren and Leota Beckner Fish, died July 15, 2020. She was a long-time member of the McDonald Road Church, where she taught in the children's divisions and sang in the choir. She loved her God most of all, and her family selflessly. She also loved being outside. There wasn't a bird, tree, or flower that she couldn't identify. Nature walks with her were adventures, where she could find something new almost every step of the way. She loved working in her garden, coaxing food to grow, and flowers to burst into bloom. She was no stranger to hard work: she called it her playtime. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert Rempher of McDonald, TN; two daughters: Rebecca Rempher (Jim) McCurdy of Republic, WA; and Susan Rempher (Gerald) Peel of McDonald; one son, Rob (Alie) Rempher of Chapel Hill, NC; 11 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; seven brothers; many nieces; and nephews. All those who knew her loved her dearly.

SIMPSON, WESLEY L., 95, born March 19, 1925 in Powhatan County, VA, died Nov. 27, 2020 at home in Longwood, FL, with family. He was a member of the Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, FL. He was the youngest and last surviving sibling

of nine children born to Elijah and Alice Simpson. Wesley received his high school diploma from Powhatan High School. He served in the Army during World War II. He met his wife Delcie Benson while working at Reynolds Metal Company in Richmond, VA. They were married in 1945 for 49 years until she preceded him in death in 1994. Wesley worked in automobile glass installation most of his life. He retired in 1990 to take care of his wife. In 1996, he moved to Florida to be with his son and daughter-in-law. He worked part-time with his son at the Adventist Book Center until his second retirement in 2010. He loved playing games and fishing. He is survived by his two sons: Roger (Margaret) Simpson of Longwood, and David (Judy) Simpson of Townsend, DE; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. The service was held at the Nelson Funeral Home in Richmond, VA. Interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

STANOIU, ADRIAN, 68, born Jan. 6, 1952 in the city of Slatina, Olt County, Romania, died Oct. 31, 2020. He was the third child in the family of Ionel and Eleonora Stanoiu. Energetic, curious, and very inventive, he amazed those close to him from an early age by his very strong personality, insight and tenacity, but also by enthusiasm, generosity, and empathy. As a child, he spent a lot of time in his father's mechanical workshop, where he learned to repair bicycles and motorcycles from a very young age. At the age of only 10, he was able to disassemble an engine into component parts, replace defective parts, and reassemble them, doing so easily and with pleasure. Every Sabbath, his family—parents and brothers and sisters (Victor, Lucia, Sineta and Gabriel)—walked 7km on foot to the

church in Slătioara, because Slatina didn't have an Adventist house of prayer at the time. Later, when the community of believers planted a church in the city, the Communist regime put a lot of pressure in order to close it and even dismantle it. When the church building was closed, they decided to move the church activity to their home. Adrian witnessed his parents' efforts to keep the place of worship open at the risk of losing their home and even their freedom, and those events left a deep impression on his heart. Adrian attended primary and secondary school in Slatina, and then vocational school in Bucharest from 1967 to 1970. In 1969, he was national motocross champion with the Steaua București team. Although he was the best student in his class, toward the end of his last year of vocational school, he was expelled and forced to pay for his years of schooling because he refused to go to classes on Saturday. At the age of 19, he attempted to leave the country and was on the verge of being arrested at the border. Hidden behind some bushes, he spent the night in prayer just a few steps from the path patrolled by border guards. Exhausted and terrified, he then took a solemn oath to the Lord that he would not be absent on the Sabbath from worship if the Lord would deliver him. After several days of crossing Yugoslavia on foot, hungry and disoriented, his attempt failed when he was caught by the Yugoslav border guards on the border with Italy. He was sent back to Romania; however, he kept his promise to the Lord all his life. He completed his military service between 1972 and 1973 at Muntele Mic, Caras-Severin County. At first, he was forbidden to leave the unit on Sabbath to attend church, but he soon gained the admiration of his superiors and

the other soldiers by repairing (in record time) the defective trucks in the unit and the transmission station. Soon, the unit commander called him to his office and told him that behind the unit's yard lived "Sister Viorica," and he could leave his civilian clothes there. He would be allowed to leave the unit every Saturday to worship with the local church. In 1976, he gave his life to Christ and was baptized by Pastor Bălan Nicolae. He worked at the Ciclop Car Workshop in Bucharest, at the auto repair shop in Slatina, and then in private coop with his father, older brother, Victor, and his two brothers-in-law, Florin Popescu and Titu Jarnea, with whom he had a very close relationship. Adrian had a very close relationship with his extended family (uncles, aunts, and cousins), with whom he spent his free time, holidays, and vacations. He loved and respected his parents and sisters and brothers, helping them whenever needed. In the summer of 1980, he suffered a serious car accident caused by a truck driver who fell asleep at the wheel. After multiple surgeries and doctors declaring themselves very reserved regarding his chances of survival and recovery, the Lord intervened and saved him—much to the amazement of the medical staff and fellow patients. That autumn, with the help of his uncle, Nicolae Stănoiu, Adrian managed to leave Romania and settled in Germany for a few years. In the spring of 1984, he emigrated to the United States and lived for two years in Cleveland, OH. In the fall of 1986, he moved to Atlanta, GA, and a year later, founded European Car Service, where he often raised his profession to the level of art. On Feb. 14, 1988, he married Eby Denes, who became his devoted wife, supporter, and counselor. The religious ceremony was held at the Sev-

enth-day Adventist Church in Duluth, GA, and the festivities were organized by Myra and Alfred Cowley, along with their daughters, Kristen and Ashleigh, who loved Eby and Adrian and offered to organize everything at their private villa. Adrian had a heart for the Lord's work and often sacrificed his time and material means. He longed for the establishment of a Romanian-language church in the Atlanta area, and at the right time, he contributed to the founding of the Atlanta Romanian Church in 1992 and the North Georgia Romanian Church in 2006. In June 2016, he left with his daughter, Adriana, for two weeks on a missionary trip to Bolivia, where he collaborated with brother David Gates. In 1998, he fulfilled his dream of obtaining his pilot's license. On June 22, 2014, he led his eldest daughter, Christine, to the altar, and on July 22, 2018, Adriana, his youngest daughter. He enjoyed telling stories of his childhood and youth with old friends, and he was happiest when he had the opportunity to testify about his faith. He loved God, family, church, and freedom, and he loved his job, friends, and flying. He leaves behind his grieving wife, Eby; three children: Marius, Christine, and Adriana; two grandchildren: Elliot and Eveline; and for the rest of us, an example of steadfast faith, character, and courage. We will keep his memory alive in the hope of seeing him again at the Crystal Sea.

TAYLOR, JEANETTE A. ROHDE MARSH, 82, born July 1, 1938, in Oshkosh, WI, died Jan. 9, 2021 in Hanover, NH. She was the daughter of William and Martha Rohde. Jeanette spent her childhood in Wisconsin, graduating from Wisconsin Academy in 1955, after which she obtained a two-year degree from Emmanuel Missionary College (now

Andrews University). She married Gene Marsh in 1958, and they moved to Riverside, CA, where she soon began working for General Conference Insurance Services (now Adventist Risk Management). She left the working world when their daughters were young, returning to employment again later with Loma Linda University, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, and Adventist Health, where she remained until her retirement in 2006. Following a divorce in 1995, Jeanette became acquainted with Wayne Taylor, CEO of HELM, the medical malpractice insurance company owned by all Adventist hospitals in the U.S. Wayne and Jeanette married Aug. 22, 1999 in Roseville, CA. Sorrowfully, on one of their many travel adventures, Wayne passed away in March of 2013. Jeanette then moved to Collegedale, TN, where she lived until October 2020, when she decided to relocate to New Hampshire to be closer to family. Sadly, several health crises occurred shortly thereafter, and Jeanette passed away peacefully (not of COVID-19). She is survived by Julie Marsh, Rob and Karen Rigsby, Rob and CJ Stroud, Glenn and Melody Taylor, and four grandchildren.

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candidates for the following **salaried staff positions**: Associate Director of Catering Services-Food Services, Mental Health Coordinator - Student Success Center, and Director of Adult Degree Completion - Graduate and Professional Studies. *For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs* [3]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY - School Counseling-Program Coordinator & Professor. Oversee all aspects of the Counselor Education program. Responsibilities include managing the program to maintain accreditation standards with CACREP and the state, teaching graduate courses in the field of counseling and school counseling, providing academic advisement support to students in the program, responding to inquiries regarding the overall academic unit, participate in committees, maintaining an active research agenda as documented through publications and presentations, sitting on dissertation committees, and other duties as assigned to the position. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2. [3]

STALLANT HEALTH, a rural health clinic in Weimar, CA is accepting applications for a **Family Practice physician** as well as an **NP or PA** to join the team. *Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com* [3]

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

CASKETS FOR SDA - High quality 20-gauge steel. Includes 2nd coming picture, Ten Commandments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 3 Angles message. Priced under \$800. *Call or text us at 865-382-1834 or 865-809-1428, email casketssda@gmail.com* [3]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving + Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist* [3]

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH Services helping authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. *Visit www.infbooks.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.* [3, 4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies* [3-5]

SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED? Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For information, application and current catalog, send \$30 to: SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [3]

SEEKING COUNTRY ADVENTIST SCHOOL with forest school emphasis? Algood Christian Elementary and its constituent church are located on 30 wooded acres near Cookeville, TN. Forest School is a year-long part of the Christ-centered curriculum. *Now accepting applications for 2021-2022 school year*

at 931-854-0259 or algoodchristian.org. [3-8]

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* [3]

"AS GOD'S COMMANDMENT-KEEPING PEOPLE, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them... It is not God's will that His people shall settle in the cities, where there is constant turmoil and confusion... The Lord desires His people to move into the country, where they can settle on the land, and raise their own fruit and vegetables, and where their children can be brought in direct contact with the works of God in nature. Take your families away from the cities is my message." Maranatha, Page 184. Advent Construction Services (ACS) has the solutions you need to obtain an affordable home "away from the cities". Fundamental to our business model is to prepare God's people for transition out of the cities. As such, owner financing to purchase a home may be provided in certain circumstances. ACS also provides construction management solutions in the following areas: new construction, renovations, and alternative energy systems installation. *Phone: 205-910-2552, email: adventconstructionservices@gmail.com, website: <https://adventconstruction2.wixsite.com/website>* [3]

In Turbulent Times

Trust the Pilot

Southern Union Virtual Men's Convention

March 12-13, 2021



www.southernunion.com/virtualmen

Planning FORWARD In Times of Uncertainty

One way to provide for financial security is to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity. You can exchange a low-performing asset such as stocks or real estate for guaranteed, fixed payments for life.

- Contact your local conference office or university for more ideas to help you plan forward in 2021!



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

Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University

Kimberly Bobenhausen (423) 236-2832



SUSDAGift.org



Pastor Donnie McClurkin



Crystal Day



Dr. Carlton P. Byrd,
Speaker

The Awakening

This NBC Television special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), features an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry, and Special Musical Guests: Pastor Donnie McClurkin, and the Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio, along with actress, Crystal Day.



Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio

Watch on NBC on April 4, 2021

For a list of stations and times, call **256.929.6460** or visit **breathoflife.tv**

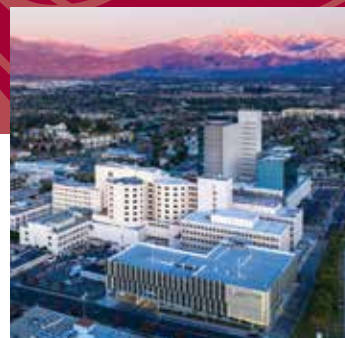


BECAUSE OF YOU AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!

We can't express how grateful we are for the support we received from our donors, alumni and community. Your belief in our mission will make reality a better future for those we serve.

Your gifts have brought **Vision 2020 – The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow** to a historic conclusion. Vision 2020 was an extraordinary and unique philanthropic campaign, as it was the largest in the history of Loma Linda University Health, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and our region.

Together we built hospitals to serve this community. We were able to fund scholarships and academic chairs to build a pathway for ongoing education. But what we really built was a very broad community of love in action. Through this, Loma Linda University Health is better able to carry out our mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ regionally, nationally and around the world.



Please visit **LLUHVISION2020.ORG** to watch the final celebration.



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CAROLINA

Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 12-14. Cancelled.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 19-21. Cancelled.

Evangelism Impact – Feb. 19, 20. Virtual.

Mt Pisgah Academy Musical Festival – March 4-6. Cancelled.

Alive Youth Rally – March 6. Spartanburg SDA Church.

Communication Workshop – March 7.

Prayer Ministries Virtual Meeting – March 12, 7 p.m. Carolina Conference Website.

“Fullness of Joy” Virtual Women’s Seminar – March 13, 3 p.m. Carolina Conference Website.

Adult Sabbath School, Community Services, and Personal Ministries – March 26-28. NPR.

Community Service Board Meeting – March 28, 10 a.m. NPR.

MPA Father/Son and Mother/Daughter Weekend – April 2-4.

MPA Alumni Weekend – April 16-18.

MPA Academy Days and Home Show – April 30-May 2.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Pathfinder Bible Experience (Southern Union Playoffs) – March 27. Online.

Virtual Sermon and Virtual Health Rally with E.W. Dempsey – March 27, 2-5 p.m. for the Lawrenceville Morija Church in GA.

Virtual Adventurer Regional Day (All Regions) – March 28. Online.

Hispanic Women’s Retreat – April 16-18. Retiro espiritual de fin de semana para todas las damas y jovencitas desde los 10 años en adelante. Habrá música, dinámicas, y muchas sorpresas más. Costo: por persona - varía dependiendo del alojamiento. Registración comienza: lunes 4 de enero de 2021. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

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

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

Virtual Pathfinder Regionals – April 23, 24. Online.

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

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. To learn more, contact ICC Southern Union regional coordinator, Deborah Zirakian, at (423) 647-1826, or deborah@ForHisKids.org.

SUNSET

	MAR 5	MAR 12	MAR 19	MAR 26	APR 2	APR 9
ATLANTA, GA	6:38	6:43	7:49	7:54	7:59	8:04
CHARLESTON, SC	6:20	6:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:23	6:29	7:34	7:40	7:46	7:51
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:13	6:20	6:27	6:33	8:03	8:08
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:46	5:52	6:57	7:03	7:09	7:14
JACKSON, MS	6:02	6:07	7:12	7:17	7:21	7:26
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:41	6:48	7:54	8:01	8:07	8:14
MEMPHIS, TN	6:00	6:06	7:11	7:17	7:23	7:28
MIAMI, FL	6:25	6:28	7:31	7:35	7:38	7:41
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:46	5:51	6:56	7:01	7:06	7:11
NASHVILLE, TN	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:04	7:10	7:16
ORLANDO, FL	6:28	6:32	7:36	7:40	7:44	7:48
TAMPA, FL	6:33	6:37	7:41	7:44	7:48	7:52
WILMINGTON, NC	6:12	6:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:39





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