

T Southern TIDINGS

JUNE 2022

WRITE THE VISION:

*Media/Technology
Ministries Effectively
Spread God's Message*

25 YEARS OF
PAGEANTS

AWARENESS
WALK FOR
PRESTON STRONG

A CHANGED LIFE:
A LITERATURE
EVANGELIST'S
JOURNEY TO
FINDING JESUS

A CHANGE OF
PLANS

Gathering God's Way



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

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there Am I in the midst of them,” Matthew 18:19-20.

As Peter and John walked toward the temple, they may have remembered Jesus’ promise. What did it mean to have Jesus in their midst? Here they were, just two. At Pentecost, 120 had received the rain of fire and felt the wind blow. The congregation had gone into the streets fulfilling the mission Jesus had given them.

Now, just two, the very smallest congregation possible, they saw “a certain man lame from his mother’s womb” sitting by the gate Beautiful. For more than three years they had watched the power of Jesus reach past their helplessness to save and heal. They could no longer look over their shoulders expecting Jesus to act. What would the Spirit do through these two who now called on the Name to heal this man?

Peter is one; John is one. But, the Spirit is not a third character in the story. Unlike Jesus, the Spirit had no hands with which to reach past Peter and lift up the man with a crippling disease. The hands of Peter and John lifted him up.

The Spirit never can be the additional Person, standing with us and doing for us. Rather, He adds to the sum of witness. The smallest congregation has power to share with the world because the Spirit forms the plus sign between the “ones” of the Church and between the “us” of the Church and world.

Jesus described it this way: “If I do not go away, the Comforter will not come unto you.” The absence of the real person of Christ gives room for the real presence of the Spirit — not to make three out of the Peter-and-John twosome, nor to add one more to the assembly at Pentecost. Rather, God the Spirit gives our togetherness the power of the Name in which we gather.

Nor does the Spirit seek credit for what happens. Peter and John did not claim the Wind of Pentecost as the reason for the healing, but simply the name of Jesus. The lame man responded to the power of that Name, even as the world may today. “We are carrying the last message to a perishing world, and God calls upon us to bring freshness and power into our work. We can do this only by the aid of the Holy Spirit,” *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 313.

As we grow in Christian living, we also will mature in the Spirit. We will become more sensitive to sin and to the voice of God in our hearts.

If we are to be successfully vigilant in pursuing displaced people outside of Christ, we need to regularly gather with the saints of God and pray for the divine additive of the Holy Spirit. As we grow in the Spirit, we will be more sensitive and responsive to His voice in our lives and our witness.

Finally, as members of the Southern Union family, when we gather in the name of Jesus, we will — through His power — be powerful instruments to usher lost and hurting people into His arms. -RCS



EDITOR R. Steven Norman III
MANAGING EDITOR Irisene Douce
CIRCULATION Yaima Cordova
ADVERTISING Bryant Taylor, D.Min.
LAYOUT O'livia Woodard
PRODUCTION College Press

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ADVENTHEALTH
Garrett Caldwell, D.Min.
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
Jennifer Audette
CAROLINA
Rebecca Carpenter
FLORIDA
Gladys Neigel
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
Nathan Zinner
GULF STATES
Shane Hochstetler
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
Paola Mora Zepeda
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
Cheri Wilson
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James Lamb, Ph.D.
SOUTH CENTRAL
Roger R. Wade
SOUTHEASTERN
Arnaldo Cruz
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
Janell Hullquist

CONFERENCE/
INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000
351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493
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SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535
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SOUTH CENTRAL (615) 226-6500
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202
SOUTHEASTERN (352) 735-3142
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056
ADVENTHEALTH (407) 357-2083
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY (800) 500-7747
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
(800) SOUTHERN
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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features

4
WRITE THE VISION:
MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY MINISTRIES
EFFECTIVELY SPREAD GOD'S MESSAGE

8
SOUTHERN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS DESPITE COVID-19

10
25 YEARS OF PAGEANTS

12
BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY HOSTS
AWARENESS WALK FOR PRESTON STRONG

14
A CHANGED LIFE: A LITERATURE
EVANGELIST'S JOURNEY
TO FINDING JESUS

16
A CHANGE OF PLANS

news

17 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
18 ADVENTHEALTH
19 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
20 CAROLINA
22 FLORIDA
24 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
26 GULF STATES
28 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
30 SOUTH ATLANTIC
32 SOUTHEASTERN
34 OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

36 OBITUARIES
38 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
47 EVENTS CALENDAR/
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SUNSET SCHEDULE

COVER COURTESY OF: DANIEL MCFEETERS
CAPTION: Amber Kyser runs video mix during the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship revival series, which was livestreamed on Facebook. The Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship was a group created as a result of COVID-19 by pastors in the Middle Kentucky area who wanted to bring spiritual encouragement to their churches.



WRITE THE VISION: *Media/Technology Ministries Effectively Spread God's Message*

BY BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it," Habakkuk 2:2 ASV.

These were the instructions given to the prophet Habakkuk. Prophets received messages from God, and they were to speak the message, "thus saith the Lord," Ezekiel 25:1-3, 8, 15. Therefore, the delivery of the message was audible. However, God told Habakkuk to write, not speak the message. The message given to the prophet is a vision. This vision that he was to write was not dictation; it was like a cinematic movie played out before him in surround sound. Visualizations also create permanent records just as written documents. Historically, visual aids have been used to present the message to the people. We have the patriarchs and prophets of old who utilized various items as visual stimulants in presenting the message. Moses used a rod, and that rod turned into a serpent before the eyes of Pharaoh. He used a rod to part the Red Sea. Noah built an ark. As he preached about the world's doom, he visually showed them salvation. Not only did the patriarchs and prophets of old utilize visuals, but so did Jesus, Himself. Jesus, in telling the parables, utilized visuals. As he was talking, he would point to the Sower spreading seeds. He waited until after the disciples had fished all night and then used their net to teach an evangelistic lesson.

A picture burned into the mind of an individual stays with them. As verse one of Habakkuk, chapter two, states, "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved."

Note the position of the prophet: "set me upon the tower," watching to see what will be said. Habakkuk was not awaiting an audible response from God but rather a visual one: "will watch to see what He will say unto me." This was a first for the prophet to show and not speak the message. "Write my answer on a billboard, large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance and rush to tell the others," TLB. This passage of Scripture is a biblical forerunner to multimedia ministry. In our day, the instruction to write the vision and make it plain is a task that has been given to a dedicated group who, for the most part, are unknown and invisible. Church members know they exist, but few know their names, and less than that know what they do. There is a T-shirt that explains their reality perfectly — "Nobody knows what I do until I don't do it."

This church ministry group — media/technology — operated pretty much in obscurity, at least until the pandemic. While many churches, ministries, and organizations panicked and scrambled, this group exemplified the ol' saying, "cream always rises to the top." At this time, their gifts and talents, coupled with their

"Through technology we can work synergistically; we can accomplish more together than we can separately."

Jon Remitera

knowledge of what to do, alongside their skill set of how to do it, enabled the ministry to continue. In a season that many feared would be a desert/wilderness for the religious community, churches flourished because of the media/technology ministries. The media teams made sure weekly services were broadcasted. They used the modern mediums to accomplish the task. For the churches that were broadcasting online before the pandemic, they continued. For those that were not, many started with Zoom, while others launched out and enhanced the member experience by using various platforms, like StreamYard (streamyard.com) and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL MCFEETERS

Amber Kyser runs video mix during the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship revival series, which was livestreamed on Facebook. The Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship was a group created as a result of COVID-19 by pastors in the Middle Kentucky area who wanted to bring spiritual encouragement to their churches.

Ecamm (ecamm.com). Those who didn't use the tier one or tier two platforms, yet wanted to broadcast on multiple online channels," used Restream, which allowed their viewing audiences of Facebook and YouTube to participate in the service. Some ministries took it to another level and used Altar Live (altarlive.com), which allowed members to be greeters and hosts to those attending or visiting. It also gave them the ability to virtually seat the person with family or friends at a table where further interaction during the worship service could take place. The pandemic not only produced new platforms like evmux (evmux.com) that the teams could test and adapt to use for service, but it also gave birth to new ministries. Kirk Nugent went live on Friday night just talking, and friends joined. What started as one person just talking became a weekly occurrence known as Friday Night Live or the Café Crew, which is a group of creatives who gather in fellowship to challenge, encourage, mentor, and sponsor other creatives.

Attentiveness, or in church language, member care, is a priority. It is a common occurrence for someone to share a testimony or prayer request, and someone places in the chat "cash app," which is a signal for Kirk or one of the other guests to request the person's Cash App ID, to which the community gives. It's an amazing sight to see the person's face light up as they hear the chimes and chings of their mobile device as monetary gifts are received. One person called for the offering to bless another, and the community of believers responded. There have been virtual baby blessings for attendees who had children during the pandemic. Another outgrowth of the pandemic is a Sabbath afternoon show. Anslem Paul, pastor of North Lauderdale Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, says this, "The creators and hosts of The Pastors Round Table are three pastors from the Southern Union. Through open and frank weekly conversations with special guests, they seek to help inspire conversations and ideas that will help



bridge gaps between mission and structure while creating content that helps denominational leaders, pastors, local church leaders, and members keep ministry relevant, resourceful, and real." Three pastors in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference joined together and created the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship. Jon Remitera, pastor, originally had the idea to start a daily devotional on Facebook. After talking with fellow pastors Tom Kyser and Daniel McFeeters, it grew to the publication of

30-minute devotional thoughts. Paola Mora Zepeda, communication director of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, shared this from Remitera: "That provided a space for our church members, during the pandemic, to find community." A little while later, three additional pastors joined, and they alternated giving the devotionals. They added a weekly Vespers service as the fellowship grew, and conducted a revival series. McFeeters points out that church members saw themselves as part



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL MCFEETERS

Kristina McFeeters (left), Jon Remitera, Robert Cooke, and Daniel McFeeters host a panel discussion during the revival series. The Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship also conducts daily morning devotionals and weekly Vespers services which they share on their Facebook page, @MidKaf.

of something bigger than just one local church. “Through technology we can work synergistically; we can accomplish more together than we can separately,” says Remitera.

In Spartanburg, South Carolina, the Spartanburg Spanish Church began an online children’s program where they offered a 12-week Bible study course. And just as the Bible says, “My word will not return unto Me void,” 11 children were baptized. The celebration stirred the church to continue to focus on the children and expand the programming. Now, they have an international audience with viewers from the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The new ministries and acknowledgment of the media/tech teams remind us that God is progressive in His use of available resources to communicate His message to humanity.

Before humanity’s fall, it enjoyed the privilege of face-to-face communication with God and angels. Ellen White writes about this privilege Adam and Eve once had.

“The happy pair greeted with joy the visits of their Creator, as in the cool of



the day He walked and talked with them. Daily God taught them His lessons.” Once communication with the Divine was face to face. But because of sin, that form of communication is no longer possible. Therefore, God makes use of the current resources. History reveals that God has been progressive in using the available resources. God has desired to communicate with humanity. The Old Testament is replete with visual methods used by God. Technology in the Bible: the GPS-guided cloud by day and fire by night, voice-activated water fountain, ki-

netic river divider. And, in probably the greatest of biblical technology — Urim and Thummim, you ask a question and precious stones would light up to give you a yes or no answer. God understood the times in which people lived and used what was available to reveal Himself to them. He met them where they were and communicated on their level. “Christ always used the contemporary tools of His time to reach people, be it drawings in the sand or other culturally relevant imagery — like shepherds and lambs, or fishermen and fish that supported His message,” says author David Rauch.

We owe gratitude to the media/technology teams in our churches. While many sat in the comfort of their home, the teams feverishly worked to communicate the Gospel. God is progressive in His use of technology, and so should the Church be.

Hmm, “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets...” Could it be that God looked into the 21st century and said, “I’ll use an iPad”?

Bryant Taylor, D.Min., is the associate communication director at the Southern Union Conference.

SOUTHERN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS DESPITE COVID-19

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT

For two years, COVID-19 has been a force to reckon with, causing havoc in every area of life, including our educational system. In the midst of the challenges of scarcity of funding education, the Southern Union Conference Women's Ministries Department makes it a priority to continue the commitment to the young collegiate women through the Emerging Women Leaders' Scholarship Award. Shirley Scott, women's ministries director at the Southern Union Conference, says, "Every penny our students receive is significant, as nearly 70-90% of them rely on financial aid." Many of them depend on part-time work; however, with COVID-19 that income may no longer be available.

In its third year, the scholarship awards are given to students who attend our three institutions, and have submitted an application with the necessary criteria, references, and an official transcript. Applications are submitted by the deadline date of September 15 each year to their local conference director where the student holds church membership. A list of addresses can be

found on our website. Awards are given at the end of the fall semester. Congratulations to our 2021 recipients: Arantxa Coa, Ashley Marr, and Cassandra Byrdson-Ocean.

Arantxa Coa

Arantxa Coa is from the Florida Conference and a student at Southern Adventist University, where she majors in nursing. She is referred to as a natural leader who takes the initiative and has a positive influence on her peers. She supports and encourages youth in various events, and engages in community outreach ministries. She is a member of the servant leadership program, mentoring young students while strengthening her leadership skills. Coa is a dependable, responsible, courteous, mature Christian, and an excellent student and worker.

A woman who exudes courage, strength, diplomacy, and stands out in the Bible as her favorite is Deborah. She is living proof that God can use women in major leadership roles for His purpose and to impact lives.

To make a strong impact in the

lives of young women, Coa believes the Church needs to develop mentorship programs with open discussions, seminars, and study groups. Placing more women in leadership positions will change the mindset of communities. Young women will be inspired as they see more women in leadership as a normal occurrence rather than a surprise.

Ashley Marr

Ashley Marr is from the Florida Conference. The award recipient, with Spanish as her second language, is enrolled at AdventHealth University. Marr's major is biomedical science and she aspires to become a pediatrician. Marr is community-minded and serves as a health coach and in the outreach program, Hope Ministry for the Homeless.

Marr serves as a Bible Bowl captain, and a drill team co-captain at her church. She has served in the leadership roles as secretary, vice president, and president of her classes. She is an intelligent, honest, spiritual leader with great potential. Those who know her



Arantxa Coa



Ashley Marr



Cassandra Brydson Ocean

describe her as prudent, responsive to the needs of others, dedicated, and a great team player.

Marr is a member of Toastmaster International and the first-place winner for her chapter. Lydia is her favorite woman in the Bible because Lydia's impact on her community demonstrates how God can use women.

When asked how the Church could impact the lives of young women, she believes by forming small groups where youth can speak freely and express their concerns.

Cassandra Brydson Ocean

Cassandra Brydson Ocean is a member of the Southeastern Conference and is a biomedical science major at AdventHealth University. She serves as a dorm chaplain, and loves working with the community outreach for feeding the homeless. Ocean is a positive influence for the women on campus supporting and encouraging them to hold on to their faith and trust God's process. Her commitment to connect with students through prayer and mission-driven activities, despite the COVID-19 envi-

ronment, speaks volumes of her compassion, critical thinking, and spiritual leadership. She is a leader who is kind, humble, caring, and a team player. Ocean has an evangelist mindset, and is passionate as a ministry and Bible study leader.

Hagar is the woman in the Bible whom she identifies with. She is encouraged that despite her circumstances, God knew her name.

The Church's greatest impact, in her opinion, is providing mentorship for women and having open discussions on relevant issues and helping women to use their voices to make a difference.

The goal of the Women's Ministries Department of the Southern Union Conference is to strengthen the legacy of strong, committed Christian women leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who impact their peer group and serve their communities.

We encourage women's ministries on all levels to develop mentorship programs that help young women become strong leaders in their homes, churches, communities, and the world. By providing a platform to discuss relevant issues that affect

their growth and shape their worldview, we can help guide them in making wise decisions that keep them grounded. If you need assistance, contact your Conference directors. You can find their contact information on our website at <https://www.southernunion.com/ministries-services/womens-ministries>.

The Union director is always available to offer guidance, and conduct workshops and seminars in person or online. We invite you to contact our office at 770-408-1800, extension 111, or email us at sscott@southernunion.com. We are here to serve you.

Please prayerfully consider helping us provide educational assistance to our women. You may send your tax-deductible donations to the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Women's Ministries Department, 302 Research Drive, Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092. 📍

Shirley Scott is the women's ministries director at the Southern Union Conference.

25 YEARS OF PAGEANTS

BY SHERRIE WILLIAMS AND INGRID SKANTZ

For 25 years, hundreds of volunteers in the SonRise Resurrection Pageant have humbly, yet passionately, told the Good News of Christ's sacrifice on the Sabbath before Easter. Thousands of guests, young and old, have waved palm fronds celebrating our Savior, only to later be surrounded by an angry mob demanding crucifixion of the same. This put-you-there-at-the-scene journey takes each guest through Christ's final days leading to his humanity-saving death and glorious resurrection.

The Collegedale Church debuted the pageant on April 6, 1996, led by the inspiration and direction of Heather (Aasheim) Hilliard and supported by Southern Adventist University. The primary purpose of this highly interactive storytelling has always been to share the Gospel with those who have never heard it or who desperately need to be reminded of it.

Through the years, SonRise has faced the threat of rain, extreme heat or cold, and even a tornado that bypassed the campus the night before the pageant, but



PHOTO BY: SHERRIE WILLIAMS

Jesus, played by Eric Pinkston, visits with one of the young SonRise attendants.



PHOTO BY: SHERRIE WILLIAMS

Jesus, played by Jesse Rademacher, faces Pilate's judgement.



PHOTO BY: GRANT TUTTLE

Jesus has risen!



PHOTO BY: GRANT TUTTLE

Jesus, played by Ethan Wu, joins His disciples at the Last Supper.



PHOTO BY: SHERIE WILLIAMS

The Marketplace trailer is being unloaded to clean props after roof damage was discovered. The leak caused water damage to many of the props stored in the trailer.



PHOTO BY: SHERIE WILLIAMS

Southern Adventist University's event tent covers SonRise props after the tent came down during a storm.

God has always prevailed. Once again this year, after a hiatus due to COVID, SonRise faced many challenges.

In December 2021, it was discovered that a props storage trailer had been damaged during a tornado in April 2020. Rain had been leaking in three fist-sized holes in the roof. Over one-fourth of the Jerusalem shop walls had rotted, as well as the gates and several other smaller props. Four of the crosses for the crucifixion scene were also destroyed.

In February the trailer was emptied and items cleaned. While the trailer was being repaired, the props were stored under Southern's large outdoor event tent. Volunteers stepped up to rebuild and paint the damaged props, but less than two weeks before SonRise a storm swept through Collegedale and collapsed the tent onto the props. Thankfully, only a few items were damaged.

Days before the pageant saw rain in the forecast for SonRise Sabbath. Many people were questioning whether the pageant would happen, but the SonRise executive team held their faith. If God had seen them through the other challenges this year, why would He stop the pageant now by letting it rain? In one way or another, He always makes it clear that it is His story. He did that once again this year when the rain blew through during the early hours of SonRise day as



PHOTO BY: GRANT TUTTLE

Marilyn, Konika, and Nolan Wright "sell" olive oil in the marketplace.



PHOTO BY: GRANT TUTTLE

Elizabeth Kidwll, Amelia Mota, Layla Graterol, and Braden Brown participate with Collegedale Pathfinders in the marketplace "selling" perfume.

an answer to many prayers.

Today, just under 200,000 people have witnessed SonRise, but, due to its popularity, the pageant struggles to reach

its target audience — those who are not Christians in the local community. The idea for offering SonRise springs from our commitment to lift up Christ, not just within our church but in the wider community. We are not doing it to entertain the Adventist community. We have a story to share with those who have never heard the life-changing significance of Christ's time on Earth (or who may have heard it, but rejected it).

Our wish is that more groups would begin offering pageants so that more people can be reached with this amazing story. This year Risen Experience, mirrored after SonRise, began in Apopka, Florida. The director was Heather Hilliard, the same person who started SonRise in 1996. Other campuses and churches across the country have produced similar Gospel storytelling experiences. May the Good News only become more available, understood, and accepted as the day of His arrival comes nearer and nearer. 🕊️

Sherrie Williams is the communication director for the Collegedale Church.

Ingrid Skantz is the vice president for marketing and university relations at Southern Adventist University.

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY HOSTS AWARENESS WALK FOR PRESTON STRONG

BY ANGEL GAIL LANG

God gives His toughest battles to His strongest soldiers.” That’s what they told me as I held my brother’s hand in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Ochsner’s Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. I had heard that phrase so many times that I now found myself resenting it, because I, in fact, did not feel strong as I watched my world crumble around me.

In January of 2018, my little brother, Preston Strong, a current Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) sophomore, was diagnosed with a grade 5 inoperable brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a couple of aneurysms, and a cyst so large it had pushed his brain off-center. In layman’s terms, it was a death sentence. The AVM, referred to as the “beast,” was too large to remove and allow Preston to

survive. In the unlikely case he did survive, the entire left side of Preston’s body would be paralyzed, along with other deficits. He was 16.

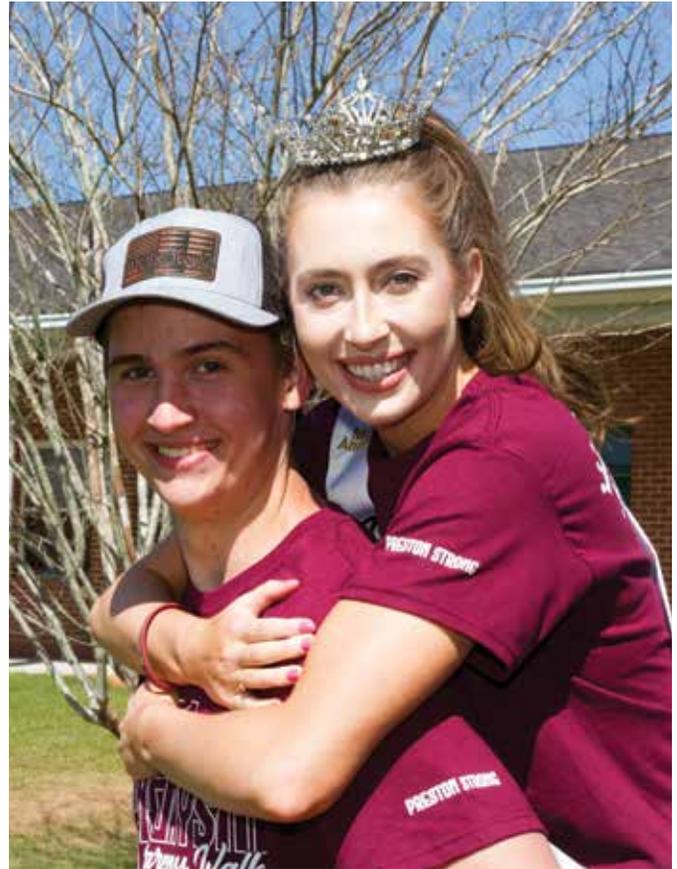
Throughout Preston’s journey, my mother’s prayer was that the doctors would be done before they ever performed surgery or a procedure. Prayer is why my family is still whole today. Through divine intervention, the grade 5



Attendees of the first AVM and Aneurysm Awareness Walk for Preston Strong



Angel Gail Long promotes Preston Strong during the event.



Angel Gail Long (right) is grateful to have a story of success to share about her brother Preston Strong (left).

inoperable AVM was shrunk to a grade 4 through multiple angiogram/embolization, giving Preston his first chance at life. Though the surgery necessary still had a significant fatality risk, Preston made the decision to fight for his life. After 10 hours under the knife, the entire right frontal lobe, which contained most of the AVM, of Preston's brain was removed. By the grace of God, nine days after that surgery, Preston walked out of Ochsner's Medical Center with zero deficits and a future.

I believe that God's timing is perfect. Ever since my brother's diagnosis, I have had a clear notion that I want to advocate, educate, and fundraise for AVM and aneurysm research, while helping other families like mine. That time is now. I will compete for the title of Miss Mississippi in June 2022 as Miss Green-

ville to promote my social impact initiative, Preston Strong.

I have partnered with and currently serve as an ambassador for The Aneurysm and AVM Foundation, as well as Mississippi Blood Services, to take my efforts with Preston to the next level. Hosting an awareness walk has been a goal I have long wanted to accomplish, and it recently became a reality.

In my planning and preparation, I knew that the walk should take place at Bass Memorial Academy, as many from that community were there for my family during Preston's journey. I am ecstatic to announce that the very first AVM & Aneurysm Awareness Walk for Preston was a success, as our efforts raised more than \$1,000 for The Aneurysm and AVM Foundation to fund research. The support received

overwhelms me, and still, to this day, I find myself in awe of the great works our Savior has performed in Preston's journey, one he still fights to this day.

I share Preston's story because I believe it is a source of hope and inspiration. I don't know why bad things happen to good people, but I choose to put my faith in Jesus and His perfect plan. Mark 11:24 is the verse that came to my mother and me at different times of need in Preston's journey, and is now the backbone of Preston: "Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." 🙏

Angel Gail Lang is Preston Strong's sister and an advocate for AVM and aneurysm research.

A CHANGED LIFE: A LITERATURE EVANGELIST'S JOURNEY TO FINDING JESUS

BY IVAN MARTINEZ

I was born and raised in New York City, and I wasn't born a Christian. My mom was a single mom. She did her best to raise us. She was an amazing mom, but she had her challenges having to raise us all by herself.

In high school I ended up in a relationship with a young lady. When we broke up, I found myself feeling empty. I realized that there was something that I was missing in my life. I thought that there was something missing because of this girl that was no longer there. But, the truth was that what I was missing was God, though I didn't realize it at the time.

Eventually, I started familiarizing myself with the drug dealers in our community. I started smoking tobacco and marijuana. Little by little, I stopped going to school. If I did go, I would go under the influence. It got so bad that, in my senior year, the school just decided to give me my diploma and told me not to come back.

The world portrays this lie that money makes people happy, you know? That nice cars and fancy clothes and relationships can produce true happiness. So, I thought to myself, "Well, maybe if I acquire more money or if I find myself in relationships with more women or if I start consuming and selling these drugs, I'll probably find the happiness that I'm



PHOTO COURTESY OF IVAN MARTINEZ

Previously involved in gang activity, Ivan Martinez found Jesus through literature evangelism and the testimony of his brother. He is now the publishing youth outreach coordinator at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

looking for." But, I was looking for the solution to my problems in all the wrong places. The reality was that I got worse and worse and worse.

Now, one of my older brothers was involved in gang activity. While he was in the gangs, he would always protect me from joining them. But, he ended up getting arrested. Since he was no longer in the picture, I started selling

drugs and started associating myself with gang members. I was so bad that people couldn't see anything good coming out of me.

Here is when the story changes — while my brother was in prison.

My brother and I had two friends that had been killed in gang activity. While my brother was in prison, another one of our friends was murdered. We be-



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Ivan Martinez counts inventory at last year's Youth Summit in Taylor Mill, Ky. "I work in literature evangelism because it was through one book that my brother's life was changed," Martinez said. "And, through that one book, my life was changed."

lieved we needed to avenge their death, because they were either in Heaven looking down upon us or in Hell. Somehow, some way, my brother found three books. One of them was a study guide by Amazing Facts entitled, *Are the Dead Really Dead?*

He learned the Adventist message on the state of the dead. And so, he was able to realize that his friends weren't waiting to be avenged. Later, he read *The Great Controversy*, and had a conversion while in prison. When he came out, he tried to talk to me about Jesus, but I didn't want anything to do with it.

A year passed by, and I started to notice that my brother wasn't a savage like he used to be. At this time, I found myself contemplating suicide. I was battling with depression and anxiety be-

cause I had done a lot of bad things in my life, and didn't know how I could ever forgive myself. As I saw my brother, I wondered, "What changed?" Because, if there's something that can do that for him, then maybe there's something that can give me the deliverance I need.

My brother invited me to this evangelistic series. I remember that I went to church high and with drugs in my pocket. Nobody told me anything about the smell. I am very thankful about that. If anyone had said anything negative, I would have never come back. By day three of the evangelistic series, I thought, "I'm still a drug dealer, but at least let me respect the house of God." God was working in my heart, and I stopped bringing the drugs to church.

On the sixth day, the pastor made an

appeal. When I went home that day, I made a promise to God. I said, "Lord, if you can take away this addiction from me, I'll do whatever You want." The next day I got baptized, and the Lord took away my addiction. I've been freed from drugs for six years.

Now I work in literature evangelism because it was through one book that my brother's life was changed. And, through that one book, my life was changed. God was able to look at me not for whom I was before, but for whom I could become. 🕊

Ivan Martinez is the publishing youth outreach coordinator for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He is a member of the Bowling Green Church in Kentucky.

A CHANGE OF PLANS

BY STAFF WRITER

Mugi Kinoshita had plans. As a senior animation major at Southern Adventist University, she was working hard to build her skills and portfolio, hoping to land an animation job at a top studio after graduation. But, in the midst of her busy final year of college, she sensed something was missing.

“I felt the need for prayer,” Kinoshita said. “At first I planned to have a prayer meeting with just my housemates, but I had a burden for the people in my department. So I prayed, ‘If it is Your will, let me have an open prayer meeting in the School of Visual Art and Design.’”

A few minutes later, a friend texted: “Can I join your prayer meeting?”

Kinoshita felt God calling her to proceed, so she created a poster, posted an invitation on Instagram, and began personally inviting her classmates to join her for 10 days of prayer, meeting in the School of Visual Art and Design lobby. Her goal was to make it easy for anyone wanting to experience Jesus to participate.

The first day, only two students joined Kinoshita, but, little by little, more people joined in, and by day nine there were 10 people attending.

“It was amazing how God brought specific people each day for a purpose,” Kinoshita said. “I reminded myself every day to praise God for whoever showed up, because even if it was only one or two people, it was His plan.”

Participants expressed their appreciation to Kinoshita for organizing the prayer sessions, saying: “It was so healing,” “I could really feel God’s presence,” “The 10 Days of Prayer was simply life-changing,” and “We should do this more often.”



PHOTO BY: MUGI KINOSHITA

Mugi Kinoshita used her creative skills to capture the group’s 10 Days of Prayer experience, sharing her watercolor sketches on Instagram.

In fact, so many people expressed a desire to continue praying together that Kinoshita has begun hosting a weekly prayer session, open for anyone on campus to join.

“I realized the importance of prayer,” she said. “I saw God reaching out and restoring attendees, people becoming happier day by day, encouraging each other, opening up to others. They were finding Jesus and being filled with excitement and passion for Him. It was the happiest experience in my life to let God work on people through me. I felt I was nothing by myself; with Jesus, I had a purpose, hope, peace, and a bright future.”

Through this transformative experience, Kinoshita has a new perspective on her career path.

“Before, my career goal was to work

as an animator or background painter at my favorite studio,” she said. “But now, I am open to anything that God wants me to do because I believe that God’s plan is the best. I realized that even a dream job, if it is not God’s plan, would be miserable. I really, really want to use my artistic talent to reach out to people who are lost, and to bring healing to their souls through Jesus.”

“Mugi’s story is such an inspiration!” said Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for Spiritual Life and campus chaplain. “It is a wonderful example of the many ways students and employees across campus are making prayer an important part of their lives, and letting God work through them.”

Southern Students Win Seven Awards at Sonscreen Film Festival

During the Sonscreen Film Festival in April 2022, film production students in Southern Adventist University's School of Visual Art and Design made a good showing. Seven Southern students won seven awards: Best in Fest, Best in Drama, Best in Documentary, Best in Comedy, Best in Art Experimental, Jury Selection, and Audience Choice.

Michaela Hounslow, a senior, felt humbled to receive the highest award, Best in Fest, and credits her film crew for their perseverance throughout the process.

"Making films is a vulnerable, exhausting process, and when that work is rewarded, it's a special kind of encouragement," Hounslow said. "Stories have preserved our thoughts, ideas, fears, and hopes for generations, and I'm honored to be a part of that tradition."

The Sonscreen Film Festival provides young filmmakers with an opportunity to



This year 25 Southern students and faculty from the School of Visual Art and Design attended the Sonscreen Film Festival.

showcase their purposeful, relevant productions centered on social awareness, outreach, and uplifting entertainment. This year 23 Southern film students attended the festival, held at the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, Calif. While Southern students have been attending the festival for almost 20 years, this year's group was the largest.

"I'm so thankful my students got the chance to share their hard work with peers and industry professionals," said Nicholas Livanos, associate professor of film at Southern. "We're coaching the next generation of Christian filmmakers." 🎬

BY STEFANIE GREEN

New Online Master's Degrees Available

Enrollment is now open at Southern for two online master's degree programs aimed at helping students break into a new field and make a difference.

The School of Education and Psychology is offering a new master of arts in teaching degree, taught completely online, with field experience available close to home. It is an innovative program that allows participants to pursue their dreams of teaching, even if they did not study education at the undergraduate level.

"We believe that there are many people who are currently in careers that they don't find fulfilling, and this is an opportunity for them to do something

that would fit with their personal mission to make a difference in the world," said Tammy Overstreet, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education and Psychology.

Southern will help participants arrange field training in person at a school near them. Options are available for students to begin working as teachers while completing their clinical hours.

"Given the great demand for teachers, my hope is that this program will help fill that need," said Bob Young, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic administration. "It aligns with part of our mission, serving the needs of the Church."

The School of Computing recently added a new master of science in ap-

plied computer science, which includes a choice of three certificates: data analytics, cybersecurity, and web development. No prior tech experience or education is required. Project-based learning is used in every course, so students can apply the new skills in their areas of interest.

"These skills are highly valuable in today's market," said Rick Halterman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Computing. "Our options will provide students with skills that are immediately needed by companies."

To learn more, visit southern.edu/graduatestudies. 🎓

BY STEFANIE GREEN

Lamata Mitchel, Ph.D., Named Chief Learning Officer for AdventHealth

AdventHealth has named Lamata Mitchell, Ph.D., vice president and chief learning officer for the health system, effective March 14, 2022.

Mitchell will be the first to serve in this role, and will lead the organization’s learning strategy across four communities — leaders, team members, future talent, and clinical talent — through educational resources and opportunities offered by the AdventHealth Leadership Institute, the AdventHealth Learning Network, AdventHealth University, and other educational partners. She will report to Olesea Azevedo, senior vice president and chief people officer for AdventHealth.

“Lamata is a seasoned educator who’s made education opportunities accessible to diverse learners throughout her career,” Azevedo said. “As AdventHealth strives to become a dynamic learning community for all team members, Lamata will be instrumental in cultivating a culture that makes continuous learning possible across disciplines and leadership levels.”

Becoming a dynamic learning community is one of the foundational aspirations in AdventHealth’s strategic plan, with Randy Haffner, Central Florida Division president/CEO, serving as the aspiration’s executive sponsor.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lamata to the team to help advance the work behind AdventHealth’s dynamic learning aspiration,” Haffner said. “Her rich background and dedication to diverse learners will be instrumental as we make learning an inherent part of our culture.”

Mitchell has extensive experience in learner success, curriculum development, assessment of learning, and classroom innovation. She comes to AdventHealth from Pima Community College in Tucson, Ariz., one of the largest



Lamata Mitchel, Ph.D.

multi-campus community colleges in the nation, where she most recently served as vice provost after serving as the vice president of instruction and academic operations. Her previous roles also include dean of communication, social sciences, and humanities, and before that, associate dean of communication, English, and education at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Ill.

“It’s so exciting to come to this organization at a time when learning opportunities are expanding to help our team members learn and grow and ultimately fulfill their calling at AdventHealth,” Mitchell said. “I look forward to joining the team and sharing my passion for learning, and experience creating dynamic learning environments with my colleagues across the system.”

Mitchell earned a Ph.D. in English

from Northern Illinois University, a master of arts in English from Andrews University, a master of arts in publishing and journalism from Loughborough University, and a bachelor of arts in English and philosophy from Trent University. She has served as a member of the Tucson Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), most recently as chair of the chapter’s education committee.

Together with her husband and best friend Kent, Mitchell has two adult children, S.D. Kendra, a violinist, and Kanhai, a physician. In addition to learning, Mitchell enjoys reading, traveling, sketching, and doing anything that stimulates creativity in her free time. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH

Health Care Leader Feels Called to Continue His Mission Through Education

For Brian Jones, professional development is not always about the next rung on the corporate ladder. It's sometimes simply about becoming the person he is meant to be.

"I wanted to be a better version of Brian, be a better leader, be a better father and husband," said Jones, regional director of clinical mission integration for AdventHealth, and a student seeking his master's degree in spiritual care from AdventHealth University (AHU).

Jones' role at AdventHealth includes supporting a team of specialists who spiritually nurture team members at outpatient primary and specialty care clinics. Jones and his team also coach employees on how to best administer a screening tool to assess a patient's spiritual needs as part of whole-person care.

"I look at this degree as a pathway to learn how to offer spiritual support from an operational perspective. Continuing one's education is a benefit to anyone willing to learn more about how to become a refined version of themselves."

When the degree program opened in early 2021 at AHU, Jones felt called. "It was an answer to prayer. I had long wanted to continue my education. I was looking for something to complement my professional skillsets, as well as my passion for our mission."

In his 25 years with AdventHealth, Jones has served in a variety of roles, including procurement specialist, patient transport manager, and clinical mission integration specialist. "I've always followed where God led me, so my career hasn't been a conventional straight line. Along the way, I kept hearing from leaders that I had a special passion for our mission."

That could possibly be because his mom



was very active in mission ministry during her career. Jones is also a lifelong learner. His spiritual journey, however, most likely began as a 10-year-old boy struggling to survive a horrific car accident.

"The hospitalist predicted that I would die or, at best, remain in a constant vegetative state, but God had other plans, so here I am."

Jones was in the backseat without a seatbelt when the car his mom was driving was hit head on by another car that failed to yield. Jones was rushed to the children's hospital unconscious with multiple broken bones, including a depressed skull fracture. The lead doctor told his parents that he did not expect their child to make it through the night.

He proved to be a fighter and gradually improved each day, returning to school after only three months. "When I returned to school, I carried that weight with me — the power that God has to do greater things than we know about."

His mom, however, had some unfinished business.

After school one day, she picked her son up and told him they were going on an "adventure," winding up at the children's hospital. The nurses and techs on the last unit he was a patient on lined the hallway. "They

wanted to see how you are doing," his mom told him, as each one tightly embraced him.

"Everyone seemed happy to see me, except the guy in a white lab coat at the end of the hallway. At last, we were facing each other, and Mom introduced me. 'This is one of the doctors who took care of you. What would you like to say to him?' Extending my hand, I expressed my gratitude. Instead of responding, he began to cry. I looked at Mom and noticed that she was crying as well."

That man was the doctor who predicted Jones would die or be comatose for the rest of his life. His mom, relying on her faith, begged this doctor during hospitalization: "Doctor, what would it take for you to believe that a miracle took place in our son?"

Laughing, he responded, "A miracle would be if he could walk down this hallway and thank me for taking care of him." That's exactly what 10-year-old Jones ended up doing.

The car accident and his recovery are never far from the mind and heart of Jones, the father of four boys, ages 6 to 13 years. "I was someone who was clinically written off as a lost cause and as broken beyond repair. That experience gave me a much wider view of God's influential healing power and the influence of personal and spiritual hope."

Jones never strays far from the feeling that God had other plans for him. In his new quest to grow in his role, Jones has taken courses in Old and New Testament, Christian bioethics, CREATION life, and spiritual care through the 72-credit online degree program.

"This program has been such an affirming walk of faith." 🕊

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE

Captain Gilmer Elementary School Raises \$18,500 in Walk-a-thon for Ukraine

Captain Gilmer Christian School in Fletcher, N.C., with a student body of 169 students, launched a walkathon to raise money for the Ukrainian crisis on March 11, 2022.

“Ten percent of our student body has either Ukrainian or Russian family members,” says Sarah Wilson, school principal. “They were understandably upset and praying for their friends and family. We decided to do a prayer walk. One of our teachers mentioned that we should do something more. So, the idea for a walk-a-thon was born.”

All the students at Captain Gilmer participated in the fundraising event, and asked friends and family to donate money for each mile walked. Even students in lower grades participated. According to the school staff, one little first grader did 15 laps (4 laps = 1 mile). Someone had promised her \$50 per lap, and she was determined to make lots of money! Another student in seventh grade jogged the entire hour of the walkathon and completed 25 laps. The event attracted community members from all walks of life. Some senior citizens not only donated to the cause but also joined the activity.

Family members of relatives in Ukraine



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

came out to support the walkathon. One gentleman came out to watch and was deeply touched. His family is in Ukraine and his father has joined the resistance. “It is nice to know that if my family came here, the school would welcome their children,” he said.

“We are grateful to the children, parents, faculty, and staff of Captain Gilmer Christian School for the unwavering support for the people of Ukraine” says Jennifer Tyner, senior director of marketing and supporter engagement for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). “Your contributions will address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children and families. ADRA continues to provide shelter, food, water, lifesaving supplies, cash vouchers,

and transportation to refugee moms and youth that have fled the conflict, and displaced residents inside Ukraine. Thank you for your donations and prayers. You truly are the hands and hugs of Jesus.”

Ingles, a local grocery store chain, donated fruit and water for stations, which was very helpful.

All funds raised by the school are being channeled directly to Ukraine through ADRA, a global humanitarian nonprofit international agency that has been serving communities in Ukraine for the past 30 years, and has been assisting the people since the onset of the conflict which began on February 24, 2022.

“We chose ADRA because they were already on the ground working to help the refugees, and knew what was needed,” Wilson explained.

Captain Gilmer school is still accepting donations. To support the effort call 828-684-8221.

To learn more about ADRA’s response or make donations to assist with relief efforts in Ukraine and around the world, visit ADRA.org. 📍

BY CRYSTAL EARNHARDT

New Bern Church Burns Mortgage

New Bern, N.C., Church had a high celebration on April 2, 2022. After nearly 20 years, their mortgage was fully paid off.

The church was organized in 1949 with 15 members. At that time they met in the homes of various church members

until they were able to build their first church on Avenue D in New Bern. The building is still standing, and for more than 14 years, it served as their church.

In 1962 the members voted to sell the church and purchase a plot of land on highway US 70. They began to construct

a church, but progress was slow because the work was done by the church members in their spare time. The building was completed in 1964.

For 35 years, the small brick church served its community without a problem, but as they started to outgrow the church,

they desperately needed more space. In 2000 they began to plan to build a new temple, one that would allow them to grow and expand. At the mortgage burning ceremony, Rick Russell, vice-president for finance at the Carolina Conference, recounted the planning process as he showed the original mortgage document, pointing out that his name and the name of the pastor at that time, Ryan Ashlock, are on the mortgage. Russell finished by saying, "Look at where we are now."

The mortgage-burning ceremony, which involved the leaders of the church, took place after the sermon by Ashlock. When it came time to burn the document, Mark Rankin, first elder of the church, had the honor to light the fire. He later said that this event was important because it shows how grateful the church is for God's blessing of



Rick Russell, Carolina Conference treasurer, burns mortgage.

PHOTO BY: HENRIQUE GOMES

of their neighbors' buildings had to be demolished, the church was built far enough back from the road that the building was safe from demolition. In addition to an early payoff, the church was able to buy two LED signs, giving them more visibility and connection to passersby.

Russell challenged the leaders and church members to see the ceremony as an opportunity to take the money that would go toward the debt of the church, and invest in the community with outreach and service, helping those in need.

As the document disappeared, Russell said, "It is great to see it go up in smoke." To that, there was a hearty "Amen!" and rousing applause. 📌

BY HENRIQUE GOMES

being able to pay off their mortgage early.

The early payoff was made possible by a settlement with the local government due to the expansion of highway US 70 which runs directly by the church. Although many

Adult Sabbath School, Community Service Retreat Held

The annual Adult Sabbath School and Community Service Workshop was held at Nosoca Pines Ranch, March 26, 2022. Curtis Hall was the keynote speaker, and he challenged both groups to taking a D.E.E.P. dive into their respective ministry. What does D.E.E.P. stand for? First, one has to make a Decision. What needs adjusting? What needs attention? How could it be improved? Second, Effort must be put forth in pursuing that decision. What is the action plan? Third, consideration must be given to the Environment and doing everything possible to promote an environment of team work, positivity, and excellence. Lastly, all were challenged as ministry teams to practice Perseverance. By so doing, ministries can go D.E.E.P. for the glory of God.

Along with four general sessions with both groups, there were also breakout sessions for both Adult Sabbath School and Community Services in dealing with the



Adult Sabbath School training session with guest speaker Curtis Hall

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

missionary efforts with Steven Leger were inspirational. Ryan Amos, pastor, provided real world lessons on effective leadership in changing times in the community. Marlene Nunnaley highlighted how God's Closets are reengaging after the pandemic, and their growth nationwide. Geri Tucker shared how to connect with the 55-and-older population, benefiting both the church and community.

All together it made for an inspiring, informative, and spiritual weekend. The organizers thank those who gave of their time to join in this venture. If anyone missed the experience, they will have the chance to attend next year, learning how to be more effective in ministry and how to better glorify Jesus, the Lord and Savior. 📌

BY DAVID GRAHAM AND DAVID WRIGHT

practical strategies, methods, and best practices for successful ministry. Hall broke down some simple principles in preparing and presenting an Adult Sabbath School lesson along with other practical strategies.

The Community Services spotlight was in partnership with Adventist World Aviation and Wings 4 Humanity. Chief Flight Instructor Doug Pagliolo and his

Florida Students Excel in Technology

Excitement filled the Forest Lake Academy (FLA) gymnasium in Apopka, Fla., on Sunday, March 27, 2022, as 12 teams of young people in grades 4-8 gathered for the first in-person Adventist Robotics tournament in Central Florida for three years. The teams had spent weeks preparing — programming their robots, completing an Innovation Project, and practicing the core values.

The students program their robots to earn points by autonomously completing missions on a field with various mission models. This year’s theme, “Cargo Connect,” challenges robots to accomplish simulated missions related to the challenges faced by delivering goods from the manufacturers to the consumer. The missions are designed with trade-offs so that there is no perfect score. Tough decisions must be made by each team on how to earn the most points possible in the 2 1/2 minutes allowed in each match. Teams receive the highest score in the three matches they play.

This season’s Innovation Project was also about the delivery of goods. Teams had to identify a problem, design a solution, and share that solution with experts in their community. Each year, teams’ creative solutions change their communities, and some FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Teams) go on to file patents for their ideas.

The core values are based on the principles of competition and gracious professionalism. “Gracious professionalism means competing at a very high level while celebrating the efforts of everyone,” says Nicole Ploche, one of the coaches of the Walker Memorial Academy Mega Builders team. While their team won the Champion’s Award at

the competition, what really impressed Ploche was seeing how her team members tackled real-world problems. Real success is not measured by what they win but by how much they learn.

Adventist Robotics partners with FIRST to deliver robotics programs for

students in pre-K through 12th grade. Learn more at adventistrobotics.net.

BY MEL WADE, FLORIDA CONFERENCE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY
COORDINATOR/INSTRUCTOR FOR SCHOOLS



FLA Innovation Students Hired to Redesign BioTissue Model Holder



Minimally Invasive Solutions Consulting hired FC XLab @ Forest Lake Academy (FLA) to redesign the BioTissue model holder and the thoracic chest model used to train surgeons how to use the DaVinci Robot to perform mitral heart valve repair.

Students from the FC XLab observed an advanced robotic cardiac course at the AdventHealth Nicholson Center on Sunday, March 27, 2022, where a surgical team from Salt Lake City learned to perform a heart valve repair procedure using the DaVinci Surgical Robot.

The XLabers are using the design thinking process to improve the training apparatus. This observation was for students to implement the discovery phase of the “design thinking process,” “empathize,” and “define” stages.

The students will be designing the model on Autodesk Fusion 360, and 3D print the model with the lab’s carbon fiber 3D printer, the Makerbot Method.

The instructor, Goya Raikar, M.D.,

a Mayo Clinic-trained cardiothoracic surgeon from Wisconsin, took the Utah team through an intensive lab designed to evaluate and improve the team’s robotic skills applied to heart valve repair.

“Having students redesign and improve the BioTissue model holder and the thoracic chest model in which the BioTissue model is placed when training surgical teams will impact the ability of the teams to perform the training sessions that lead to successful cases and outcomes,” states Peter Carnegie, CEO of Minimally Invasive Solutions. “It is not very often that students can take on projects that improve the performance of surgical teams all over the world by improving practice sessions.”

Minimally Invasive Solutions Consulting is the primary program development company that takes teams through a development plan from the first practice session until the team reaches clinical independence, which is the ability to perform a robotic heart valve repair

without any outside (non-hospital employee) assistance.

Florida Conference XLab is a startup incubator and design studio that provides students with the support and environment needed to launch an LLC, pursue patents, and develop solutions to real-world problems.

The Florida Conference Innovation Lab at Forest Lake Academy is a school-within-a-school magnet program serving as a laboratory/demonstration school designed to reimagine education by advancing experimentation in education. “Cultivating Innovators!”

Learn more at floeinnovation.org or search the following hashtags on social media: #AdventistEducation #STEMCIE #Innovation #DesignThinking 

BY ROBERT HENLEY, DIRECTOR OF THE
FLORIDA CONFERENCE OFFICE OF
EDUCATION INNOVATION LAB AT FOREST
LAKE ACADEMY

School Nurses Minister to Students

Headache? Cough? Sore throat? Runny nose? Upset stomach? Been around people who are sick?" Nurse Hufstetler greets students each morning as they get out of the car with a quick smile, and then jumps to the list of questions at hand.

With the onset of the pandemic, Georgia-Cumberland Academy and John L. Coble Elementary School respective administrations and boards approved the hiring of nursing staff on their campuses. Stepping out in faith, GCA hired Dorothy Self as a full time nurse, and Coble hired Lorette Hufstetler in a part-time position.

With the support of administrators, local physicians, and the health and safety committees, both nurses jumped into their new roles as they updated offices, cleaned out the medicine cabinets, reviewed student health records, and, most importantly, initiated relationships with the local health department and parents ... all this before the students even arrived.

Establishing and following protocols in response to the pandemic formed their initial focus. Both nurses found themselves on the front line as they assessed, sent for testing, and then followed up with students and families struggling with illness. They also dealt with the myriad of normal illnesses that children struggle with, like strep, allergies, flu, rashes, pink eye, and more. Both nurses realized the resource they had in each other, and they began checking in with each other, touching base



Lorette Hufstetler, Coble Elementary School nurse, takes the temperature of a student as she enters the school.

on contact tracing, sharing news of open testing appointments, and even assisting each other when any one line was too long.

"Is the nurse here?" Students quietly ask for Hufstetler. The old conference room at Coble Elementary has been transformed into a nurse's office to accommodate this growing ministry. Here, in privacy, students can ask questions, receive treatment, and sometimes simply step away for a quick break. Hufstetler walks the halls with a student struggling with constipation, teaches correct hand-washing techniques to every classroom, and is available to bandage a scraped knee

following ball games. On the GCA campus, nurse Self can be found crossing campus to assess a twisted ankle, driving a student to urgent care on a Saturday evening, even taking blood pressure of adults passing through her office.

Although hired initially for their professional guidance with the COVID pandemic, their insight and ministry expand far beyond that realm. Hufstetler, noticing the extensive time that had elapsed since many students had undergone an eye exam, partnered with Prevent Blindness Georgia for a free screening for all students. Self, hearing many young women struggle to understand their bodies, scheduled time to answer questions and connect students in need with further medical care. Now in their second school year, both nurses are fully embedded in the educational ministry team.

On a recent morning, a parent patiently waited while Hufstetler screened their child. The parent, worried about their extremely shy child, shared how grateful they were for her time and gentleness — as she is one of two people at school the child feels comfortable speaking to. Hufstetler shared, "School is our family — our kids. We are here for them."

School nursing isn't just a job. At Coble Elementary School and Georgia-Cumberland Academy, it's an incredible ministry extension of Jesus embodied by Hufstetler and Self. **📍**

BY REBEKAH HELBLEY

Medley Transitions to New Role

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) is pleased to have Greg Medley as the newly appointed associate treasurer and treasurer for association. Medley accepted the position following the retirement

announcement of Neil Brady. He also brings more than 20 years of financial experience to the team. Medley felt called to this position at Georgia-Cumberland after Kurt Allen, vice president for finance, reached out to him.

"We are pleased to have Greg Medley joining the GCC Treasury Department. Greg is highly skilled and provides a wealth of valuable experience," says Allen.

Medley's new position is not his first experience within Georgia-Cum-

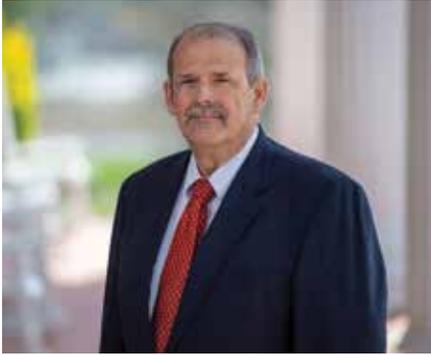


PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

berland. Most recently, Medley served as the associate treasurer for Home Health Education Service since 2010. Prior to that, he held accounting positions for various entities, including Total HR Solutions, Tradebank International, and Organic Matters, Inc. As he begins his new role, Medley feels a special sense of responsibility toward the funds from churches.

“I want to be financially responsible

because these are funds that churches have given to us to invest in their endowment funds,” says Medley. “I want to have that fiduciary relationship, and make sure their money is handled correctly. I want to carry on the standards that [Neil Brady] set for this position.”

BY RACHEL BEAVER

Mortgage Burned, Temple Dedicated

In northeast Georgia, there is a small congregation with wonderful faith. The Chatsworth Hispanic Church, on Saturday, December 18, 2021, five years after being established as an organized church, held two emotional ceremonies.

The first celebration was to burn the mortgage papers. This milestone was possible thanks to members who voluntarily supported the Gideon project initiative. The challenge was launched by Samuel García, retired pastor, on Saturday, April 10, 2021, who later passed away, and his wife, Nelly. The challenge was to find 300 generous people who would contribute one dollar per day for 250 days, until December 15, 2021. In total, each Gideon would then have contributed \$250. This may sound like a difficult task, but not impossible for the Lord, the owner of gold and silver. The enthusiasm was very contagious.

Of the original 15-year loan, there was still \$75,000 owed. The loan payment amount of \$865 per month had to continue to be sent faithfully no matter what, despite how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting the church finances. Therefore, the Gideon project, inspired by God, was the immediate solution, which gave many the opportunity to cooperate



Rene Hernandez, pastor, along with Ray Hartwell, Conference association secretary, and Miguel Tirado, Latin American ministries director, burn the Chatsworth Hispanic Church’s mortgage.

with this humble congregation and end this monthly financial concern.

The goal was achieved! By November 15, a month before the target date of December 15, the loan was paid in full. Gideons from near and far, brothers, friends, relatives, and institutions, from different parts of the world, responded to the call and acted with faith. Some had promised and did not want to be left out of the project, and fulfilled what they promised God, even knowing that the project had already been completed.

The second celebration, linked to being free of debt, was dedicating the temple, or church building, to the Lord. It was what King Solomon did with the temple he built for Jehovah (1 Kings 8:12) to the glory and honor of God. The celebration culminated in the afternoon, with a beautiful concert that gladdened the hearts and comforted all those present.

BY NELLY G. GARCIA

Auburn-Opelika Hosts Grand Opening of ACS



Briana Sherer, ACS leader for the Auburn-Opelika Church, sorts through the winter accessories donations.

The Auburn-Opelika Metro, Ala., Church opened its first-ever Adventist Community Services (ACS) Center January 23, 2021. Martin Fancher, executive secretary and ACS director for the Gulf States Conference, was the guest speaker for this grand opening.

Fancher was also given the privilege of officially cutting the ribbon to signify the center’s grand opening. As church members entered the center, they were bursting with a sense of pride to see how God had worked through what was just a vision for the church to make it a reality. Members compared the feeling of walking into the center for the first time to that of walking into a small department store. Clothing racks were outfitted with adult’s and children’s clothing, shoes, toys, bedding, books, and housewares, among other miscellaneous items.

The center officially opened to the pub-



Donations for the ACS Center are neatly arranged in a store-like setting.



Martin Fancher, executive secretary for the Gulf States Conference, cuts the ribbon for the new ministry.

lic on January 28, 2021, and remains open every fourth Thursday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. central time.

The church hosted a winter accessories drive where they collected more than 200 blankets, winter hats, scarves, and socks for kids and adults. At the grand opening of the Adventist Community Services Center, the church invited Zenene Humphry-

Davis, director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Center, to receive the donations from the winter accessories drive. She was delighted to receive the gifts on behalf of the center, and the church looks forward to future partnership with them. ❶

BY DONNA CAMPBELL

Montgomery First Establishes Virtual Grief Support Ministry

The Montgomery First Church in Montgomery, Ala., has suffered the loss of several church members in the past year. “Seeing so many people that were mourning, seemingly alone, and uncertain of what to do with their grief was difficult,” shared Cynthia Bush, Grief Ministry leader for Montgomery First. Thus, she felt inspired to start virtual grief support group meetings centered around the services of GriefShare to help. “We prayerfully wanted to remove common barriers that might prevent some from attending in person,” shared Bush.

“Our prayer is that, through compassionate resources, biblical education, and prayerful Christian fellowship, the bereaved will learn through their grief stories, and be drawn closer to their refuge in Jesus Christ,” Bush continued.

“We started meeting in November 2021 on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. CST via Zoom. Participants began to share how the meetings were helping them to understand what they were experiencing,” related Bush. Dan Thompson, pastor of Montgomery First, adds, “This Grief Ministry reaches many, both within our fellowship and others who need comfort from wherever they are. The virtual format allows us to reach a much wider community truly.”

“All are welcome to attend; we’ve been blessed with participants as far away as Bermuda,” added Bush.

GriefShare is a biblical, Christ-centered non-clinical support group product that offers training for facilitators, educational videos, support resources, and small group discussion guides that trained laypersons can conduct. “The guidelines for participating in the support group help us to navigate the particulars of a virtual setting,” said Bush.

Bernell Mapp, head elder for Mont-



“Grief is a shadow hanging over humanity. Yet, despite knowing that we are destined to experience death, we remain woefully unprepared when it comes,” Bernell Mapp, head elder at Montgomery First.

gomery First, continued, “Grief is a shadow hanging over humanity. Yet, despite knowing that we are destined to experience death, we remain woefully unprepared when it comes. Thus, it was essential for an educational component to be included in the vision for this ministry.”

Bush shared, “We recently started our second session of GriefShare with many alums from the first session joining us once more while testifying to a healing quality of this support group that we believe is an answer to our prayers. The success of the meetings has come from a praying team of Grief Ministry volunteers that are trained and commit-

ted to the weekly meetings. This is not a venture that anyone should host on their own; it takes God’s leading, prayer, and a joint effort of mature Christians.”

The church is thankful that, through technology, they can cross state borders and overseas to offer compassionate support. The church maintains that all are welcome. Anyone interested in joining this support group or participating to understand better how they can start a group in their church can email griefrecoveryfellowship@gmail.com. 📧

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Kids In Tune Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Kids In Tune (KIT) celebrates 15 years of music ministry and growth this year. The children and teens choir held a special anniversary concert on April 9, 2022, at Madison Campus Church (MCC) in Tenn., where the choir released their second album, "Freedom of Your Love."

The idea of KIT came after Gissela Kroll, choir director, noticed the kids' musical talent at MCC. She also dreamed her children would be born into an established ministry. So, in September of 2007, along with Faith Martin, choir coordinator, and a couple of others, the team launched the choir intending to instill in children "a passion for Jesus, worship, and service."

"That is why we are a non-audition choir," Kroll said. "Whoever wants to participate is welcomed. We just want children to be involved and inspired." The choir first started with 20 children and now boasts over 80 participants, including those in the alternative groups, Teens In Tune and Dudes In Tune.

In 2013 KIT released its first album, "Thankful Heart," and published a curriculum for choirs and churches who want to start a similar ministry. The Tennessee-based group has now inspired the creation of dozens of choirs and chil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GISELA KROLL

Kids in Tune (KIT) perform at their 15th Anniversary Concert at Madison Campus Church (MCC) in Tenn. The idea of KIT came after Gissela Kroll, choir director, noticed the kids' musical talent at MCC. The choir first started with 20 children and now boasts over 80 participants.

dren's ministries worldwide, including in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

"It is so rewarding and special to receive videos of children worshipping using our songs from all parts of the world," Kroll said. "We feel truly honored that God has opened the doors for us to serve in this way."

In October of 2021, KIT released their second album, "Freedom of Your Love." Out of the 12 songs in the album, seven are original pieces written by Kroll, Kids In Tune alumni and present members, KIT parents, and MCC members.

Kroll says it takes an extreme amount of commitment and effort to lead a minis-

try for this long. However, it is all worth it when she sees these children and teens growing up and having the opportunity to worship and serve. She prays it will be a lifelong practice for them.

"You're never too young to follow the Great Commission," Kroll said. "God is calling us into sharing the Gospel, and that's what we are doing... [KIT] has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. This ministry was God's idea, and His plans are always better than mine." 🎵

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Pastors Launch Podcast About Authentic Conversations

One September evening during a Pathfinder camp out, Tom Kyser, pastor at the Manchester and Richmond churches in Kentucky, was hanging out with his Path-

finders when he mentioned that both he and Jon Remitera, pastor at the Somerset, Boonville, and Grove churches in Kentucky, were planning on starting a podcast. One of the Pathfinders, Mo-

nique Mwasumbi, was very excited.

"You should totally call the podcast 'Pass the Baton,'" she said.

Kyser and Remitera liked the idea and decided to go with the name, which

they thought represented the mission of the podcast.

“We want to hear stories ... valuable experiences, and knowledge that can be passed on to us and on to our listeners,” Remitera said.

Michelle Mwansumbi, another Pathfinder at Manchester Mustangs and an active listener of Pass the Baton, described the podcast as authentic. She says that it is one quality she really enjoys and what makes the podcast stand out.

The podcast talks about current topics. “We just have conversations about things that are relevant at the time,” Kyser said.

The first season of Pass the Baton was released in December of 2021. The second season is still in the works, but the first episode aired on May 9, 2022.

The podcast regularly brings on guests to discuss the topics, which, according to Kyser and Remitera, are picked depending on the issue they want to discuss. Some of



Jon Remitera records the intro to his podcast, “Pass the Baton.” This podcast was started alongside fellow pastor Tom Kyser. Together, the duo and guest speakers talk about life, ministry, and everything in between.

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

the guests have been Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference president; Jerry Page, General Conference ministerial association secretary; and Bryant Herbert, pastor, author, and music artist.

According to Remitera, while the pod-

cast may seem directed toward Christians, as it talks about struggles in a Christian life and how to approach life from a Christian perspective, anyone can enjoy the podcast.

Pass the Baton has listeners between the ages of 23 and 59, with the vast majority of listeners being young adults. Listeners include 89% from the U.S., 8% from the Philippines, 7% from Germany, and less than 1% listen from Canada. In total, Pass the Baton has received more than 140 streams.

“I just want the podcast to be [a place] where people can feel like themselves,” Kyser said, “... because the Christian walk is not easy, it is difficult.”

Pass the Baton can be streamed on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor, YouTube, and Facebook. 📍

BY AMBER KYSER

Indian Creek Camp Continues to Grow Through Renovations, Recreational Facilities

Indian Creek Camp (ICC) has received a variety of upgrades to its maintenance and recreational facilities. The improvements, which have been in the works for months, include new wooden flooring, new bunk mattresses, and a new zip line.

Greg Taylor, ICC director, says camp personnel made an appeal last summer to work on the renovations. Through the donations of campers and financial support of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, the camp raised more than \$95,000 for the projects.

“In addition to the donations, we were also blessed with a handful of volunteers

from across the Conference,” Taylor said. “It’s incredible to see how much people love [ICC], and how they’re willing to give their time and money to help see a comfortable move forward.”

The new wooden floors were placed in the back cabins, and now the project will move on to the front counselor cabins. More than 100 new mattresses were purchased for the bunk beds, replacing the previous 12-year-old bedding. The zip line is a four-part course, stretching between 300 and 400 yards from station to station.

In addition to the changes, ICC has also received roof repairs on the cabins and facilities upgrades in the horse are-

na. Upcoming projects include new stage lighting for the chapel, a nature center, and an outdoor volleyball court.

“We do all this work because we care about this ministry,” Taylor said. “We care deeply about [the campers’] experience with Jesus. By providing a comfortable, safe, and fun camp, we show our commitment to drawing visitors closer to Christ.”

This year, more than 1,250 campers have signed up for summer camp. The first junior camp starts on June 12, 2022. 📍

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Youth, Young Adults Show Love to Communities

Young people from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia served their cities in the “Big Sabbath Outreach,” on March 26, 2022. The South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Youth Department sponsors the Tri-State Youth and Young Adult Federation every spring. This event is usually a convention where young people come together for worship, inspiration, workshops, and great music. In 2018, the Youth Department decided to take those resources from the spring federation and focus on blessing the community. The youth and young adults were challenged to go outside the walls of the church, and to be the salt of the Earth and the light of the world. The 2018 event was a blessing, and all signs point to the 2022 Big Sabbath Outreach surpassing the inaugural event.

“Young people love being active and seeing the Gospel in action! Our Confer-



ence is blessed with so many committed and passionate youth leaders. Our youth and young adults, empowered by the Holy Spirit, executed this event with compassion, skill, and enthusiasm.” says Donovan Washington, D.Min., SAC youth director.

Eight cities were involved this year. Each city had a young adult captain who organized the service activities, coordinated volunteers, managed budgets, and

led in prayer. The captains were Quinesha Hicks, Atlanta, Ga.; Samuel Jean, Atlanta/South Ga.; Peggy Roey, Fayetteville, N.C.; Felix Eleazer, Durham, N.C.; Erolyn Sweeney, Charlotte, N.C.; Joyce Thrower, Charleston, S.C.; Natasha Jones, Columbia, S.C.; and Lisa Howard, Franklinton, N.C. 🕊

BY DONOVAN WASHINGTON, D.MIN.

Decatur Church Opens Hero Academy

During the pandemic, many churches have become creative in developing impactful programs. One such church is the Decatur Church in Decatur, Ga. There, under the leadership of Ché Chin King, children’s ministries leader, and her assistant, Peace Pressley, Hero Academy was created. Hero Academy opened to train children on how to be a hero or “shero” for God in their local community. The Hero Academy trainees range in age from 3 to 12 years old.

On the first day of its opening, each attendee was greeted by an enthusiastic



Hero Academy students hand out gift bag lunches.

staff and given their new training uniform, a red “Heroes & Sheroes Reload-

ed” T-shirt. The children set out making their masks and decorated them to express their inner and outer hero. The mask-making activity was completed singing along to Christian music while gluing colorful strings, jewels, and shapes to their masks. Once the mask was complete, each trainee was photographed displaying excitement and anticipation as they began to go out on their missions — changing the world with one kind act at a time.

Each mission at Hero Academy is another opportunity to learn about Biblical, historical, and modern-day heroes and

sheroes. The goal is to show our children they can be a hero for God wherever they are and with whatever they have. The first lesson presented was “Solving a Giant Problem” as they studied about other heroes who had big problems to solve — heroes like David, who faced the giant Goliath, and modern-day heroes like Martin Luther King Jr., and healthcare workers who continue to fight against the “giant” of the current time, COVID-19.

The first mission was to honor the

frontline workers in their community: Viral Solutions is a drive-up COVID testing and vaccination site located next door to the church. Lunches were decorated, packed, and delivered by the children dressed in their mission uniform. Each “Thank You” gift bag was first decorated with colorful art and stickers. Shavon Dawson, chef, prepared salads filled with chicken or tofu, and the children packed them with chips, water, juice, and fruit. With their theme music playing, the He-

ro Academy students delivered their gifts with great enthusiasm. The staff at Viral Solutions were excited to hear and see the parade of children honoring them for assisting in “Solving a Giant Problem.”

Hero Academy provides online resources for kids, by kids, through DCCN (Dynamic Christian Children’s Network) Kids TV on YouTube and Instagram. 📺

BY CHÉ CHIN KING AND PEACE PRESSLEY

New Hope Church Launches Community Resource Center

The New Hope Church in Ellenwood, Ga., experienced another ministry milestone in its service to the community when the congregation launched the New Hope Community Resource Center. New Hope was founded in 1985, and in 1995 the church started serving the community through its Food Pantry under the leadership of Nellie Cameron, then Adventist Community Services leader.

Everton A. Ennis, D.Min., was installed as pastor in January 2022. After consulting church ministry teams, the reorganization of the Adventist Community Services Department created the New Hope Community Resource Center. Ennis had previously experienced success in his prior pastoral district with this model of community engagement, which saw both of his previous churches coming out of virtual obscurity to being widely known and regarded for their community-based work.

The New Hope Community Resource Center is governed by an eight-member board of directors, also known as the personal ministries council.

The Resource Center serves various needs and refers clients to partner agencies and nonprofit organizations that are able to provide needed resources. With



New Hope executive committee

access to government funding and donor foundations for community development initiatives available, the New Hope Community Resource Center will be a blessing to those who need help with food; and will offer do-it-yourself workshops such as basic plumbing, carpentry, auto maintenance, and drywall repair. Other offerings include conflict and dispute resolution training, personal development skills training, spiritual enrichment workshops, CREATION Life training, financial empowerment classes, and prayer and Bible study upon request.

The Resource Center works in collaboration and partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, local law en-

forcement, and various nonprofits, and will collaborate with county and state government entities where appropriate and advisable to understand and provide resources for community needs.

The newly elected officers include Verol Thompson, board chairman; Antega Townsend, vice chairman for discipleship; Donna McFarlane, secretary; Heroline Frazer, treasurer; Althea Marshall, executive director; Novlette Forrester, food pantry director; Ornell Christie, capital campaign director; and Everton A. Ennis, D.Min., pastor. 📺

BY EVERTON A. ENNIS, D.MIN.

Tabernacle Church Opens Vision Care Center

The most effective churches take care of a community’s physical needs as well as spiritual needs, and use Jesus as an example. Before starting the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus used five loaves and two fishes to feed 5,000 men — not even counting women and children. Even before He began His ministry, He took care of the wedding guests first.

Tabernacle Church took those principles to heart with the official opening of the ACP/REA Vision Care Center on March 12, 2022.

A group full of city officials, well-wishers, and church members witnessed the opening of the only vision care center in Miami’s Little Haiti and El Portal neighborhoods.

The purpose is to provide affordable vision care to those who need it most. The vision care will be spearheaded by Lenny McCalla, D.O., head of health ministries at Tabernacle Church, and Rhonda LeBlanc, D.O., president of Rhonda Eyes Alliance. Both have given their time and talents to underserved communities throughout the Caribbean, and decided to turn their attention to south Florida.

“Our work started by a visit to Haiti, and that’s when we realized there was so much need. We started out with recycled glasses but we have a clinic with the locals running it. I have concluded that God took us through those 14 years [in Haiti] to continue the work [in south Florida],” said LeBlanc.

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Florida congresswoman, had a representative present a certificate of special congressional recognition:

“This is [Albert C. Pierre Community Service Center and Rhonda Eyes Alliance] their first inner city vision care center designed to assist the underserved.

“Underserved communities are at



greater risk for undiagnosed and uncorrected eye vision disorders and diseases. This vision care center that will now be serving the community, and can help children with learning, adults with job performance, and everyone with home safety. The gift of sight is priceless.”

To further support the initiative, Cherfilus-McCormick sponsored vision care services for the first 10 children to be examined. The center is housed on the first floor of Tabernacle Church with two fully equipped examination rooms.

The vision care center opened March 25, 2022, to patients for the first time, and they came away impressed.

Senior citizen Lillian Boswell-Hall was examined. She has cataracts and needs surgery. Her daughter, Cyrena Hall, was “so glad we came. We learned so much more about her condition, and now she will get the help she needs.”

Boswell-Hall’s cousin, Martha Rampersad, took time off to come as well. “Her visit was long overdue. Now we will bring her back to do follow-ups here at the clinic because we were given more information about her condition and necessary treatment.”

Albert C. Pierre Community Service Center has now added another program to benefit people of all ages. H.O.P.E. Summer Camp is designed for summer educational enrichment, Pierre’s Pantry provides supplemental groceries and hot meals for the community on the third Sunday of each month at Tabernacle; and runs Pure Reality, a mentorship program for teens and youths.

If you would like more information on the vision care center, please visit www.acpcommunityservice.org/acp-rea-vision-care-center. 📞

BY JOHN DEVINE

Extreme MakeOver Activates Ministries, Members

Maranatha Church in Tallahassee, Fla., is experiencing a tremendous renewal of energy and excitement around the work of spreading the Gospel.

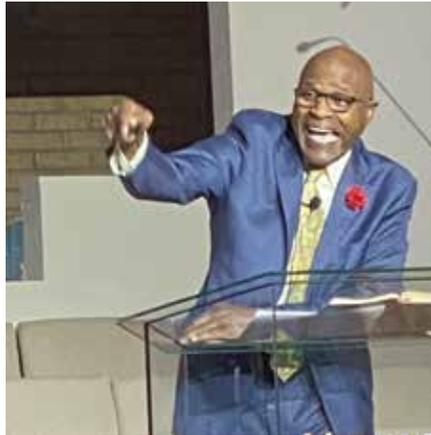
To achieve total member involvement in this work, Andre' McCloud, pastor, chose the year's theme, "Extreme Make-Over: Character Edition," to challenge each member in their personal growth, and in their discipleship of others.

"The journey we are on is designed to help the church to refocus on its mission and purpose," said McCloud. The sermon series he preached, the seminars he developed, and the trainers like Frederick Russell, D.Min., Patrick Vincent, D.Min., and Dwight Gayle, pastor, helped to activate the membership to get out of the pews and into the streets of Tallahassee. McCloud and the elders — whom he empowers as pastoral staff — along with departmental ministry leaders, are focusing on creating an atmosphere of service for the Master in the community.

Since reopening for in-person worship services, "... the church did not reopen to business as usual," McCloud said. The renewed focus on mission has led the church to embark on several creative initiatives that have already begun to see tremendous success.

Following are a few highlights of some of the new initiatives.

Elana Jones, head elder, collaborated with McCloud to lead the congregation on a closer walk with Christ through fasting in a variety of ways, and praying for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by members bearing the Fruit of the Spirit. The church provided a book entitled *Book 11—Living the Spirit-Filled Life*, by Dennis Smith, pastor. "The members experienced a clearer vision of Jesus and His character and were



David Long, pastor and director of stewardship, personal ministries, Sabbath School, prayer ministries, and prison ministries at the Southern Union Conference, preaches during the Homecoming Sabbath, and welcomes former members back to Maranatha Church.



Andre' McCloud, pastor, and Elana Jones, head elder, honor Danielle Davis (left), captain, for her service to Maranatha Church and Tallahassee, Fla., during the Homecoming Sabbath celebration.

drawn into closer fellowship with Him," said Jones. This experience continues to empower the church as it launches its new initiatives.

David Long, pastor and director of stewardship, personal ministries, Sab-

bath School, prayer ministries, and prison ministries at the Southern Union Conference, was the keynote speaker for the program of personally inviting former Seventh-day Adventists who no longer attend Maranatha Church. Nearly 40 former members returned for the service, giving members an opportunity to show loving care to the former members.

Inspired by the admonition of Ellen G. White to spread tracts and books as the leaves of autumn, McCloud created a new ministry called the "Leaves of Autumn." Jasper Musgray, elder, who is known for personally distributing thousands of tracts every year, leads the department. With the pastor's support, the Lord led Maranatha to expand this ministry to open a booth at the local flea market to distribute tracts and books, and to gather the names and contact information of many who come to the booth to submit prayer requests.

"We are able to establish relationships with these prospective members and pray with them," McCloud said. The personal ministries Bible study team is setting up Bible studies with these prospects in readiness for the summer evangelistic meetings that starts on June 4, 2022.

The deaconess ministries lead out with women's ministries and church members each month to pray with and provide care packages to homeless communities. One person they met was a former pastor who attended Maranatha and answered the altar call to give his heart to Jesus and rededicate his life to Christ.

These programs are proving to be a blessing to both members and the community surrounding Tallahassee Maranatha Church. To God be the glory! 🕊

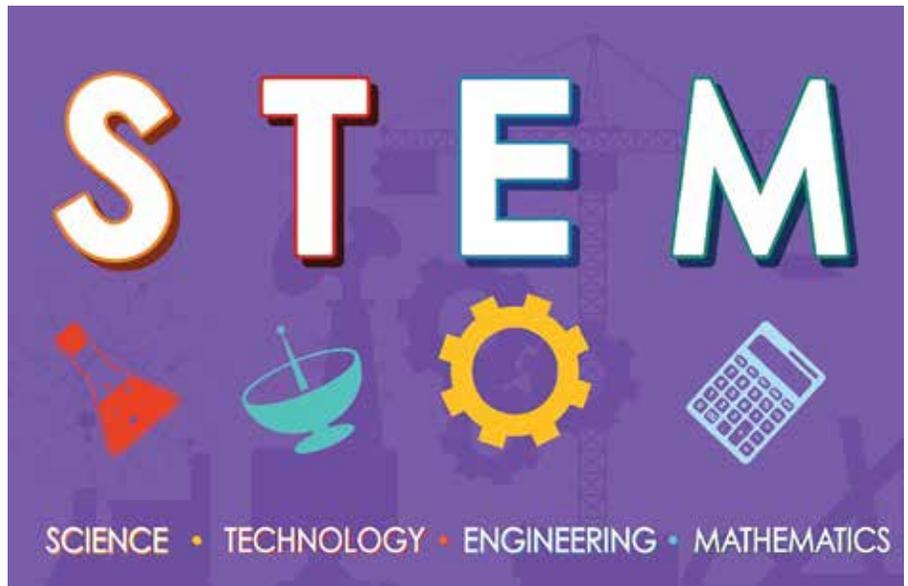
BY WILLIE MAE MUSGRAY

Oakwood University Students Win ALSAMP Awards on State Level, Receive Early Acceptance to Medical School

ALSAMP Research Winners

Oakwood's STEM (program in biology and math) program has been ranked fourth of small HBCUs to graduate African American STEM students. It has also consistently ranked in the top 15 for matriculating African American students to medical school. The Biological Sciences program also has a strong record of matriculating African American students to other professional and graduate programs. Oakwood University is the nation's 11th-ranked producer of undergraduate Black applicants to medical schools. OU STEM also ranks 22nd in the nation for producing Ph.D. graduates in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, engineering, technology). Research is an integrative part of the STEM experience.

At the Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Conference on April 13, 2022, four of Oakwood University's



ty's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) students presented their research, competing against other students enrolled in Alabama colleges/universities. All four

students placed in their categories:

- Jewel Hairston (biochemistry major) – 2nd Place – physical sciences/math/computer science
- Jayde Frederick (biomedical sciences)



Jayden Vanterpool



Jewel Hairston



Breanne Charles



Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D.



Jayde Frederick

Oakwood University students in the STEM fields enjoy integrating biomedical research into the laboratory curriculum, which enhances their learning experience and improves critical-thinking and scientific reasoning skills. Research experience has also helped them be competitive candidates for other research programs and professional or graduate school. Students' biomedical research projects conducted at Oakwood University are under the direction of faculty in the Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, and Chemical & Biochemical departments. Some of the research areas are nanotechnology, cancer therapeutics, biomedical engineering, neurophysiology, and ecological studies. ●

major) – 3rd Place – biological and agricultural sciences

- Breanne Charles (biology: pre-medicine) – 1st Place – biological and agriculture sciences
- Jayden Vanterpool (biology: biomedical engineering major, computer science minor) – 1st Place – engineering

The Alabama LSAMP Program is funded by the National Science Foundation. Oakwood University's participation in the project is coordinated by Kenneth LaiHing, Ph.D., chemistry professor. The project's goal, entitled "Alabama LSAMP: Sustainability of Best Practices for STEM Education and Research," is to implement and study innovative, evidence-based, sustainable best practices in STEM education and research experiences for undergraduates, designed to increase the quality and quantity of underrepresented minority students by enhancing the STEM educational experience. During the continuous funding of the grant since 1991, the Alabama chapter of the grant has been voted best AMP in the country.

Early Acceptances into Medical School by Oakwood University Biology Pre-Medical Students

In 2022, Oakwood's biology pre-medical students continue to do exceptionally well. As of April 25, 2022, the following students have received notice of early acceptance into medical school.

University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine:

- Mya Mentor, Biology Pre-Med
- University of Alabama, Birmingham:
- Ellen Konadu, Biology Pre-Med
 - Alena Wicker, Biology Pre-Med
 - Jalen Joseph, Biology Pre-Med
 - Mark Awoniyi, Biology Pre-Med
 - McKenzie Young, Biology Pre-Med
 - Ghadi Nshimiyimana, Biology Pre-Med
 - Jady Teart, Biology Pre-Med

Oakwood University's STEM departments seek to enrich the academic experience of students through research.

BY ELAINE VANTERPOOL, Ph.D., CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

BY DEBBE MILLET, COMMUNICATION SERVICES COORDINATOR IN THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT



At the microphone during Oakwood University's 2022 Alumni Homecoming program, Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D., congratulates Oakwood's ALSAMP Champions. Standing behind her are David Richardson (left), Ed.D., vice president of student life and mission; Jayden Vanterpool; Breanne Charles; Jewel Hairston; Jayde Frederick; and Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University.



CROSS, SHERMAN LEE, 89, born March 25, 1932 in Searcy, AK, died Jan. 22, 2022 in Port Charlotte, FL.

He attended and graduated from Collegedale Academy in Collegedale, TN. One year later, he married Pat Blevins, who also attended Collegedale Academy.

Sherman, as most people called him, was involved in several quartets throughout his life; music was a big part of his and Pat's life during their 70+ years of marriage.

They were blessed with three daughters who are also involved in music.

Sherman worked for Little Debbie's (McKee's Bakery) for 17 years, and 28 years in hospital administration which is thoroughly enjoyed.

Sherman is survived by his wife, Pat; three daughters: Cheri (Mike) McCormick, Kathy (Danny) Sanderford, and Laura Cross; two brothers, Connie (Denise) Cross, and Garland (Pam) Cross; one sister-in-law, Billie; four grandsons; many nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Clayton and Erma Cross; and one brother, Darrell Cross.

DIAZ, IDALIA MACHICOTE, 86, was born Oct. 3, 1935 in San Turce, Puerto Rico, died March 26, 2022 in Winter Park, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 48 years.

In her early life, she was a pianist and organist for her Adventist church in Puerto Rico, as well as part of the Pathfinder group. She enjoyed making wedding cakes and flower arrangements for weddings and graduations. She was a talented painter and crafter who enjoyed teaching crafts to others.

A strong and courageous woman, she moved her family to Florida in the early 70s where her children attended the Adventist schools and enjoyed the family community. She was employed at Forest Lake Academy Laundry in Apopka, and at Florida Living Nursing Center in Apopka.

She is survived by her two sons: Jorge Diaz Machicote and Carlos Diaz; a daughter, Ruth Battle; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her eldest daughter, Mariselle Cheever. A service was conducted at the Highland Funeral Home with interment in Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.



RUNYAN, DR. DON, died Jan. 24, 2021. He and his wife, Millie Runyan, spent their lives serving God by working with young people. Don was the choral director and voice teacher, and Millie was the dean of women at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) from 1968 through 1985. They met at Union College and married in 1956, and both worked at Indiana Academy and Blue Mountain Academy. They are survived by their four children; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Their beloved grandson, Ben Pitt, died April 7, 2021. Millie's nephew, Coach Wally Fox, who served at Georgia-Cumberland Academy for many years, and his sister, Judy Wood, passed away within 12 hours of each other in Sept. of 2021. Don's nephew, Gary Davis, who graduated from Enterprise Academy, also passed away in 2021. All are greatly loved and missed.

WOODS, JERRY VICTOR, 84, born Sept. 19, 1937 to John David and Ivor Mae Woods, died at his home on March 1, 2022. Jerry spent his whole life in Douglas County, GA. He attended both elementary and secondary schools at Bill Arp, Georgia. Jerry, under the tutelage of his father became quite a driving and mechanical kid genius. He became an expert in fixing and maintaining his father's trucks and cars. He kept all his cars and trucks up until a few months before his death. He worked for International Harvester for 33 years. He served for two years in the United States National Guard. Jerry met and married his high school sweetheart, Linda Patricia Duren. They were married 62 years. While Jerry and Linda had been raised as Christians, it was in the early 1970s that they made a special commitment to the Lord. Linda was baptized into the Douglasville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jerry was resisting any commitment and

didn't even plan to go to the baptism, but some-how found himself there. Seeing Linda being baptized, Jerry felt an al-most overwhelming urge that he should be baptized as well. One year later Jerry joined the church. He was a deacon in the Seventh-day Adventist church for over 50 years; much of that time as the head deacon. When Jerry's company went on strike, he donated a full year to help build the gymnasium for the church and school. He is survived by his wife, Linda Patricia Woods; his daughter, Wendy Gay Woods; his son, Jefferey Steven Woods; his grandchildren: Jason Williams, Lauren Wil-liams, and Tyler Woods; six great-grandchildren; a host of other rela-tives; and friends. The service was conducted by Pastor Ian Carney and Elder Tom Carter.

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PROPERTY AVAILABLE

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

- An Adventist community in a rural setting outside Oklahoma city that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities, and transportation, as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: <http://summitridgevillage.org> or Bill Norman 405-208-1289. [6-4]

DON'T JUST RETIRE.... Live with purpose at Fletcher Park Inn. An Independent Living Retirement Community, located on the campus of Fletcher Academy near Hendersonville, North Carolina. Join our family, take part in the many opportunities for staying active, volunteering, making new friends and living with a purpose. Call to find out more about our apartment and villa homes 828-209-6930 ask for our marketing department or visit www.fletcherparkinn.com [6,7]

ADVENTIST REALTOR - Do you want to sell your home? Do you want to buy a home in North Georgia or South East Tennessee? I can help you achieve your goal. Call me today: Pierre at RemaxREC 423-987-0831 Cell or office 423-664-67644 [6]

FLORIDA SDA REALTOR -Would you like to BUY or SELL in Orlando, Florida or surrounding cities? I look forward to helping you! Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500 (call/text). Service provided in English, Spanish & Portuguese.[6-12]

FLORIDA LIVING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY Independent living on 13.5 acres near Orlando, sunny beaches, golf courses, shopping areas, and medical care. All renovated ground level units. Florida Conference-owned facility. Call 407-862-2646 or visit floralivingretirement.com [6-3]

FOR SALE. Multipurpose commercial steel building in Savannah, TN. 10,800 sq

ft. Size of lot: 2.93 acres. Features: 2,500 sq ft. commercial kitchen with pantry; 2,300 sq ft. catering hall (capacity 75 persons) with juice bar; 3 bathrooms, 2 offices and a 5,000 sq ft. warehouse with a loading dock. Price: \$220,000.00 or best offer. For more information call 731-412-2098.[6,7]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following teaching positions: Faculty—School of Education and Psychology, School of Business, Biology/Allied Health Department, Physics and Engineering Department, and Mathematics Department. Adjunct—Adult Degree Completion Program-Business Finance, Economics, and Psychology; and German Instructor-Modern Languages department. For detailed descriptions and qualifications, see southern.edu/jobs. [5]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for the following staff positions: Salaried position—School of Visual Art & Design Technology and Administrative Support Manager, Director of Alumni Relations, Thatcher Hall (Women's Residence) Assistant/Associate Dean. Hourly positions—Patrol Officer (Campus Safety), Deli Supper Cook (Village Market), Master Mechanic (Transportation), Cafeteria Floater (Cafeteria), CK2 Shift Supervisor, Produce Associate (Village Market), Closing Shift Supervisor (Village Market), Procurement & Merchandising Assistant (Village Market), and Accounting Clerk (Accounting). For a detailed description and qualifications, see southern.edu/jobs. [5]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ARCHIVIST Description: University Archivist and Records Manager with responsibility for the operation of the full Andrews University Archives and Records Management program including strategic planning, education, promotion, acquisition/receiving, processing, organization, digitization, and disposition of University records. For information about the Uni-

versity Archives visit: www.andrews.edu/services/archives Qualification: Bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree preferred in subject areas related to the job responsibilities. Academic training and/or experience in archives and/or records management preferred. This position could be considered to be a faculty position depending on the candidate's qualifications. It is cross-posted as a faculty position. For more information and to apply, visit: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_5 [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS Practicum & Internship Clinical Coord/Faculty Description: Oversees all aspects of the PhD Counseling Psychology and MA Counselor Education students' clinical training experiences for the GPC department. Help in coordinating departmental efforts in establishing training sites for MA student placement and works with APPIC as the Director of Training for the doctoral Counseling Psychology program to facilitate student internship placements. The coordinator collaborates with the Andrews Community Counseling Center Director as well as other faculty in constructing student application guidelines and procedures for counseling students. The coordinator will have both administrative and teaching duties. Link: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_11_5 [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS - Asst Dir Counseling & Testing Description In collaboration with the Director, provides leadership in the clinical services of the Counseling & Testing Center, including clinical supervision and the coordination of the clinical internship program. Available for after-office hours clinical consultations, and student crisis interventions. Provides individual, couple, and group counseling. Participates in outreach presentations to assist students in achieving more effective personal, social, educational, and vocational development and adjustment. Maintains an assigned caseload, and provides consultations on issues related to mental health. Reports to the Counseling & Testing Center Director. Link: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_4 [6]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS - Rehabilitation Science This Assistant/Associate/Full Professor will hold a faculty appointment and have academic, administrative, service, and scholarship responsibilities in the physical therapy programs within the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. As a faculty member, primary responsibilities are to teach in the Entry-level DPT and/or Post-professional programs (tDPT, DScPT). Link: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_4

www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_17 [6]

IT IS WRITTEN is seeking a Ministry Representative with an emphasis on helping people who have a philanthropic interest for advancing evangelism and will serve the southeastern United States. The successful applicant will join a professional team of dedicated ministry field representatives who are enthusiastic about public evangelism and soul winning. For more information or job description visit us at iiv.us/trustofficer. [6]

MARKETING DIRECTOR sought at It Is Written in Collegedale, Tennessee. Successful applicant will be energized by evangelism, enjoy working in a dynamic environment, and will effectively connect the ministry and resources of It Is Written with those seeking to know Jesus and His word. This soul-winning role will grow God's kingdom and reach hearts with the gospel. Qualified individuals are invited to apply at iiv.us/marketing [6].

DECATUR ADVENTIST ACADEMY EARLY LEARNING CENTER, Stone Mountain, Ga. The center board is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following salaried staff position: Director/Administrator for the ELC. For a full list of qualifications, visit www.daelcsda.com/Resumes/CV may be sent to daelc30@gmail.com [6]

FLETCHER ACADEMY INC. MINISTRIES is a place to "Serve with Purpose!" Currently, we're seeking a full-time Senior Accountant (Finance Office), General Technician (Plant Services), Landscaping Supervisor (Grounds), and more. All positions feature competitive earnings and a generous benefits package (varies by FT/PT status). Visit www.fletcheracademy.org/career to learn more about our mission along with details of all current opportunities and to apply. [6]

UNION COLLEGE, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA is seeking applicants for two positions in the Physician Assistant Program: Principal Faculty and Clinical Director. Both are full-time faculty positions with competitive compensation and full benefits package. Please see the full job descriptions and instructions for application at <https://ucollege.edu/employment>. Contact Megan Heidtbrink at megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu for more information. [6]

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SDAs is looking for individuals with work

experience at all levels in Human Resources, Software development and technology and TV and social media. Must be an SDA church member in good standing. For additional information on current openings go to <https://tinyurl.com/gcjobpostings> or contact *Johanna Prestol-Dominguez* at prestold@gc.adventist.org. [6]

LOOKING FOR RETIRED MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND SCHOOL TEACHERS who would like to spend six months to a year volunteering in Tanzania. All living expenses will be paid and possibly a little stipend. For more information call 606-599-7341 or email cherishfoundationtz@gmail.com [6]

SOLE PRACTITIONER CPA in Marietta, GA seeks SDA CPA, minimum 10 years public accounting experience to join practice. Call 770-514-8927. [6,7]

CARE, COMPANION, TEACHER AND FRIEND, for mentally challenged adult female. Can live in your home or you can live in the area where she lives, but must be in a rural setting. 1800 monthly for one shift but can work two shifts. Verifiable church affiliation required with background check. Individual lives close to Uchee Pines Institute with very friendly church on campus. Please call 334-855-0733 [6,7]

MISCELLANEOUS

UCHEE PINES LIFESTYLE CENTER in Seale, AL, uses simple, natural methods to assist you in finding healing from lifestyle issues and diseases such as obesity, hypertension, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, autoimmune issues, chronic fatigue, depression and more. Call 334-855-4764 or visit www.uchee.org [C]

UCHEE PINES LIFESTYLE INSTITUTE Our Lifestyle Educator course provides six months of intensive instruction in preventive medicine, natural remedies, and gospel evangelism designed to give individuals a better understanding of God's methods of last day Medical Ministry work. Call 334-855-4764 or visit www.uchee.org [C]

RELOCATING? Apex Moving + Storage has a national account 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 visits us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist. [C]

YOUR REALTOR IN FLORIDA & EASTERN TENNESSEE- Are you ready to BUY or SELL your home? Maybe you want to trade hectic urban life for peaceful country living? Want to build a homestead? I can help you make it all happen. Contact Osvaldo "Ozzy" Ferrer 423-457-9057 or 407-285-2510. Call, text, WhatsApp, or email ozzyferrer@outlook.com [C]

REFINANCE YOUR MORTGAGE TODAY!- Looking to lower your interest rate, consolidate debt, get cash out for home improvements, or get pre-approved to purchase your home? We have the nation's top lenders. FHA/VA/USDA/Conventional/First Time Home Buyers welcome. Licensed in AL, NC, TN, FL, and other states. Call 411-MORTGAGES..Ozzy 407-285-2510 / 423-457-9057. [C]

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/gradtestudies [6-4]

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#1 NC & SC Allstate Insurance Agency. SDA owned and operated. Call today for a free quote for auto, home, renters, boat, motorcycle, or life insurance. Agent is UCSDA Church Treasurer & Elder. Exclusive Agent, Brian King. (704) 844-2572 or jbrianking@allstate.com or visit us at www.allstate.com/jbrianking [6-8]

SPONSOR NEEDED Are you longing to do something amazing? God may be impressing you to sponsor a student from India for one year. Jean, a Periodontist, wants to further her studies in the field of dentistry at Kentucky University. Contact *Janetta Samuel* @ 423-701-1644 [6,7]

Oakwood University Legal Notice

The Quinquennial Oakwood University Corporate Members' Meeting will convene on June 16, 2022, from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Oakwood University Campus. This notification fulfills provision 4.3.5 of the Oakwood University Bylaws to post notice "not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days before the day of the meeting either personally or by regular mail or electronic means." The purpose of the Members' Meeting is to 1) receive Corporate reports; 2) elect the Board of Trustees; and 3) to consider and vote bylaw changes.

A significant bylaw recommendation will be to follow the recent General Conference vote of January 18, 2022, to grant to the Corporation the ability to conduct its Membership Meetings virtually as determined by the Board of Trustees (see <https://adventist.news/news/special-general-conference-session-delegates-approve-constitutional-amendment>). Per bylaw provision, this notice is given not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days before the day of the meeting. More information will be provided as the date for the Members' Meeting approaches.

Board of Trustees Chairman, G. Alex Bryant
President, North American Division

Board of Trustees Secretary, Leslie Pollard
President, Oakwood University

Carolina Conference Session Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 43rd regular session of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., will be held in the auditorium at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, South Carolina. The first meeting is called for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022. The session will continue through Sunday, August 21, 2022. The session is called for the purpose of electing officers and formulating plans for the next quinquennium, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session.

Leslie D. Louis, President
Gary D. Moyer, Vice President for Administration

LEGAL NOTICES

The South Central Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the Fifth Quinquennial and the 26th regular session of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Oakwood University Church, in Huntsville, Alabama, Sunday, July 24, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Saturday night, July 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. This constituency session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the Conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one representative for the church and one additional representative for each full 500 members.

Benjamin Jones Jr., President
 Larry Bailey, Secretary
 Sonja Moxley Crayton, Treasurer

The South Central Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 26th regular session of the South Central Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at the Oakwood University Church, in Huntsville, Alabama, Sunday, July 24, 2022. The delegates to the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Benjamin Jones Jr., President
 Larry Bailey, Secretary
 Sonja Moxley Crayton, Treasurer

Legal Notices

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular session of the Kentucky- Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 25, 2022. The session will begin at 10 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

Steven L. Haley, President

Mike L. Hewitt, Vice President for Administration

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 25, 2021. The session will begin at 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Steven L. Haley, President

Silke Hubbard, Trust Services Director

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Gulf States
David Spameri (334) 272-7495

Kentucky-Tennessee
Sara Hubbard (615) 858-1891

Oakwood University
Marian W. Bellis (256) 726-7508

South Atlantic
Melinda Moseley (404) 792-0636

South Central
Sonia Clayton (515) 226-6500

Southeastern
Joan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University
Katherine Bollenhauer (423) 291-2832



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CAROLINA

- Hispanic Camp Meeting** – May 12-15. Nosoca.
- Summer Magabook Program** – May 22-Aug. 17. Raleigh.
- Carolina Camp Meeting** -- May 29-June 4. Lake Junaluska.
- Summer Camp** – June 5-July 15. Nosoca.
- Revive Youth Rally** – July 29-30. Charlotte.
- Constituency Session** – Aug. 18-22. Nosoca.
- Carolina Men’s Retreat** – Sept. 23-25. Nosoca.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

- Collegedale Camp Meeting** – June 1-4, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.
- Upper Cumberland Camp Meeting** – June 8-11, Meister Me-

- monial Church, Deer Lodge, TN.
- Father-Son Appalachian Trail Adventure** – June 26-July 1, Roan Mountain, GA.
- Hispanic Camp Meeting** – Aug. 5-7, Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Hispanic Youth Retreat** – Aug. 5-7, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA. Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

WELLkids at Southern – June 20-24, July 5-8, and July 11-15. Keep your kids moving and exploring the great outdoors this summer with “WELLkids in the Wild,” a summer day camp program at Southern Adventist University. Each week-long session offers out-

door adventures facilitated by Southern’s Adventure Programming staff. Activities include rock climbing, hiking, canoeing, ropes course, caving, rafting, and more. Available for ages 10-17. Spots are limited, so don’t wait! More information and registration is available at southern.edu/wellkids.
SmartStart Begins – July 25. New students at Southern can earn three credit hours for free during the summer (a savings of more than \$2,100). To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN’S CONVENTION – Aug. 8-11, 2023. Orlando, FL. SAVE THE DATE!!!

SUNSET

| | JUNE 3 | JUNE 10 | JUNE 17 | JUNE 24 | JULY 1 | JULY 8 |
|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| ATLANTA, GA | 8:45 | 8:49 | 8:52 | 8:53 | 8:53 | 8:52 |
| CHARLESTON, SC | 8:25 | 8:28 | 8:31 | 8:32 | 8:33 | 8:32 |
| CHARLOTTE, NC | 8:35 | 8:38 | 8:41 | 8:43 | 8:43 | 8:42 |
| COLLEGEDALE, TN | 8:51 | 8:55 | 8:58 | 8:59 | 8:59 | 8:58 |
| HUNTSVILLE, AL | 7:56 | 8:00 | 8:03 | 8:04 | 8:05 | 8:03 |
| JACKSON, MS | 8:05 | 8:08 | 8:11 | 8:12 | 8:13 | 8:12 |
| LOUISVILLE, KY | 9:03 | 9:07 | 9:10 | 9:11 | 9:11 | 9:10 |
| MEMPHIS, TN | 8:11 | 8:15 | 8:18 | 8:19 | 8:20 | 8:18 |
| MIAMI, FL | 8:10 | 8:13 | 8:15 | 8:16 | 8:17 | 8:17 |
| MONTGOMERY, AL | 7:49 | 7:53 | 7:55 | 7:57 | 7:57 | 7:56 |
| NASHVILLE, TN | 8:01 | 8:05 | 8:08 | 8:09 | 8:09 | 8:08 |
| ORLANDO, FL | 8:21 | 8:24 | 8:26 | 8:28 | 8:28 | 8:28 |
| TAMPA, FL | 8:24 | 8:27 | 8:29 | 8:30 | 8:31 | 8:31 |
| WILMINGTON, NC | 8:21 | 8:24 | 8:27 | 8:28 | 8:29 | 8:28 |



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