

# T Southern DDINGS

OCTOBER 2022

## *The Ministry of* RISK MANAGEMENT

SPOTLIGHT ON DENNIS  
HERNANDEZ, M.D.

A PASSION  
FOR EDUCATION

MEETING THE  
IMMEDIATE NEEDS



# Do You Want Hope Overflowing?



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

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost,” Roman 15:13.

Some Christians have no plug in their engine of faith. Whatever is poured in runs out just as fast. They pour in the oil of peace, and while they are pouring, the powerhouse of faith runs sweetly. When they take the pitcher away, squeaks and rattles start up. They fill the tank with joy, and while the pump is working, the machinery of faith takes over. But, they send it down the road a few yards and soon are forced to run after it with a full can of gas.

What makes Christianity tick? What makes it take over and run life when it is successful? Or what causes it to fail? Paul saw the problem only too well. The two epistles to the Corinthians exemplify how the trip of faith can turn into a nightmarish round of spiritual tow trucks and journeys to utilize the Gospel repair kit.

His answers to this problem appear in all his epistles. In Romans they begin in chapter 12, verse 1: “I beseech you . . . present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . which is your reasonable service.” He continues in the next verse, “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

How does this work in practice? The Christian casts off the works of darkness (Romans 13:12). He makes no “provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (verse 14).

Paul puts confidence in the Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain the will of the follower of Jesus. The renewed mind submits to the will of the Spirit. It avoids the places of temptation.

Paul knew that human performance fluctuates. The life that seemed so full of good at one moment can fill with evil the next. The Holy Spirit will make sure the vessel of faith has a plug in it. Through the Spirit, the will retains joy and peace until the life fills and runs over.

To use yet another figure of speech, the greenest places in the desert surround a spring that has bubbled over. God needs your will to make His plan work. Joy, peace, and hope in your life exhibit to the world what Christ seeks to accomplish for it. The God who gives hope creates peace and joy, and they create the hope that overflows in blessing of the world. For the most part we can understand, appreciate, and highly esteem human love. But the depthless love of God extends far beyond all finite comprehension. The world, through our ministry of reconnection in the Southern Union, needs to hear and understand that God loves us despite us. We are admonished to share with people who are feeling unloved that God loves unconditionally.

“There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Savior’s love,” *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 600. 🕊



EDITOR R. Steven Norman III  
MANAGING EDITOR Irisene Douce  
CIRCULATION Yaima Cordova  
ADVERTISING Yaima Cordova  
LAYOUT O'lvia Woodard  
PRODUCTION College Press

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ADVENTHEALTH  
Elizabeth Camps  
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY  
Jennifer Audette  
CAROLINA  
Rebecca Carpenter  
FLORIDA  
Gladys Neigel  
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND  
Nathan Zinner  
GULF STATES  
Daniel Claudet  
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE  
Paola Mora Zepeda  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
Cheri Wilson  
SOUTH ATLANTIC  
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  
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117  
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE (615) 859-1391  
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088  
SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535  
P.O. Box 1688, Decatur, GA 30031-1688  
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

SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 116  
Number 10 | October 2022  
Published monthly by the Southern Union.  
Free to all members.  
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to  
Southern Tidings  
P.O. Box 923868  
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868  
EMAIL: idouce@southernunion.com



features

- 4 THE MINISTRY OF RISK MANAGEMENT
- 8 SPOTLIGHT ON DENNIS HERNANDEZ, M.D.
- 9 A PASSION FOR EDUCATION
- 10 MEETING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS
- 12 SOUTH CENTRAL HOLDS FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

news

- 14 ADVENTHEALTH
- 15 BREATH OF LIFE
- 16 CAROLINA
- 18 FLORIDA
- 20 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- 22 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- 25 SOUTH CENTRAL
- 26 SOUTH ATLANTIC
- 28 SOUTHEASTERN
- 30 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
- 31 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
- 32 OBITUARIES
- 36 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
- 38 EVENTS CALENDAR/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
SUNSET SCHEDULE

october 2022





# The Ministry of RISK MANAGEMENT

BY JAMES WINEGARDNER

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to reach the world with God's message of love. The ministry of Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM), on the other hand, is to support Seventh-day Adventist Church ministries with risk management and insurance, so that these ministries can better focus on their mission.

Unlike commercial insurance companies, ARM understands that *we are you*; we are the Adventist Church. Through our personal connections and staff, we have decades of experience, intimately knowing the Church we are a part of. In other words, we don't serve ministries face-to-face from the outside; we serve the church body from within, shoulder-to-shoulder.

I had the opportunity to join ARM in 2021 as president and chief executive officer, and I have had time to reflect on what makes our ministry and how we operate unique, the challenges facing risk management today, and what you can do to strengthen your ministry.

The origins of what is now Adventist Risk Management began with fires in Battle Creek, Michigan, around the turn of the 20th century. At the time, commercial insurance did not cover many of the losses related to exposures, which led to significant losses to the Adventist Church. In 1936, a church member named William Benjamin came up with

the idea of bringing risk management inside the Adventist Church, saving money, and helping further the Adventist mission. ARM accomplishes this through a captive insurance company, meaning we are owned by our insureds.

One of the most important aspects of ARM is that we see our work as a ministry in addition to a business. The core of what we do demands meeting legal and corporate industry standards with attention to regulatory compliance and efficiency. Ministry, on the other hand, hinges on spirituality, grace, and the value of putting the needy first. How we honor these two aspects makes us unique.

If your property is insured by a commercial insurer and there is a fire, the insurance company is going to look to see if there is any way they can conserve their funds. They are going to figure out if there is any language in the policy that

allows them to deny a claim. By bringing risk management inside the Adventist Church, we insure ourselves and we always look for ways to *pay* the claim because we are part of your ministry.

God provides church members from within the Adventist Church to serve you in navigating the problems of loss avoidance and recovery. Twenty years ago, when I was practicing law in Granbury, Texas, I came to ARM to serve as claims director before returning to practice law. For the last 10 years, I was in full-time pastoral ministry. Last year, I was invited to serve as president of Adventist Risk Management.

I believe God has called me and the rest of the ARM staff to use our God-given skills and professional experience to navigate these technical issues from inside the Adventist Church. ARM employs many professionals who come from the commercial insurance and finance industries.

We support these team members in bringing their technical expertise to better insure organizations according to our four values: integrity, compassion, excellence, and transparency. Because we are a faith-based company, we do not see a dichotomy between business and ministry. Instead, we seek to meet organizational needs with sensitivity to ethical and spiritual values.

We have to navigate an important tension between the economics of business



relationships and the generosity of ministry. ARM is not large enough to insure the World Church alone. We rely on many insurers in the market to provide limits in excess of those we can sustain internally. These relationships require that we operate with the constraints of written agreements.

Many times, people look to ARM to pay for things under our commercial excess and reinsurance policies. However, we are limited by the policies of insurance, and we can't always pay for everything that is asked. We are constrained



James Winegardner is the president and chief executive officer at Adventist Risk Management.



William Benjamin came up with the idea of bringing risk management inside the Adventist Church in 1936.

by those contracts, or we would not be able to maintain the business partnerships that allow us to fund the losses of the World Church. In this, it is important for us to live by our agreements.

One of the challenges facing the insurance industry is social inflation. In the 1970s when someone was mistreated, a jury might return a judgment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, or, occasionally, a million dollars. Because we have become more sensitized to mistreatment, these exposures are exponentially more expensive than they were even 10 or 15 years ago. ARM employs five skilled attorneys who defend the liability claims, and, when needed, we employ outside attorneys who can help us try these cases.

### The Importance of Risk Management

Our ARM team is doing its best to meet these challenges, but we can better serve the mission of the Adventist Church if we all do what we can, individually, to make our ministries safer. That is why prevention is so critical and why it is our mission to provide engaging and accessible educational resources for all of you to exercise good stewardship.

These challenges and risks can seem overwhelming at times. However, the very concept of insurance was designed to provide people responses to risk. When a church building is damaged or destroyed by a covered event, you have a complete package for its renewal and renovation. This gives you the assurance to focus on your ministry's mission.

Being prepared to face risk can be empowering for ministry leaders. For example, it is only natural to consider the weight of responsibility of taking a group of Pathfinders on an overnight campout. There is risk at every turn: driving to the campsite, building a campfire, the changing weather conditions, or the activities you participate in on the campout. At the same time, if we know the risks and have done our best to mitigate them, we can feel confident that

## FIVE WAYS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT MINISTRY:

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) seeks to foster safer ministries within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Here are five things your church can do to protect your ministry, avoid losses, and keep funds where they are most needed.

1. Start a safety officer program. A safety officer will handle procedures and self-inspection of facilities, respond to incidents, and conduct emergency planning and drills.
2. Create a risk management committee to assess risks and make safety recommendations to the church board. Designate leadership, inviting ministry representatives, facility managers, and your safety officer.
3. Assemble an emergency response team. Identify goals, plans, and responsibilities of each team member. Keep first-aid kits in key areas of the church and ensure adequate training of volunteers.
4. Ensure cybersecurity at your organizations. Secure your Wi-Fi and hardware with strong and unique passwords. Train yourself and your staff to pay attention to phishing emails and phone calls.
5. Conduct background screening for all volunteers working with children and educate yourself on the signs of child abuse. Set an example of vigilance and always ensure adequate supervision.

the blessing of being with God in nature outweighs the potential risks.

Protecting the vulnerable may be one of our most sacred responsibilities. When working with children it is imperative to take necessary precautions to protect



them. This includes having windows in doors, not letting one adult be alone with children, and providing adequate supervision at every activity and event. Our children, our vulnerable people in our church, need protection. Individual members can shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in their church, and we act with Jesus in watching for danger signs and reporting them when we see them.

We all know the saying, “If you see something, say something.” But, you need to know what to look for. Many churches have hazards that can create significant injuries to church members or damage our church facilities. All of us can play a part in noticing and reporting these hazards, such as improper extension cord use, loose handrails, bunched-up carpet, and debris that can fuel wildfires.

Noticing other risks can be more delicate but just as important. Are there adults in the church who are always alone with a child that is not theirs? Has a child’s behavior changed in a way that might indicate abuse?

ARM has developed many resources and training opportunities for ministry leaders, pastors, teachers, and safety officers. These resources are available free of charge, and everyone is encouraged to access them. ARM’s resources include forms, checklists, articles, videos, and webinars that make it easy to learn safety skills and take necessary precautions.

We must always ask ourselves: *Would I permit this at my house?* If not, then how

much less should it be in God’s house? Our churches should be models of safety, cleanliness, and appropriateness. Once you know what to be concerned about, you are free to focus on ministry in an environment that is safe for your community.

It is also important to be aware that every claim is a double loss: the first loss is the economic impact of the claim itself, and the second loss is the reputational impact for your church or school because of that claim. Whether it’s minor damage to a building or a child abuse case — which is the other end of the spectrum — people are going to hear about the claim and know about it. How did the Church prevent or address these issues? Reputational risk is always a factor, and that impacts the whole community.

We are a Church body made up of a variety of ministries — some, such as schools and Pathfinders, with enormous risk exposure. Nevertheless, collectively, we do a tremendously good job in protecting the vulnerable, and we see very few claims compared to other organizations. The more we work together, taking initiative to access and implement our awareness and safety resources, the better we advance God’s Kingdom and fulfill our mission to reach the world with the message of God’s love. 🕊

---

**James Winegardner** is the president and chief executive officer at Adventist Risk Management.

## SAFETY RESOURCES FOR YOUR MINISTRY:

At Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) we say, “Our ministry is to protect your ministry.” Here is a list of free resources ARM offers to help churches, schools, and ministries prioritize safety and manage risk.

Visit the safety resources page on our website to discover a huge selection of downloadable information sheets, videos, and articles on the risks facing Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, and ministries. We also offer self-inspection forms to help you identify risks. Our page: [adventistrisk.org/safetyresources](http://adventistrisk.org/safetyresources).

ARM’s Solutions e-newsletter is focused on “providing solutions to minimize risk.”™ The articles explore relevant risks facing Adventist ministries and offer practical advice for prioritizing safety. Check out all our articles online and subscribe today to receive new issues every two weeks: [adventistrisk.org/solutions](http://adventistrisk.org/solutions).

Safety Sabbath, held annually on the fourth Sabbath of March, is a day for churches to practice a safety drill and focus on emergency preparedness. Churches can register to receive new resources to promote safety awareness. Register your church for Safety Sabbath today: [safetysabbath.org](http://safetysabbath.org).

The Risk Training Center is an online learning platform offering self-paced courses on safety and risk management for Adventist ministries. Volunteers and safety officers can test and gauge their risk management preparedness with modules uniquely tailored for different ministry roles. Enroll for free today: [risktrainingcenter.org](http://risktrainingcenter.org).

# SPOTLIGHT ON DENNIS HERNANDEZ, M.D.

BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

*“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” - John Holmes*

A heart of service, a mindset of perseverance, and a deep connection to his Hispanic roots: these are the foundations that were essential while growing up, says Dennis Hernandez, M.D., chief executive officer at AdventHealth New Smyrna Beach in Florida.

“Growing up, my parents always wanted to give to those who were in need,” Hernandez recalls. “Even if they themselves did not have much.”

In fact, they would often recite Luke 3:10-11 with him: “... Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the Dominican Republic, these same foundations carried him throughout his life and career. “I always knew I wanted to be a physician. My parents say that ever since I could speak, I would say I wanted to be a doctor,” said Hernandez.

His passion for the medical field continued as he served in pediatric emergency medicine for 25 years, during a time when it was just starting to become a specialty in the United States. “There were not many pediatric emergency departments, and I had the honor of leading the opening of three separate pediatric emergency departments.”

In 2016, his skills as a physician were tested like never before when a 16-year-old boy, Sebastian DeLeon, came to the emergency department in Orlando, Florida, where Hernandez worked.



Dennis Hernandez, M.D., chief executive officer at AdventHealth New Smyrna Beach, Florida

After some tests, he discovered a rare brain-eating amoeba was ravaging the young man’s brain. Hernandez put him in a medically induced coma for a week. Thankfully, the boy survived and is one of only four people to survive out of 154 recorded cases at the time. Hernandez credits God for guiding him to the right tests needed to diagnose the condition in time to save Sebastian’s life.

Hernandez wanted to continue to make a difference and considered how he could make a greater impact. When the opportunity arose to become chief executive officer (CEO) of AdventHealth New Smyrna Beach, he felt blessed to take on the new role.

As CEO, Hernandez has continued his passion for service through the AdventHealth Global Missions, a program which partners with Seventh-day Adventist hospitals around the world to share resources, education, equipment, and materials. When a new partnership was created with a medical center in the Dominican

Republic, Hernandez jumped at the opportunity to be a co-executive sponsor.

In just the first few years of the partnership, Hernandez helped provide much-needed equipment, such as a CT scanner, hospital beds, and personal protective equipment. “It’s been an exciting journey so far,” he said.

Thinking back to the foundations that anchored and shaped his character early on, Hernandez is doing his best to pass them on to his children. He also prioritized service by taking his children on mission trips to instill in them the importance of serving others and giving back. In addition, he connected his children to his Hispanic heritage by teaching them about their family history and roots, and teaching them to speak Spanish.

Looking back on his career so far, Hernandez is humbled and grateful for the opportunities he has had to make an impact and to serve others. “I never thought a young boy like me would have the opportunity and honor to serve AdventHealth in this capacity, and have the opportunity to make a positive impact all the way back to where my roots come from.”

Hernandez looks forward to making a positive impact in both the local community and in the international partnership with the Dominican Republic. As he looks ahead, he is hopeful for the future of health care and fulfilling the mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ to the community. 📍

**Elizabeth Camps** is the senior stakeholder specialist for corporate communications at AdventHealth.

# A PASSION FOR EDUCATION

BY ANAYA MILLER

Volunteering at a Seventh-day Adventist school changed the course of Jasmine Johnson's career. Johnson, Ed.D., had earned an undergraduate degree in history and pre-law, as well as an M.B.A. While working in the corporate world, she felt drawn to teaching and took the opportunity to volunteer in a local classroom. She loved it so much that she decided to pursue a degree in education, earning her master of arts in teaching (MAT).

"The MAT program literally changed my life," Johnson said. "It gave me the skills and the tools that I needed to be a teacher. When I started teaching, it was so amazing; the students were awesome, and teaching was awesome."

Johnson continued her education, eventually earning her doctorate in education with an emphasis in educational leadership. She also continued teaching, and when Southern Adventist University launched its new online MAT program, she was thrilled to join the team as program director and associate professor.

"We are so excited about this degree program and about having Jasmine here on campus," said Tammy Overstreet, Ph.D., dean of Southern's School of Education and Psychology. "Her passion for education is contagious."

Because the MAT program allows students to pursue a degree in teaching without having previously studied education, Johnson looks forward to helping people make the kind of fulfilling career change that she did. She also anticipates the program helping to address the na-



Jasmine Johnson, Ed.D., brings a passion for education to her role as director and professor in Southern Adventist University's new Master of Arts in Teaching program.

CALVIN SERBAN

tionwide teacher shortage.

"For example, teacher aides, substitutes, and local hires are already in schools, but are not certified and aren't working full time," Johnson said. "They don't have the certification or prior education courses that they need, but through the MAT degree, they can take on that full-time goal."

Arne Nielsen, Ph.D., vice president for education in the North American Division, is also excited for the effect this new degree may have.

"The teacher shortage is real, large, and growing in both public and private sectors," Nielsen said. "NAD Education is thankful for the collaboration that is happening across our territory as solutions are emerging. The MAT program at Southern appears to be one solution to the teacher shortage conundrum."

Taught completely online, Southern's new MAT program can be completed anywhere in the United States; the University will help participants arrange field training in person at a school near them. Additionally, options are available for students to begin working as teachers while completing their clinical hours.

"We believe that there are individuals in our churches and spheres of influence who feel called to impact the future by working with young people," Overstreet said. "This degree program can help such individuals become effective educators through the convenience of online learning. They can then answer their callings and simultaneously meet the needs of schools that are desperately seeking quality educators."

To learn more about Southern's MAT program, visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies). 📍

Anaya Miller is a sophomore fine arts major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

# MEETING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

John Smith\* was scrolling through his Facebook feed on Friday morning, July 29, 2022, when he noticed a series of posts made by some of his old high school classmates. The posts detailed the damage that ensued from the flash flooding that occurred in eastern Kentucky late Wednesday evening and into Thursday morning, July 27 and 28. Smith, who currently does cross-cultural work with Adventist Frontier Missions, was heartbroken at the images of his old hometown: flooded homes, damaged roads, totaled cars, and displaced families filled his Facebook newsfeed.

The following week, Smith was scheduled to fly abroad for work, but decided to travel to Hazard, Kentucky, instead. He felt called to help the eastern Kentucky community as they began the recovery process.

“[Hazard] is a small-town community,” Smith said. “They are used to getting two to three floods a year, and people know how to deal with that. But this flood was very different. It hit them off guard, and the amount of destruction caused was just unimaginable. No one has ever seen anything like this.”

The National Weather Service reported that the flooding was “historically unheard of,” with an estimated 14 inches of rainfall. At least 38 people were killed, and others are still missing.

## The Church Steps Up

In the weeks following the flash floods, waves of Adventist volunteers from across the country arrived in eastern Kentucky to lend a helping hand.

With the financial support of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, these individuals were able to work on homes, schools, and churches in the area.

“I’ve always been very driven to help people whenever I see a need,” said BreeAn Adams, a member of the Ooltewah, Tennessee, Church. Adams took six days off work to be able to help in Kentucky. “For me, I may not be able to give them money or a new house, but I can at least go and show them that I care.”

The work completed by the volunteers varied — mucking houses; removing drywall, ceilings, and paneling; repairing driveways; handing out medicine; and or-

ganizing Points of Distribution. Some Adventist schools, including Madison, Tennessee, Academy, also joined the disaster relief efforts. More than 100 Adventist volunteers helped in the relief effort, and almost half of them were students.

Johnny Rodman, a member at the Oasis, Tennessee, Church and disaster relief field coordinator, said the work in the area has been especially difficult because of the way the houses are spread out. Rodman has been an active volunteer with the Conference, and aided in much of the relief efforts in Mayfield, Kentucky, following last year’s tornado. At Hazard, he has helped find



Volunteers pose after a day of work in eastern Kentucky. Pictured are Mike Hewitt (back row, left), BreeAn Adams, Britni Conrad, Daniel Bennett (front row, left), Wendel Adams, and Daniel Tanksley.

PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

accommodations for the volunteers, created relationships with the local officials, and found leads for families who needed help.

“Once word got out that we were trustworthy, people just started calling in,” Rodman said. “They are so humbled by the little work we do. Some houses had 12 inches of mud in them ... when we came in and pulled out their possessions and cleaned out the mud, it gave them a new hope.”

Ed Lynn, a member of the Highland, Tennessee, Church, said he was touched by the response of the affected communities. According to him, the victims themselves are stepping up to help their neighbors. Through a series of connections, volunteers linked with a community member who lent his horses to distribute medicine in areas where the roads were washed out.

“Experiences like this strengthen a person’s awareness to how God is working with people today,” Lynn said. “He works things out so we can meet the right people at the right time, and then help others that we didn’t even know about.”

### The Work Ahead

Smith has postponed his work trip until October. He continues to monitor his Facebook feed to find updates on the situation in eastern Kentucky, and information about individuals who may need help. One day, he came across a post from a friend:

“If you haven’t been in [the affected communities] firsthand, you can’t really appreciate what has happened here. Everyone stay the course because it is up to us local people to fix it back. We are not going to get much help when the new wears off.”

It is estimated that it will take years for the affected communities to recover. Smith’s call to the Church is to continue helping eastern Kentucky beyond a short period of time.

“We have an opportunity to show not only that we care enough to be out here for a couple of weeks, but we care enough



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

**Wendel Adams takes out a muddy couch pillow from a flooded basement. Following the catastrophic flash flood in late July, more than 100 Adventist volunteers arrived in eastern Kentucky to help the community.**

to keep on supporting this community on the long-term,” Smith said. “When we look at Jesus and His example, He was always going out of his way to help people ... Sometimes the best way to share the Gospel is just showing up and meeting people’s immediate needs.”

### Continuing to Help

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is currently working to provide Community Emergency Response Team classes. Rodman said he wants to see more people involved in this ministry.

“This disaster has been very different, and I am afraid that in the next couple of years, the number of volunteers is going to die out,” Rodman said. “It is going to be a big struggle. We are going to need more hands and more prayers. But my hope is that, as a Church, we can continue to be a blessing.”

If you’d like to volunteer at Hazard, Kentucky, contact us at 615-420-8148.

*\*The name of the source has been changed due to safety concerns in his location of work. 📍*

**Paola Mora Zepeda** is the media ministries director at Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

### How Are Your Donations Used? Recovery Takes More Than a Few Months.

Heavy rainfall in Waverly and McEwen, Tennessee, resulted in a widespread flash flood across the area on August 21, 2021. A year later, the local community is still recovering from the disaster. This past July, The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference partnered as financial sponsor with 2serve, a disaster training and response team based in Collegedale, Tennessee. Together, the two organizations were able to continue reparations at the McEwen Hope Center Ministries, a shelter supporting women battling addictions. On the latest project, volunteers were able to install rubber safety pallets on the ground cover of the shelter’s playground and buy new playground equipment. “This was an important project because when the kids come to visit their moms in the shelter, they do not have much to do,” said Jim Ingersoll, 2Serve program director. “[The McEwen Hope Center Ministries] is sustained by donations, so taking care of small details like this makes a huge difference.” The Conference’s financial contribution was made possible due to donations made to its disaster relief program. The donations are used to support volunteers, and, even months after the original tragedy, continue to sponsor the recovery efforts. “After the original response following a disaster, communities start receiving less and less help,” said Mike Hewitt, Conference vice president for administration. “But it takes years before things get back to normal. Our goal as a Conference is to continue showing up, and showing God’s love throughout the entire recovery process.”

# SOUTH CENTRAL HOLDS FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

BY BENIA JENNINGS AND ROGER R. WADE

South Central Conference held its fifth Quinquennial and 26th Constituency Meeting on Sunday, July 24, 2022. Nearly 700 delegates assembled at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama, to discuss the business of the Church. Due to pandemic restrictions in recent years, the session, initially scheduled for 2021, was moved to 2022 by a vote from the Conference committee to allow for in-person meetings.

Setting the tone for the constituency session, Roger Bernard, president of the Central States Conference, led out with a powerful devotional titled “Deep Waters,” highlighting the Church’s bend toward self-sufficiency and desperate need for total dependence on Jesus Christ.

As the meeting progressed and the reports for the president, executive secretary, and chief financial officer were presented, Benjamin Jones Jr., South Central president, described the two realities he credits with helping to shape his understanding of God’s revelation of end-time events. “The first reality is that I’m convinced that we are living in the closing period of the great controversy between Jesus and Satan, which will usher in the second coming of Christ .... The second reality is that at the same time, God has promised a movement of the power of God upon the Earth through the working of the Holy Spirit among the people of God that will surpass the Pentecostal



Roger Bernard, Central States Conference president, presents the devotional message.

anointing of the first-century church,” he said. In her financial report, Sonja Crayton, chief financial officer, shared South Central’s successes through the COVID-19 pandemic and its bright future ahead. “Although marred by unusual catastrophies, disasters, and unanticipated circumstances that impacted hundreds of families, this quinquennium immortalized God’s intervention in the lives of His children, His faithfulness in keeping every promise, and His tender leading in the affairs of His church — the apple of His eye,” said Crayton.

Delegates voted to re-elect Benjamin Jones Jr. as Conference president, and



Benjamin Jones Jr. and his wife, Carol Jones (center), stand with the Southern Union leadership and their wives: David Freedman (left), Southern Union treasurer; Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary; Bonnie Davidson; Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president; Yolanda Smith; and Dave Colburn, Southern Union undertreasurer.

Sonja Crayton as chief financial officer. Vandeon Griffin, D.Min., was elected as the executive secretary. The delegates also voted for Conference directors and associates, and elected an Executive Committee to serve for the next five years. As Larry Bailey, executive secretary, steps away from his post, he expressed his gratitude to the constituents and his administrative colleagues. "...to the constituency, it has been a privilege and honor to have served these past six months as executive secretary," he said.

As the constituents were given opportunities to discuss and vote on important Conference business, a first-of-its-kind event took place. A motion brought from the floor allowed the suspension of the General Conference rules that permit a single name to be presented by the nominating committee. The motion (which

pertained only to the Office of the President) was passed by the delegates on the floor. Three names were presented and voted, and Benjamin Jones Jr. was selected by an overwhelming majority as president. This session also included changes to the Conference bylaws. After a period of discussion, the delegates voted to accept many of the proposed changes recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Some of the items voted include the following: The president and executive secretary will be elected quinquennially and serve no more than two full successive five-year terms. The chief financial officer, directors of departments, associates, services, and members of the Executive Committee, Constitution, and Bylaws Committee, and associate Board members will be elected quinquennially. The purpose of these changes is to provide clarity and to serve better the current needs of South Central's churches and constituents.

In response to his re-election as president, Jones commented, "My heart is full right now, and I want to thank you for trusting me to be your leader for the next quinquennium. I love you with all my heart. I'm praying for you; I know you've prayed for me. Together we're going to get near home and bring Jesus home. God bless you. The choice of this year's theme, 'Nearing Home,' reminds us of

the importance of finishing the Work as we draw nearer to Christ's return. We are grateful for what God has done amidst the changes and challenges in ministry in recent years, and are excited to see what He has in store for South Central Conference. May God continue to bless and guide our leaders as they share the Gospel in this part of His vineyard. 📍

**Benia Jennings** is the communication director at the Allegheny West Conference.

**Roger R. Wade** is the communication director at the South Central Conference.



TAMAR POOLE

Delegates register for the Session.



TAMAR POOLE

Delegates at the Session held at Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama

## VOTED DEPARTMENTAL LEADERS

The delegates asked the following individuals to return and serve as departmental directors for the next quinquennium:

- **Barbara Barnes**, Adventist Community Services co-director
- **Lillie Buckingham**, Adventist Community Services co-director
- **Furman Fordham II**, church ministries and mission development
- **Roger R. Wade**, communication and public relations
- **Dimitri Scavella**, family health education services (FHES) and publishing
- **Kennedy Luckett**, ministerial
- **Izean Celeve**, ministerial associate

The delegates voted to elect the following individuals to serve for the next quinquennium:

- **Bryant Stewart**, Adventist youth ministries and National Service Organization
- **Gabriel Agramonte**, Adventist youth ministries associate
- **Jeffrey Watson**, church ministries and mission development associate
- **Toussaint Williams, Ph.D.**, ministerial associate
- **Cristian Borbon**, ministerial associate, multicultural ministries.

*Additional positions were referred to the Executive Committee.*

# Adventist Church and AdventHealth Leaders Meet for Mission, Leadership, Design Thinking Discussions

Leaders from the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and AdventHealth met in Orlando, Fla., on Thursday, July 28, 2022, for a day of vision sharing, design thinking, and collaborative planning for the future.

“While our individual organizations have different endeavors, our principles are the same,” said Terry Shaw, president and CEO of AdventHealth, who hosted the event at AdventHealth’s corporate headquarters. “Today, we are here to discuss how we think about leadership, building teams, and being more effective in our markets.”

Following a morning worship and a walk-through sculpture installation depicting key moments in Jesus’ ministry, Shaw opened the day with an overview of the legacy and mission of AdventHealth. David Banks, senior executive vice president and chief strategy and organizational transformation officer, joined Shaw to share an overview of AdventHealth’s vision roadmap through 2030.

“We’re really excited for this opportunity to share how we’re translating the mission of ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ’ into our communities, and to share how we have structured our brand transition,” said Banks. “I’m also excited to hear from [NAD president] Elder Bryant about the vision of the NAD, and how they’re thinking about their communities and the churches they serve.”

Participants had the opportunity to learn about AdventHealth’s Leadership Institute, and the value it provides to



Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president and CEO, speaks during the discussions, while G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, looks on.

current and emerging leaders across the health system to help them grow professionally, expand their leadership skills, and better align with AdventHealth’s faith-based approach to healing. The delegates also toured the Leadership Institute to gain a better understanding of the facilities and how the institute operates.

In the afternoon, G. Alexander Bryant, president of the Adventist Church in North America, shared an overview of the vision, goals, and strategy of the Church for the coming years.

“Our theme for this visit is ‘Together in Mission,’ and the three strategic focus areas are multiplying the ministry of Jesus, effectively using media, and mentorship of the next generation of leaders for the Church,” said Bryant.

The group also toured the Advent-

Health Design Center, which brings together teams from across the organization to apply design thinking to solve key issues. Leaders participated in a design thinking session to discuss key ideas and priorities of the Adventist Church.

“We really appreciate AdventHealth and the work they do, and the ministry they do for Christ,” said Bryant. “We also appreciate the organization and how they are on the cutting edge in so many ways. We’re hoping to extract some principles that we can apply to our organization and to the North American Division Church so that we can grow and learn, and we’re hoping to find other ways to better collaborate with AdventHealth.”

BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

# Breath of Life Holds “All the Way In” Revival

The Breath of Life Ministries “All the Way In” Revival ended with the joyous sound of praise as 54 individuals were baptized in Charlotte, N.C., on Sabbath, July 23, 2022. The meeting in Charlotte was in person, but was also streamed online throughout the South Atlantic Conference as well as to the Breath of Life worldwide streaming platforms. Countless more decisions were made online for Bible study, baptism, and to follow Christ all the way.

The two-week, city-wide evangelistic effort was the first one led by Debleaire Snell, pastor and Breath of Life speaker/director. “All the Way In” was the theme, which challenged those who attended to go deeper in their walk with Christ. The meeting was co-sponsored by the South Atlantic Conference, under the direction of William Winston, president of South Atlantic, and was held at Trinity Worship Center, whose pastor is Daniel Kelly. While the nightly meetings were at Trinity, the revival was a city-wide effort, and area pastors and churches worked together to pull off the evangelistic endeavor.

“This revival was a demonstration of what happens when committed servants focus on the mission of Jesus Christ. The Charlotte ministry volunteers worked with an enthusiasm and an eagerness that was contagious,” said Snell, who preached for 10 nights during the meetings. “We experienced the visitation of God’s Spirit on a nightly basis.”

During the first week, Kurt Carr, gospel music recording artist, was the musical guest, which helped to generate a huge turnout. The second week, Geoffrey Golden led out in a season of worship, which prepared the hearts of those who were listening. Dinner was served nightly at 6 p.m., feeding on aver-

age 300 guests. The children’s ministries provided programming for children ages 4-12, and youth ministries catered to the teens with activities and discussions specific to their needs.

During the final nights of the revival, Snell continued to pray for and call those who needed salvation to come forward for baptism. There were several nights where weather threatened the attendance and flooded the roof of the tent where the food was served, but God continued to move and the people kept coming out. On the final Sabbath of the meeting, the baptisms took place and there was a collective joyful sound in the sanctuary. Among that group of 54 baptisms was a family of eight and a couple who would be married the following day.

“One of the highlights of this meeting was getting into the pool to baptize the souls we had been laboring for in prayer,” said Snell. “The individuals that were won to Christ were the result of the moving of God’s Spirit, not human ingenuity or gifting. It was one of

my great joys to work with the Charlotte area pastors and churches to help grow God’s work. 🙏

BY GIANNA SNELL



Debleaire Snell, pastor and Breath of Life’s speaker/director, preaches his final sermon during the “All the Way In” Revival.

GIANNA SNELL



Baptismal candidates prepare for baptism.

GIANNA SNELL

# Carolina Conference Holds 43rd Constituency Session

The 43rd Constituency Session of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at Nosoca Pines Ranch outside Liberty Hill, S.C. The theme adopted for this meeting was “Loving God, Serving Others.”

This session was different than the past due to COVID-19. It had to be postponed a year; and, the number of attendees was reduced to only those who needed to be present according to the Conference constitution and bylaws, which aided in social distancing measures.

The Carolina Conference session is held over a long weekend with a notable, dynamic, devotional speaker. This maintains a focus on having the presence of the Holy Spirit’s presence during the proceedings as church business is discussed and voted on. This year the delegates were blessed by the spiritual guidance of Mark Finley, pastor and evangelist. With each of his five presentations, he brought home the importance of the presence of the Holy Spirit. His prayers petitioned for God to send the Comforter to surround the meeting.



COURTNEY HEROD AND REBECCA CARPENTER

Chad Grundy (back row, left), Carolina Conference undertreasurer; Leslie Louis, Carolina president; Rick Russell, vice president for finance/treasurer; Gary Moyer, vice president for administration/secretariat; Amy Grundy (front row, left); Carole Louis; Kathy Russell; and Lisa Moyer

It was a time of looking back and projecting forward, anticipating the continuing direction of the Lord. Even during questions regarding policies and procedures, it never felt as if the Holy Spirit had left the room.

The delegates completed all the agenda items, re-electing the Conference officers, directors, and associate directors; electing members to serve on the Carolina Conference executive committee; and voting on minor updates to the constitution and bylaws. This was all completed by sundown on Friday, leaving the remainder of the weekend free for spiritual growth.

The Conference administration’s goals for the next quinquennium are published in the president’s report of the Issue 2, 2022 edition of the Carolina Action magazine, available at [www.carolinaaction.org](http://www.carolinaaction.org). Mark Finley’s messages can be found on all major podcasting platforms by searching “Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.”



COURTNEY HEROD



REBECCA CARPENTER

Mark Finley, pastor/evangelist, was the weekend devotional speaker.

BY COURTNEY HEROD AND REBECCA CARPENTER

# Pathfinder and Adventurer Leadership Training Weekend

Around 500 Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders from 72 clubs gathered at Nosoca Pines Ranch August 26-28, 2022, for the yearly Pathfinder and Adventure Leadership Convention.

The smiles on their faces, despite the 90-degree weather, the occasional rain, and the mile-long line for food, proved that they are indeed Pathfinders at heart. Yalanda Williams, Pathfinder secretary and treasurer from Charlotte Sharon Church, has come to these meetings for the past eight years. She feels that there is no hardship that could take away the joy of being together with other leaders, because this is what being a Pathfinder is. Williams also says that since this is the first meeting since 2019, it makes it extra special to see old friends.

With presentations on team building, budgeting, and recruiting, the leaders were able to choose specific classes that best fit the needs of their clubs. In total, there were 46 different classes available, divided in six tracks that catered to both English and Spanish speakers.

Leaders were able to not only learn vital information to use on their clubs, but they were also able to network with other leaders and exchange ideas.

Brooklynn Bradburn, Adventurer director at Wilkesboro Adventist Church, said that attending helped broaden the vision for her club. It also helped her realize that she is not alone in the struggles and challenges she faces in her club.

Participants attended three general sessions presented by Tracy Woods, North American Division director of youth and young adult ministries. Woods focused on Acts 2:17, explaining the intergenerational call and how the children and young adults are essential parts in preaching the Gospel.



HENRIQUE GOMES

Adventurer class



HENRIQUE GOMES

Pathfinder class with Tracy Wood



HENRIQUE GOMES

Ron Whitehead, NAD director of the Center for Youth Evangelism

For this quinquennium, the Carolina Conference is focusing on discipleship as one of their goals, and there are no better groups than the Pathfinders and Adventurers clubs to carry this task. Hector Gonzales, youth and young adult director for the Carolina Conference, says, “The Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs are one of the greatest evangelism tools for children and youth. Pathfinders and Adventurers has been, is, and will always be one of the

best ways to disciple our children and youth.”

By Sunday, the classes were over, but many stayed by to work on drills and listen to Ron Whitehead, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE), who came from Berrien Springs, Mich., to promote the International Pathfinder Camporee in 2024 in Gillette, Wyo. 📍

BY HENRIQUE GOMES

# Dunnellon Welcomes New Members



JACKIE LOBBAN

A large group were baptized at the close of a prophecy seminar conducted by Dakota Day, evangelist with Amazing Facts. Kneeling in front of the group are Dakota Day (left), evangelist, and Robert Ramoutar, head elder for Dunnellon Company.

Outdoors under a spacious portico, Dunnellon Company held a baptism on June 18, 2022, to conclude a prophecy seminar conducted by Dakota Day, evangelist with Amazing Facts Ministries. With extreme joy and thanksgiving, guests and members viewed 11 individuals give their hearts to the Lord in baptism, as well as two people be rebaptized.

With more zip codes included in the mailings of announcements for the prophecy seminar entitled “The Chronicles of Prophecy,” there was an even larger number of guests attending than three years ago for the first Amazing Facts meetings held at the church.

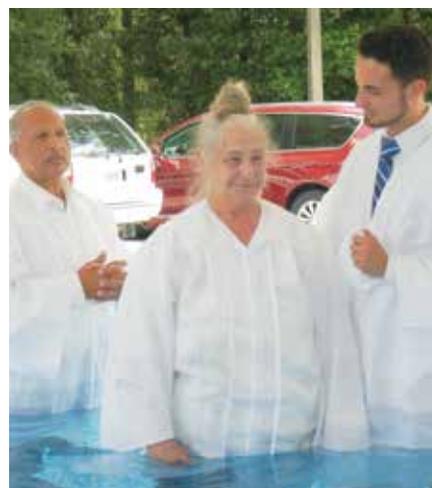
Robert Ramoutar, head elder, and many of the members worked hard with pre-meeting programs such as a free gospel concert performed by Steve Darmody, a free food give away on the second

and fourth Tuesday of each month, and a picnic for the community that was held under the church portico.

Baptismal candidates had many stories — such as Barbara Dixon who had attended many churches in her life but never had found one she felt taught all the Bible. Through studying the Bible and history books, she realized the day of worship had been changed. When she came to the church to pick up food for some of her senior neighbors, she met a church member who invited her to church. Dixon started attending several weeks before the meetings, and attended every meeting of the prophecy seminar.

Please pray that each new member will remain faithful until the Lord comes again. 🕊

BY GLENDA BATES



GLENDA BATES

After a lifetime of searching Scripture, Barbara Dixon felt she had found a church that taught all of the Bible, and she was the first one to be baptized. Assisted by Robert Ramoutar (left), head elder, Dixon was baptized by Dakota Day, evangelist.

# Lake Worth Pastor Earns Evangelism Award

**R**olando Morgado, pastor of Lake Worth, Jupiter Spanish, and Northwood Spanish churches in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area, returned from the Called Pastors' Family Convention in Lexington, Ky., with a nice nest egg for his ideas for evangelism.

This second-place award of \$10,000 was part of a North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Association evangelism shark tank competition for innovative soul-winning ideas from pastors. Morgado presented two ideas Lake Worth Church is putting into practice in order to reach the community.

**1. Homeless Project:** The church, along with another congregation in the community, serves a hot meal every Tuesday. A trailer also provides facilities for a shower and laundry. Hair cuts, per-

sonal items, and second-hand clothing are made available.

**2. Soccer Academy:** The church is converting a patio on church property into a small soccer field to have a home for the soccer academy run by church members for children 5-10 years of age.

"If a method doesn't work, you do away with that method, and you bring in a method that helps you reach people," said José Cortes Jr., associate director of evangelism for NAD Ministerial Association.

"The 15 presentations helped each person see the amazing things others are doing to reach souls for God," said Morgado. "Judges and NAD leaders also helped participants with comments and support to grow and do better with projects to impact the community." 📌



Celebrating an earned award for evangelism funding at the Called Pastors' Family Convention was the Rolando Morgado family: wife Nacira (left), oldest son Alejandro, youngest son Ethan, and Rolando Morgado.

# Publishing, Health Ministries Director Ordained

**L**es McCoy's ordination was part of the yearly MagaBook banquet on August 3, 2022. It seemed only fitting for this service surrounded by dearly loved students to be the venue.

McCoy grew up in upstate New York, attended the Methodist church, and graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in forestry. A stint of six years followed in the Air Force as a pilot with involvement in several missions in the evacuation of Saigon in 1975.

Evangelistic meetings at Charlotte Adventist Church led to baptism in December 1979. McCoy began keeping Sabbath and gave up a desire to fly with the airlines af-

ter having to resign a position with the Air Guard, and being fired from another flying job because of not working on Sabbath.

Soon God led to the literature evangelist ministry, which became a life-long passion. McCoy canvassed and led in full-time work until 2003 when asked to lead the student work. During this time, a master's in pastoral ministry was completed from Andrews University, and the Florida Conference voted McCoy to be publishing and health ministries director in 2016.

"I thank God for this journey," says McCoy, and I also thank Him for this special honor of ordination."

"Family 3" (as they are fondly known)

consists of Les McCoy, wife Barbara, and daughter Lauren. 📌



Les and Barbara McCoy

# Revision Atlanta Organizes with Church Status

The members of the Atlanta Revision Company celebrated being formally organized as a church on July 23, 2022. Despite delays due to the pandemic, members stayed focused on their mission and persevered to achieve this milestone.

In 2009, a group of primarily young adults from the Marietta Church started the Atlanta Fusion Mission Group with the goal of reaching other young adults in the Atlanta area. Unbeknownst at the time, a family who started attending would later come back as leaders in the church.

While working as a professor at Oakwood University, Wesley Knight, D.Min., and his family attended Fusion. During his hiatus from pastoral ministry, Knight says the Lord gave him a vision for a church that kept Gospel mission at the forefront of ministry while using a non-traditional approach.

“This church, that Jesus inspired in my mind, would be a church that wouldn’t be different for difference’s sake, but would be different based on its unapologetic passion for the Gospel of Jesus and its impact on the community,” says Knight.

During a conversation with Georgia-Cumberland Conference administration, Knight shared his vision for this type of church in the Atlanta area. Knight started a Bible study group, believing that God would provide an opportunity to start a church based on his vision. However, God had a slightly different plan. Knight became the part-time pastor of Fusion on November 10, 2018, tasked with carrying out the vision he had shared with the Conference.

Despite having challenges along the way, the church plant thrived and changed its name to Atlanta Revision. When Knight started leading the small



NATHAN ZINNER

Atlanta Revision members sign their names to become official members of Revision Atlanta Church. The church started in 2009 as Atlanta Fusion Mission Group, and in the last few years has experienced exponential growth.



congregation, there were 20-30 regular attendees. Since that time, the group has experienced exponential growth, eventually outgrowing a 600-seat sanctuary in east Atlanta prior to COVID-19.

Knight credits the Revision community for rallying and adjusting during the pandemic. The church launched its online presence and live streamed services, gaining 1,000 live viewers and thousands more from around the world watching

during the week. Members maintained their mission focus through projects such as providing funding for Atlanta Legal Aid, raising money for clean water in Africa, and helping 20,000 people with their bills and needs. Through their dedication, the church continued to grow through baptism and profession of faith.

“[Members] believe the church is not a building, the church is a people who are saved, sanctified by the Holy Ghost,”

proclaims Knight. “We celebrate what God has done.”

During their church organization service on July 23, members had even more reason to celebrate as 36 new members joined through transfer of membership and profession of faith along with three additional baptismal candidates.

Audrey French, one of the new members, credits Revision for filling a spiritu-

al need during the pandemic.

“I was going through a really difficult time,” says French. “Faith seemed in short supply, and hope seemed in short supply.”

Knight’s sermon, “Have a Productive Year,” changed the way French understood Christianity to be and reintroduced her to a God who is more loving, kind, and tender than French had imagined before.

“To me, Revision means a resound-

ing hope that God is on our side,” exclaims French.

While Revision has a strong online presence, they continue to find ways to reach their community in Atlanta through outreach, and projects with a passion for unapologetically sharing the Gospel through methods that help people see and experience Jesus. 📌

## Group Shares Jesus in the Community

The “Jesus is the Answer” evangelistic meeting was the culmination of a summer-long outreach effort of the Forsyth New Life Mission in Forsyth, Ga., to reach the community with the three angels’ messages. Building upon the work that was done in the community during the past several years, the two-week tent meeting was yet another attempt to display the love of Jesus to the Forsyth community.

It all began with the health and wellness weekend in mid-June. Through the door-to-door outreach, the community was invited to learn of the natural means that could help them to experience optimum health. Then there was the canvassing by the students of Southern Adventist University and Antillean Adventist University. This was followed by Vacation Bible School at an apartment complex in the community. The “Jesus is the Answer” evangelistic meeting was promoted throughout all these activities in addition to direct mailings, a billboard, and personal efforts by the members of the Forsyth New Life Mission.

The small group of dedicated believers worked tirelessly to ensure that the Jesus is the Answer meeting was a success. And, indeed, it was. For the first week, Aubrey Duncan, lay pastor of the Forsyth New Life Mission, shared with the guests truly who Jesus is, why they can



The Forsyth New Life Mission, Forsyth, Ga., holds Vacation Bible School at an apartment complex in the community. This is one of several methods the church uses to display the love of Jesus and connect with members of their community.

trust Him, and that He is the Only Answer to all their needs and challenges. For the second week the Sabbath, the state of the dead and the prophetic insights of Daniel and Revelation were presented. On hearing these truths, one visitor remarked, “I have been a Christian for a long time, but I have never heard teachings like these.”

Each night, the guests were blessed with special music and health lectures. They were not only edified by the messages and enjoyed the music, but also savored the fellowship lunches on the two

Sabbaths of the meetings. On the final day all were blessed with the message of the Blessed Hope, the soon coming of the Lord and Savior. In the end, three guests made commitments for further study and baptism.

The members of the Forsyth New Life Mission continue to impact their community with their work of lifting Jesus as the Only Answer. 📌

BY AUBREY DUNCAN

# Thang Mang Ordained at Bowling Green Zomi Church

The Sabbath of July 23 was extra special for the Bowling Green Zomi Church in Kentucky. The pews were packed, and a joyful atmosphere filled the room as church members celebrated two very special occasions.

By the grace of God, three individuals accepted the gift of salvation through the public display of baptism. A huge reason to celebrate! The Bowling Green Zomi Church pastor, Thang Mang, also renewed his commitment to God by being re-baptized in front of his congregation.

Following the baptisms, friends, some who came from out of state, joined the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference administrative officers for the ordination of Mang. It was a beautiful service, and many praised God for calling Mang to the Gospel ministry.

## About Thang Mang, Pastor

Thang Mang was born to a Seventh-day Adventist family in a small village in Burma called Kapteel. Growing up, he attended Adventist schools and later went to the Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary.

Mang felt God calling him to ministry three separate times throughout his life. The first call was through his parents; as



Steve Haley, Thang Mang, Joel Sutherland, and George Crumley pose together following Thang Mang's ordination.

PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

a child he wanted to be a politician, but, hoping that he would go into ministry, Mang's parents sent him to an Adventist academy. He resisted that call, and after high school graduation he transferred to a public university to study politics.

As Mang finished his first semesters in the public college, the Burma military began shutting down all public schools. Adventist schools remained open. Around

the same time, God gave Mang a dream where he felt God calling him to go and study in the Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary. Mang completed his B.A. in religion, and served at the Valvum Church in Burma before moving to the United States and changing careers.

The final call took place while Mang worked as a businessman in Miami, Fla. After working for 14 years, Mang started helping the refugee ministry of the North American Division. Six months later, after intensive prayer, Mang finally decided to accept God's call and become a full-time minister.

Mang has served at four churches throughout his life: the Valvum Church in Burma, the First Burmese Christian Church in Florida, Miami Zomi Church in Florida, and most recently the Bowling Green Zomi Church. Mang loves playing soccer, volleyball, and tennis. Mang says he is influenced by the stories of Joseph and Moses, and takes the promise of Isaiah 54:10 to heart. 🕊



Pastors and elders pray over Thang Mang during his ordination service. Mang currently serves as a pastor at the Bowling Green Zomi, Ky., Church.

PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



Steve Haley prays over baptism candidates at the Bowling Green Zomi Church. On Saturday, July 23, 2022, these three individuals accepted the gift of salvation through the public display of baptism. Bowling Green Zomi Church pastor, Thang Mang, also renewed his commitment to God by being re-baptized in front of his congregation.

PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

# Women Visit Northern Ireland for Unique Women's Retreat

**P**aul writes in I Thessalonians 5:24, “The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.”

No one could ever have imagined how God would bring women from Kentucky and Tennessee across the Atlantic Ocean to join women in northern Ireland for a special women's retreat. The connection between this unique group started back in May of 2021, when Pam Petersen, missionary in northern Ireland, contacted Gail McKenzie, Conference women's ministries director, to speak at a virtual retreat with the Irish women. The original assigned speaker had canceled, and McKenzie was happy to fill in.

Together, the group chose the theme, “Higher Up and Deeper In,” a study encouraging members to dive deeper into the Bible with the goal of understanding better the true picture of God. The women were excited and requested to continue the virtual Bible study, which they did in the fall of 2021.

McKenzie and Petersen were grateful for the forging of new friendships and started considering the possibility of bringing the women to a retreat at Castlewellaan, Ireland, in June 2022. There had not been a women's retreat in northern Ireland for more than 20 years, so Petersen realized this would be a wonderful opportunity for the Irish women to connect with other Adventist women and be encouraged in their walk with God.

As enthusiasm grew about the potential of what God could do, it was decided to let God lead, and He did!

Thirty-six women from Kentucky-Tennessee flew across the Atlantic Ocean to Dublin, Ireland, on June 15, 2022. From there, they began their trip to Castlewellaan for the retreat. They enjoyed delicious vegan and vegetarian meals, which was always accompanied



**Libby Knight learns to make Irish soda bread. While visiting Ireland, the Kentucky-Tennessee women also went on hikes, took tours, and visited wool factories.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL MCKENZIE

see. The group spent their days singing, praying, sharing, hugging, and laughing. Genuine love grew and flourished in the few short days they spent together.

Among other activities, the women also spent their week learning how to make Irish soda bread, taking tours, going on hikes, and visiting a wool factory. They spent the last Sabbath at the Derry Church in Londonderry, Ireland. The women filled seats and presented the worship service, which forever sealed hearts in anticipation of what Heaven will be like.

The impact that the American and Irish women had on each other cannot be fully described in words, but in actions. Plans are in place to continue to connect through Bible study, social media, and a possible return trip to Ireland in May of 2023. The most thrilling outcome is a plan to bring the women of northern Ireland, and a few of their husbands, to the 2023 Conference women's retreat. God called, was faithful, and He did it! ●

with tea, potatoes, and good Irish bread.

Surrounded by unimaginable beauty and the splendor of Ireland's green land, God did something that could not have possibly been fully anticipated. He blended the hearts and lives of the 30 gracious and loving Irish women with the 36 women from Kentucky-Tennes-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL MCKENZIE

**The women from Kentucky-Tennessee and northern Ireland pose in front of the Castlewellaan Castle in Ireland, following their women's retreat. Though they only spent a few days together, the two groups quickly became close friends.**

# Ridgetop Church Concludes Month-long Health Seminar Series

During the month of August, the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church hosted weekly health seminars covering topics like nutrition, exercise, and sleep. The classes, attended by church and community members, are part of an upcoming push to offer health-related content for the community.

The idea for this project came when registered dietician and Ridgetop Church member Daniela Little noticed the lack of health education resources in Robertson County.

“I see a lot of patients from the area that have diabetes, heart problems, cancer, and things like that,” Little said. “Many of them don't really know what to do. It made me realize that there's not much going on in the county as far as health promotion.”

As a result, Little, supported by her church family, coordinated a month-long health seminar series, which took place

every Sunday from August 7 to August 28. The church promoted this workshop through their local newspaper, on local Facebook groups and businesses, and by word of mouth. On average, more than 35 individuals attended each meeting.

One of them was Yvonne Manners, a community member from Greenbier, Tenn., who found out about the program from a friend. Manners says she wanted to learn how to eat healthier, not just for herself but to help others as well.

“I volunteer with Meals on Wheels,” Manners said. Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization that addresses senior hunger and isolation. “So, by learning to cook healthy, I'm changing a lot of people's lives because now I can prepare them healthy food options, too.”

To prepare for the programs, leaders used the book *Secrets to Wellness*, by Ernestine Finley. After the presentation, they led practical activities, health

screenings, and coaching sessions where participants set weekly health-related goals.

Though the program concluded on August 28, the Ridgetop Church is already making plans to start a diabetes and heart-disease prevention series in November, as well as a weight-loss series at the beginning of next year.

“I strongly believe that the health message is the right hand for the Three Angels' Messages,” Little said. “The end goal of these health seminars is to save people and show them that we care. When you think of the ministry of Jesus ... He healed people; but at the end of the day, it wasn't just about [healing] them, but about giving them hope.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Yvonne Manners glosses over vegetarian recipe cookbooks. Manners says she attended the Ridgetop Church health seminar series because she wanted to learn how to eat healthier, and wanted to help others do the same.



Daniela Little teaches during the final session of the Ridgetop Church health seminar series. Little, who is a registered dietician, came up with the idea of the seminar after she noticed a lack of health education resources in the Robertson, Tenn., county.



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Brittany Stewart checks Doug Armantrout's blood pressure. The Ridgetop Church health seminar series, which took place every Sunday from August 7 to August 28, consisted of presentations, health screenings, and coaching sessions.

# Hispanic Laity Festival Makes a Major Difference

**D**uring the last weekend in April, the South Central Conference Hispanic Laity Festival was held at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala. This year had the largest attendance ever. Normally 200 delegates attend the annual Hispanic Laity Festival to be trained for mission; however, this year 423 Latino members participated from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama churches. Every attendee returned home ready to be local missionaries for Christ. The Hispanic Laity Festival has been sponsored by the South Central Conference Multi-Cultural Ministry for the last eight years. Prior to that, the Southern Union Conference held the Hispanic Laity Festival.

The Hispanic Laity Festival is designed to empower local church members to train in small group development, giving Bible studies, and relevant soul-winning endeavors. Each attendee received a resource pack with a set of Bible studies, a study Bible, and other resources to support the Conference's vision and mis-



Great Lakes Adventist Academy band sharing its ministry.

sion. Each attendee returns to their local congregation to share, teach, or present what was taught at the Festival, growing the number of individuals prepared to

spread the Gospel.

Great Lakes Adventist Academy, located in Cedar Lake, Mich., was invited to present a concert to end the festival with their orchestra, band, and choir. The 1 1/2-hour concert inspired the attendees.

The great success of the Hispanic Laity Festival is seen in the increased baptisms witnessed among the South Central Latino churches. In 2020, the Festival was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 46 baptisms were reported. In 2021, with the resumption of the Festival, 176 baptisms were reported from the Latino churches. When the Latino congregations gather for Latino Camp Meeting in May, baptisms are part of the meeting, giving evidence of the success of the Hispanic Laity Festival. 🕊



Attendees listening intently to presentations.

BY DORIAN MELO

# Grants Help Fund GFAA's Robotics Program

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the students of Greater Fayetteville Adventist Academy (GFAA) in Fayetteville, N.C., and their coaches and mentors, were excited about the new robotics season, FIRST FORWARD. The robotics teams welcomed a new coach, Sean Ambrose; a rookie FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team, Phoenix Stars; and the veteran FTC team, Eagle Tech. Both FTC teams had their eyes set for Apopka, Fla., to compete in the FTC Tournament at Forest Lake Academy.

The teams practiced every Friday and sometimes after school, in prepa-

ration for the competition. Not having adequate space, the students built and programmed their robots in the church's fellowship hall. The cost to attend the tournament in Florida was \$15,806.51. Stewart Robotics, LLC assisted the school with grant writing to offset the cost of the trip by requesting monetary donations from various donors.

In total, the teams received \$16,196.00 to sponsor their trip. God be praised, they exceeded their goal. The school received monetary donations from Signarama of Fayetteville, the Southern Union Office of Education, Chick-fil-A of Celebration, Fla., AdventHealth University, TE

Connectivity-African Heritage Group, and John Deere.

Eagle Tech and Phoenix Stars were the first FTC teams from the South Atlantic Conference and GFAA to attend an in-person FTC tournament. The students, parents, and chaperones assembled for prayer with Shakuntala Ramsarran, principal of GFAA; Roosevelt Marsden, pastor of Fayetteville Church; and Joan Daniels, GFAA home and school leader, before their departure. "It's not a real FTC season until the wheels start coming off," says Yaniel Suarez, leader of the builders of the Phoenix Stars. "It was an incredible experience where I was able



GFAA's students who participated in the robotics competition pose with their coaches and mentors.

to further my knowledge in the field of robotics,” said Suarez.

After sunset, all teams went into the FLA gymnasium for robot inspection and practice. Eagle Tech and Phoenix Stars got prepared for robot inspection. It was a long night. Both teams failed their robot inspection, but, not feeling defeated, the team members stayed awake until 2 a.m. working on improving their robot. Because of their hard work, both teams passed their robot inspection prior

to the start of the competition. God be praised! The robot competition was intense, and there was a total of 11 teams. For several rounds in the robot game, the Phoenix Stars were in last place, but they were determined not to give up. After regrouping and making much needed improvements, the students rose to fifth place in the robot game.

Their hard work paid off and both teams received 1st Place Awards in their respective categories. Phoenix Stars re-

ceived the Motivate Award, and Eagle Tech received the Connect Award.

GFAA gives God the glory for the experience they had in Florida. They also want to give a special thank you to their sponsors for assisting the teams financially. 📌

---

BY KHANDI COOPER, M.ED., ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR OF ADVENTIST ROBOTICS

---

## Baptism Happens in a New Way

In the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20, the body of Christ were given the Great Commission. In this commission, or marching orders, He gives three one-word actions: Go, Teach, and Baptize.

Before the pandemic, the Church primarily baptized people who physically stepped into the church building, and very rarely did eyes land on those who never attended. The Door of Hope and New Life churches of South Carolina decided to place an equal focus on virtual membership and baptism, and Monte Newbill Sr., pastor, began to baptize within the district and outside of its territory.

Of the 15 baptisms conducted during the last 13 months, three individuals never stepped foot into the church building, meaning their first time entering the church was their baptism celebration Sabbath. On three different occasions, the pastor traveled to a church close to the baptismal candidate and baptized them at a local Seventh-day Adventist church, one of which was the pastor’s brother’s, New Life Church in Aiken, S.C., where Robert Green serves as pastor.

Throughout the pandemic, many people have made their decision to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives, and they discovered the truth through the power of virtual worship and revival. The district believes and embraces the statement

in Isaiah 43:19, “Look, I am about to do something new...” The members continue to pray, and ask that many will join them as they embrace the newness that God is bringing in their area, and they

look forward to seeing how God will work in their lives and yours as well. 📌

---

BY PASTOR MONTE NEWBILL

---



# Sportsmanship, Comradery Become Community Outreach

The North Orlando, Fla., Church uses various ministries to help spread the message of God’s love to the church, family, and community. One of several ways this is done is through using sports as a form of ministry.

On Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., the Fellowship Hall doors are opened for co-ed table tennis. Olinto Groce, pastor of North Orlando Church and a mission-focused pastor, loves the game, is an avid and skilled table tennis player, and tries very hard not to miss a night. Various players have had the opportunity to experience Christlike sportsmanship and comradery as they continue to build a rapport with the community.

Most Sundays the men, through bike riding, challenge themselves on the West Orange Trail. They rode 46 miles to celebrate Shawn Smith’s 46th birthday on May 21, 2022. “As the senior in the group, I am looking forward to my birthday ride in October, and hope others are also looking forward to gearing up on the trail,” said Smith. We have met many on our rides, and have been able to share with them the ministry of friendship.

The men’s over-40 soccer team, Ambassadors for Christ (AFC), is another sports ministry. It’s a mixed group of Adventists and those who are not Adventist players. Jose Nunes, a player for the team this season, said, “It was a pleasure to play with you guys.” It is hoped that the sportsmanship and example shown on and off the field will continue to impact all the players. AFC won the Clermont 2022 regular and playoff championships. Throughout the many challenges this season, the team embraced the acronym TEAM: Together Each Achieves More. Several who are not Adventist AFC team members have had the opportunity to visit North Orlando and share in the worship service.



Jaymie Pottinger, AFC team member and author of the book, *The Face of Leadership*, reminds the team that, “When we think about the TEAM, we think about community, giving, and learning.”

It is the desire of the Men’s Ministries Department to give and learn from the community. Although there are many obstacles society has placed in the way, often causing many to be undervalued and overlooked, they can still rise to every occasion.

II Timothy 1:7 NIV, reminds all, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make

us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.”

The pen of inspiration says, “Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church.” One of the many lessons this pandemic has taught is that evangelism can be spread in various ways.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, don’t hesitate to get in touch with the men’s ministries director, Ron Haughton, at 407-766-7637. ❶

---

BY PASTOR MARK BROWN

---

# Southeastern Women Pledge “I Will Go”

In April 2022, Esmeralda Guzman-Harris received and answered “yes” to God’s call to minister to the women of Southeastern Conference as the new women’s ministries director. She called current and former district women’s ministries coordinators to the Conference office for a one-day power training on July 30, 2022. They were also blessed to have Shirley Scott, Southern Union women’s ministries director, to join the power-filled day of fellowship.

The theme for the day was “Sharing the Vision, Advancing the Mission,” and the challenge was to respond, “I Will Go!” The journey began with a devotional thought “Alone with God,” presented by Brenda Owusu, D.N.P. She shared the urgency and importance of leaders first spending time with Jesus and following Him before seeking to lead. She warned that if they did not, they could become like Elijah who right after a great divine victory on Mt. Carmel, turned and ran in the face of threats from Jezebel.

A women’s ministries training session would not be complete without the Conference’s retired women’s ministries director, mentor, and advisor, Nicolle Brise, who is still allowing God to use her at 81 years



Current and former district women’s ministries coordinators met at Southeastern Conference office for a one-day training meeting.



Esmeralda Guzman-Harris (left), Southeastern women’s ministries director; Brenda Owusu, D.N.P., presenter; Nicolle Brise, retired Southeastern women’s ministries director; and Shirley Scott, Southern Union women’s ministries director



Southeastern district coordinators, and Conference administrators Pierre Francois, executive secretary (front row, left), and Michael Owusu, D.Min., president (front row, right)

young! She presented “Go Light Up Your World,” and reminded all that they bear responsibility to shine brightly for the glory of God. “Our Christianity should be visible in all aspects of our lives,” she declared. “If you are asked to lead a ministry, ask God for a vision,” she admonished.

In her worship sermon, Guzman-Harris shared her own inspirational testimony. Just as so many women in the Bible were willing to go, she herself told God, “Here am I. Send me.” Guzman-Harris concluded her message by reminding all that Jesus also answered the call to sacrificial service. “Jesus looked at me and you, and said, ‘I will go,’ even though He knew He would be abused and abandoned,” she said.

A highlight of the day, “Mission and Ministry: Is God calling you?” was presented by Patricia E. Pates. It included each person taking a detailed spiritual gifts test to discover how and where God is calling each woman to minister for Him. The women were reminded that every believer has received specific gifts from the Holy Spirit, and these gifts are given to nurture and grow the body of

Christ. “We are called to be mission-driven, living examples of God’s love in our communities,” Pates declared. “...The harvest is ready, but the laborers are few.” In conclusion, each woman received an invitation to complete and sign a personal commitment card to “Share the Vision and Advance the Mission!”

With anointed music, prayer sessions, presentations on ministering to young adults, teens, and young girls, and activities sprinkled in between, the grand finale of the day was a charge from Michael Owusu, D.Min., Southeastern president, for all to R.E.A.C.H. Southeastern Conference with Revival and transformation-Equipping for discipleship-Alignment within the body-Community outreach and evangelism-Healthy leadership and management; and a commitment and consecration service for all participants who responded to the call by declaring, “I will go!”

BY PATRICIA E. PATES AND  
WILLIEMA P. MUSGRAY

# AHU Students Assist Honduran Patients

*Logan Keedy and Danielle Palmer, doctor of physical therapy students from AdventHealth University, recently traveled to Honduras for a service trip as part of their global service-learning course. After returning from their trip, they documented some reflections on the experience.*

Participating in a service trip is a requirement for all doctor of physical therapy students at AdventHealth University, as part of its global service-learning course. The trips, however, are so much more than a graduation requirement for us.

In Honduras, access to health care services, especially in rural areas, can be quite limited due to scarce transportation and the lack of financial resources to pay for health care services. Although public hospitals can be a more affordable option, many are located hours away from the villages we served.

With support from the AdventHealth Global Missions office, our team traveled to Valle de Angeles, in southern Honduras, to provide primary care, physical therapy, and medication prescriptions to approximately 1,000 patients in nearby communities during a five-day period. With support from the staff at Hospital Adventista Valle de Angeles, we set up pop-up clinics at the local schoolhouses in the villages of Pajarillo, Suyapa, Bartolo, Carbón, and Cerro Bonito.

While providing physical therapy, we encountered two main challenges: lack of equipment and the inability to conduct follow-up visits with patients.

We had one examination table to share among four groups of student therapists. We had to evaluate and treat patients in metal chairs. These limitations challenged us to be creative with our intervention selections. For example, some students used



**AdventHealth doctor of physical therapy students and faculty gather for a photo during their recent service trip to Honduras as part of their Global Service-Learning course.**

brooms as assistive devices and towels as neck collars. The same creativity went into our exercise selection, as we not only had to produce the most helpful exercise, but also choose exercises that could be performed in the patient's home with minimal equipment. Many of the exercises we provided for patients could be performed against a wall and in chairs.

Our second challenge was the lack of patient follow-up. Each day we visited a different community, which meant that most of the patients we saw were new. This meant we couldn't confirm if the treatments we chose would make a difference for the patient in the long term. This added to the emotional challenge, as we couldn't do more.

Despite these challenges, we felt rewarded in many ways. We saw the beauty in people, and the willingness of neighbors to help one another. We saw this firsthand one day when members of a family stepped in to take care of the children of patients who waited in line for medical care. Additionally, every day, the clinic would set up a piñata — a dec-

orated vessel filled with candies and gifts for the children. It was fun to watch the children having a wonderful time trying to break it and get the candy inside.

The gratitude we received from so many patients was truly touching. They would sometimes have to wait up to an hour to be seen, and even then they were so thankful for everything we did for them.

The trip was also emotionally overwhelming. Many of us felt like we were a small drop in a vast ocean of need. However, it did teach us a valuable lesson: You never know what impact you are going to have on a patient, so make the most of every moment you are given with them.

We are so grateful that the people of Honduras trusted us to provide them with medical care, and we learned many lessons that we will take with us moving forward. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with AdventHealth Centra Care nurse practitioners in extending Christ's healing ministry to Hondurans this summer. 🙏

---

BY LOGAN KEEDY AND DANIELLE PALMER

---

# Southern Students Win National Web Design Competition

This summer, two brothers attending Southern Adventist University received gold medals during the SkillsUSA's national championships held in Atlanta, Ga. Allen and Brandon Gustrowsky, sophomore and junior computer science majors, participated in the collegiate division for web design and development.

"We are so proud of Allen and Brandon's accomplishment," said Rick Halterman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Computing. "Special thanks to their coach, Dakota Cookenmaster, '22, and Professor Robert Ordoñez, who mentors our SkillsUSA chapter."

The annual SkillsUSA national conference is a showcase of career and technical education where this year more than 5,200 outstanding career and technical education students — all state contest winners — competed hands-on in 108 differ-

ent trade, technical, and leadership fields.

The Gustrowsky brothers qualified for the national championship by winning first place in the Tennessee competition. In that event, Southern students earned both first and second place, with junior computer science majors Simon Sierra and Adrian Morales receiving silver.

The national competition involved each team completing an interview and written test, as well as building a website from start to finish in six hours.

"It felt good to walk away knowing we had built a website that was organized, clean, and strong on its fundamentals," Allen Gustrowsky said. "I came away with good memories of the competition week."

"We finished with no time to spare; I remember rushing for the last 10 minutes to add a few small features to hopefully give our website a fighting chance



SKILLSUSA

Southern computer majors Allen and Brandon Gustrowsky (center) receive the gold medal in web design and development from SkillsUSA at the national level.

for second place," Brandon Gustrowsky said. "Receiving the gold medal on stage in front of an audience of 10,000 people is an experience I will not forget." 📌

BY ANAYA MILLER

# Community Children Learn to Swim at Southern

Almost every summer for 40 years, cars full of children from the community have flocked to Southern for swimming lessons. This year, approximately 475 youngsters under the age of 15 participated in lessons.

Southern's School of Health and Kinesiology runs the summer program with help from many University and local academy students. Lilyann Adams, junior health science major and swimming instructor, loved the experience this summer.

"Getting to work with kids and play in the pool doesn't even feel like work,"

Adams said. "My favorite part is seeing the progress the kids make and watching them gain confidence in their abilities. It's a very rewarding job!"

Community parents frequently express their appreciation for the opportunity.

"Our son had a great experience taking swimming lessons at Hulsey Wellness Center," said Aaron Hall. "His instructors were consistently kind and knowledgeable. We highly recommend Southern's program." 📌

BY ANAYA MILLER



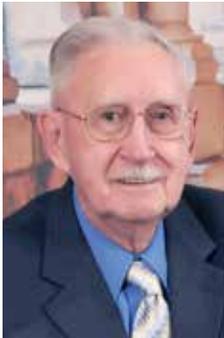
CHRISTINA CABOS

Brandon Cabos helps his son, Ross, during a summer swimming lesson at Southern.



**BERNET, MARIAN E.**, 92, born Sept. 7, 1929 in Reading, PA, died March 29, 2022 at home in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL, for eight years. Marian was married to Paul A. Bernet. She was an enthusiastic stay-at-home mom while her girls were young, and Paul was busy as a literature evangelist. When the children were in school, she worked as a secretary in the conference office, but never gave up on an early dream of becoming a nurse. She went to college and graduated with a nursing degree from Atlantic Union College on the same day that her first grandchild was born. Working at New England Memorial Hospital gave her great experience and memories. When they moved to Florida to retire, she enjoyed staying busy by volunteering at the hospital, at church, and singing in the choir. Her cheerful spirit will be remembered by many. She is survived by three daughters: Linda (Mike) Hausinger of Altamonte Springs, Joyce (Tim) Hoatson of Longwood, FL, and Deborah (Ralph) Gifford of South Lancaster, MA; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, in 2017, just after celebrating 68 years of marriage. A private graveside service was conducted.

**COPE, JK**, 91, of Tampa, FL, formerly of Portland, TN, born Feb. 15, 1930 in Davie County, NC, the son of the late John F. and Martha Ellis Cope, died Sept. 4, 2021 at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL. He and his first wife were members of the Mocksville, NC, Church and moved to Avon Park, FL, in 1964, where they both worked at Walker Memorial Hospital, and were active members of the Walker Memorial Church. JK and his second wife moved to Portland in 1982, where he became a member of the Highland Church, and transferred his position to work at Highland Hospital. He retired from Sunbelt Healthcare System after 32 years of service in multiple departments. JK and his fourth wife, Betty, moved to Tampa in 2009, where they lived at Florida Gulf Coast Apartments next to Tampa First Church. JK is survived by his son, David Cope of Cumming, GA; daughter, Esther Krumholz of Tampa; three stepdaughters: Judy Ayers of Portland, Shirley Crutcher of Franklin, KY, and Pat Sullivan of Chattanooga, TN; stepson, Byron Carlton of Chattanooga; three grandchildren: Chris Cope, Amanda Cope, and Forest Bradley; nine step-grandchildren: Joe Ayers, Jon Ayers, Tim Ayers, Tony Ayers, Emily Wade, Elizabeth Bolerjack, Stephanie Grey, Jonathan Clayton, and Ashley Deal; and many step-great-grandchildren.



Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Lucille Frye Cope from Advance, NC; second wife, Versie Dodd Cope from Henderson, TN; third wife, Millie Kelley Cope from Portland; fourth wife, Betty Carlton Cope from Fort Mead, FL; his oldest daughter, Kay Cope Wahlen from Woodbridge, VA; stepdaughter, Mimi Campbell from Franklin, KY; his oldest son, John Cope from Sautee, GA; and stepson, Wayne Carlton from Chattanooga. JK was a member of the VFW Post in Portland, where he was a former Post Commander. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War.



**HAMBERGER, KAREN RUTH**, 62, born Dec. 16, 1959 in Glendale, CA, died June 26, 2022 in Madison, TN, due to breast cancer.

She loved God, people, and served students in educational institutions as dean of girls at Wisconsin Academy; associate dean of women at Andrews University; registrar at Broadview Academy; and academic dean at Madison Academy.

Karen took amazing photographs, loved to travel, and invested time and energy with her students and colleagues. Karen loved animals, especially deer and cats.

She is survived by her husband, David Hamberger; son, Jeffrey Hamberger; her mom, Gloria Leggitt; her sister, Susan Padilla and her husband, Dan Padilla, and their three children: Lacie Smithee, Tori Padilla, and Emma Padilla; three grandchildren: Abilene, Braelynn, and Colton; her brother, Dr. Leroy Leggitt, and his wife, Sandra Leggitt, their daughter, Dr. Carly Villarreal, and her husband, Dr. Logan Villarreal, and their son, Oliver. Her dad, Dr. Varner Leggitt preceded her in death.

**GREENLEAF, FLOYD LINCOLN**, 90, born Sept. 23, 1931 in Braintree, VT, died April 1, 2022. He was the son of Calvin W. Greenleaf and Evelyn (Ladeau) Greenleaf. He graduated from Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL, (1949), received a B.A. in history and religion at Southern Missionary College (1955), an M.A. in history from George Peabody College in Nashville, TN (1961), and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (1977).

In the 1950s and 1960s he taught elementary and junior high students at Pensacola, FL, Birmingham and Mobile, AL, and at Bass Memorial Academy before joining the History Department at SMC in 1966, where he served as professor, chair of the department, and academic vice-president for 31 years until his retirement in 1997.

He published 12 books, two of which were, *In Passion for the World: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Education* (2005) is an inspiring historical tome and *Light bearers: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*, co-authored with Richard W. Schwarz, is a substantive college textbook, and numerous articles on Adventist history.



In retirement, he and his wife, Betty, were active members of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church from 1998 to 2020 before moving to Fletcher, NC, in 2021. Floyd enjoyed stamp collecting, baseball, woodworking, fine-line ink drawing, and writing poetry. He studied his Sabbath School lesson in English, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. He is survived by his beloved wife, Betty, whom he married in 1952, and with whom he had three children: Vickie (Douglas) Knecht, Vanessa (deceased), and Kelly (Joyce); four grandchildren: Donnie Knecht, Derek Knecht, Daphne Knecht (deceased), and Kyle (Marcy) Greenleaf; and four great-grandchildren: Rory Knecht, Brady Knecht, Jackson Greenleaf, and Clayton Greenleaf; and his sister, Velma Pendleton. A memorial service was held May 15, 2022 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.

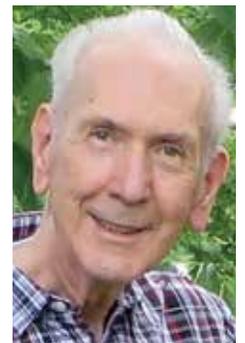


**LEWIS, SHARON LOUISE BRADFORD**, 70, born June 21, 1951 in Baton Rouge, LA, the firstborn child of Elder Charles and Ethel Bradford, died Oct. 10, 2021 surrounded by loved ones, leaving a legacy of service to God, family, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During her brief illness she continued to motivate and encourage from her hospital bed.

In her early years, she was a devoted and loving sister to her younger brothers Charles and Dwight. Sharon showed an early aptitude for music and the arts which would become a lifelong interest. After attending Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, MI, for high school and after a year of college at Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL, she enrolled in Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Washington, DC., and it was during her college year where she met the love of her life, James L. Lewis Jr. They married on June 9, 1974 and began a life of ministry together serving the Allegheny East Conference.

If her family was her first love, Sharon's love for teaching and mentoring was her second. Her passion for working with young people and commitment to Christian education was unparalleled and unmatched. As her husband James matriculated into leadership roles within the church as president of Allegheny West Conference and then director of the Office of Regional Conference Management, Sharon served as a teacher and then principal in the Seventh-day Adventist system for more than 40 years in Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, and Alabama. After many years as a principal, Sharon was called to be the superintendent of education for the South-Central Conference, sharing her vision for leadership and expansion of academic prowess for subsequent generations of students. Sharon was selfless, motivated, always positive, well-spoken, an avid reader, and often took time to call and encourage young ministers who crossed paths with her. We are confident that we will see her again on the Sea of Glass and in the New Earth.

**STEVENS, RAY ODELL**, 85, born June 26, 1936 in Nathalie, VA, to Clyde and Louise (Holt) Stevens, died June 23, 2022 at his home in Cleveland, TN, where he had been in ill health for some time. In 1954, he graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, VA. He later attended Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD. He was a member of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland. On June 25, 1978, Ray married Barbara Jo "BJ" Hudgins in a simple ceremony in the home of her parents, Elder and Mrs. Franklin W. Hudgins, in Adelphi, MD. After a Niagara Falls honeymoon, they returned to Maryland where they made their home until they retired in 2005 and moved to Tennessee. Ray was employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1955 to 1980 working for the Review & Herald Publishing Association, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Washington Adventist Hospital. In 1983, he joined Alexandria Hospital as vice president of Support Services and distinguished himself by successfully opening a commercial laundry using the hospital's equipment, so that Alexandria could service seven outside accounts. As a result, the hospital reported an additional income of \$35,000.



Ray was a talented musician who loved to sing, play the guitar, the electric bass, the upright string bass, and the piano. During the 1960s and '70s, he was a member of the Carolina Country Boys, a band that performed regularly for many events throughout the Washington, DC, area, including Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He also played string bass/bass guitar and was the baritone soloist for The Sligotones, a musical group who sang for churches in the area. In 1971, they recorded the album, "Heaven Came Down."

On one occasion during the mid-1960s, Ray was recruited by Hersh Deloveise, a Washington, DC music promoter, to stand in for Johnny Cash's string bass player, Marshall Grant, after he suffered an appendicitis shortly before Johnny and The Tennessee Three were to perform at the Alexandria Theater in Alexandria, Virginia. On another occasion, Ray and the Carolina Country Boys were invited to perform for President Richard Nixon on board his yacht, the Sequoia, as Nixon entertained dignitaries on July 16, 1970.

In 2006, Ray joined Master Chorale and sang with the group, under the direction of Dr. J. Bruce Ashton, until 2020. Ray is survived by his wife, BJ; their daughter, Angela Camille (Adam) Derrick of Fredericksburg, VA; three children by his former spouse: a daughter, Kathryn Renee (Murel) Hoskins of Richmond, VA; two sons: Lawrence Eugene Stevens, and Thomas Russell (Debbi) Stevens, both of Fulks Run, VA; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, John (Shella) Stevens of Republican Grove, VA; several nieces; and nephews.

**BIRCH SR., DONALD CLIVE**, 69, born Jan. 17, 1953 on the beautiful island of Jamaica to Isaac and Minette Birch, died June 27, 2022. Donald was the fourth of 10 children. He attended Pondsides Primary School, and then went on to West Indies College High School. From a very young age, Donald enjoyed many sports to include cricket, football (soccer), table tennis, and his beloved dominoes. Donald migrated to the United States in the 1980s, and settled in Bronx, NY. Donald furthered his educational pursuits at Bronx Community College. He also met the beautiful Yvonne Plummer in the Bronx. As this courtship blossomed, Donald and Yvonne took the next step of marriage on Sept. 15, 1985, and together they had two children, Portia and Donald (Don J) Birch Jr. In 1995, the Birch family moved to the warmth of the South, and laid roots in the Peach State of Georgia. In Georgia, Donald worked for Transportation Services Administration for eight years, and then boldly moved into the direction of realizing his aspiration of becoming an entrepreneur. This bold transition allowed Donald to begin his own limousine service, Sunrise Executive. Donald found importance in education and in 2017 he completed his bachelor's degree at Clayton State University in applied science. Although Donald was busy with his work and educational pursuits, he always found time to participate in soccer and table tennis, and willingly gave of himself to his beloved home church, New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church. At New Hope, Donald was the music ministries director for many years, an active master guide, a member of men's ministries, and a regular at the Saturday night dominos games. On June 27, 2022, Donald, affectionately known as Danny, succumbed to COVID-19, and went to rest in the Lord. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, June; and his eldest brother, Carlos. Left to cherish his memory, are his wife, Yvonne; his daughter, Portia; his son, Don J; son-in-law, Dwayne; daughter-in-

law, Natasha; four grandchildren: Jacore, Jayda, Jayvion, and a new bundle of joy expected in October, Malachi; seven siblings; nieces; nephews; extended family; and a host of friends.

**CHAMBERLAIN, MARGARET ELLEN RIDLER**, 83, born Jan. 28, 1939, died May 7, 2022. She was a born teacher. She could teach subjects she didn't know very well just by using the teacher's edition of the subject. She could remediate a child who was behind, and catch them up to their grade level. She was able to enrich a precocious child, and guide them in extra work to keep their minds stimulated. Margaret liked to travel and see the scenery of other states. She was born and raised in Iowa on the family farm. She loved nature and liked to be outside. She always wanted bird feeders in the yard so she could watch the birds. She would feed other animals as well. Just prior to moving from Jasper, TN, she fed and took care of a stray kitty, who then promptly adopted Margaret as her caretaker. The cat now resides with Monica. Margaret loved to be in forests and state parks where she could take her students to see plants and wildlife in their habitat. She enjoyed watching deer and wild turkeys in the yard in Jasper, where she last lived. She lived in 16 different states during her lifetime, and moved from place to place to support Bill in his career. She held 13 different jobs, and was efficient in all of them. She loved teaching the most because she felt she was helping to shape and prepare a child for their future. Margaret loved her family. She loved her son, daughter, and grandchildren, and asked about them almost daily, even at the very end. She wanted to be kept up to date on all her children and grandchildren's work and activities, and know how they were doing. Margaret was a devout church attender who loved serving in capacities with her abilities. She was phenomenal with organization and frequently served in roles such as women's ministries, hospitality, and Bible school teacher. Her last

church role was as a greeter, until she couldn't participate any more. She was prepared and efficient in all of her roles. Margaret loved her Lord. Even though she suffered from dementia, she remembered Bible verses and sang hymns. When she would forget the words to a hymn, she would make up some words and sing in her off-key voice. She studied the Sabbath School lesson with Bill and prayed beautiful prayers. She was faithful to the Lord, even on her last day.

**GRANT, RENA E ANN-MARIE**, 47, born April 16, 1974 at Andrews Memorial Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, died March 23, 2022 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the North Orlando, FL, Church for 33 years, and served with the Pathfinders, deaconess, youth choir, and youth Sabbath School teacher. In 1989, at the age of 15, Renae relocated from Brooklyn, NY, to Orlando with her parents. After graduating from high school, she attended Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, AL. In 2002, she graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL, where she obtained her masters in social work. Renae loved being a social worker. She worked with the Leon County Sickle Cell Foundation as a supportive counselor. Then, she worked with the Florida Department of Children and Families as an independent living counselor for children who aged out of the foster care system. Renae was a bright and shining star whom everyone adored. Her style was impeccable which complimented her captivating smile that illuminated any room. Renae was a wonderful daughter, sister, and friend. She was loved dearly and will be missed by her parents, Bertram and Thelma Grant; sister, Suzette Grant; numerous aunts; uncles; cousins; and cherished friends. The Memorial Service was held at North Orlando Church. Officiated by Pastor Dion Henry.

**HIGGINS, JEROME DALTON**, 70, born Nov. 28, 1950 in Kingston, Jamaica, died Feb. 10, 2022 in Or-

lando, FL. He was a member of the North Orlando Church for 15 years. He served in the Music Department, Stewardship Department, and Health Ministries Department. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne; son, Courtney; adopted daughter, Simone Smith; adopted granddaughters: Marie and Jada Morrison; father, Noel Higgins; mother, Una Gordon; brothers: Frank, Leon, and Leonard; sisters: Ingrid, Jacinth, Sandra, and Denise; nieces; nephews; and many other family members and friends. The funeral service was held at Guilgal Church in Orlando, and officiated by pastor R. R. Brown. Interment at Orlando Memorial Gardens in Apopka, FL.

**MILLINES, GENEVA LOU**, 87, born Sept. 29, 1935 to the late Tilmon and Ezzie Lee Waller in Eatonton, GA, she was the fourth of nine children, died June 10, 2022. Geneva received her education in the Putnam County School System. After graduation, she was employed by the Atlanta Gas Light Company as a dietitian, and the Atlanta Public School System as a food assistant where she worked for many years. She was married to Harvey Millines in 1955. From this union, six children were born. Her firstborn, Everlene Millines Jackson, preceded her in death. She loved her family and was affectionately called Mama, Granny, Grandma, Mom Millines, Auntie Eva, and Aunt Gen. She affectionately, in turn, called her loved ones "Pooh Bear." In a tent meeting, conducted by Pastor C.D. Henri, Geneva accepted the Three Angels Message and became a baptized member of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1967. She was a faithful member and served as a Cradle Roll Sabbath School teacher, choir member, and she was a leader of the usher board for many years until her health declined. Geneva also loved attending Sabbath School. She had a giving heart as reflected in her ministry of helping others and feeding the hungry. She loved working in her vegetable garden, flower gar-

den, listening to gospel music, baking, and cooking. If you were hungry, you could always stop by her house and let her know you needed something to eat. She enjoyed sitting on her front porch watching the hummingbirds and feeling the warmth of the sunshine. She leaves to cherish her memory two sons: Harvey Millines and Jackie Millines; three daughters: Francine (David) Long, Shelia Millines-Johnson, and Lois George-Williams; eight grandchildren: Danielle Nicole (Derek) Duffie, Dr. David A. (Starane) Long Jr., Derek (Jessica) Long, Quinton Millines, Sean Johnson, Garrett Millines, Chelsea George-Williams, and Kelsey George-Williams; one sister, Odessa Juhan; three brothers: Tilmon Waller Jr., Calvin (Patricia) Waller, and Vernon Waller; a host of great and great-great grandchildren; nieces; nephews; special god-daughters; god-sons; and friends.

**REID, DOTILDA G.**, 89, born Nov. 8, 1932 in Clarendon, Jamaica, died Feb. 23, 2022 in Orlando, FL. She was a member at the North Orlando, FL, Church for 1½ years. She was a member of the North Port, FL, Church for many years, before transferring her membership to North Orlando Church to be closer to her family. She served as a deaconess, choir member, usher, Sabbath School teacher, AYS leader, and church mom. She is survived by her daughter, Conchita Flynn; three grandchildren: Rose (Marcus), Stacey, and Christopher (Rashi), and two great-grandchildren: Raiyanah and Mason; bonus family include Lorna Thomas (Melvin, predeceased), Chinara (Sam) Samantha, SJ, Seth, Sage, Earle, Milan; Rashida (Tim), Dhakiya and Kaori, and Nyako. She is remembered for playing board and card games, making veggie patties, crocheting, singing, her love for cats and dogs, and giving the best kisses and hugs. The funeral service was held at North Orlando Church, and officiated by Pastor Olinto Groce. Interment at Restlawn Memorial Gardens in Port Charlotte, FL.

**RICHARDS, DOROTHY EDERL**, 89, born Oct. 31, 1932 in Manchester, Jamaica, died Feb. 11, 2022 in Perry, GA. She was a member of the Winter Garden Church for five years. She was a founding member of the North Orlando Church, and was a faithful member for more than 30 years. Spurred by experiences in literature evangelism in her early life, Dorothy's ultimate passion was soul-winning. In keeping with this, she became an active member of the Personal Ministries Department in every church for which she was a member. Dorothy leaves to cherish her memory, her children: Andrew (FL) and Christopher (Vanda) (GA); three grandsons: Cameron Richards (Puerto Rico), Jelani Richards, and Jebari Richards (GA); her sisters: Vinnette Leslie (MD), Hazel Henry (OH), and Curdell Bennett (FL); and brother: Lloyd Graham (Gerzel) (MD); sisters-in-law: Evadney Goddard (FL) and Elsie Mapp (Canada); numerous nephews; nieces; church family; and friends. The funeral service was held at North Orlando Church with Pastor Olinto Groce officiating. Interment at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Gotha, FL.

**SOLER, JOSE**, 91, born May 10, 1930 in Cuba, died June 21, 2022 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for 54 years. He was a firefighter at the Naval Training Center. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Teresa; four sons: Joe (Annabella) Soler of Apopka, Carlos (Chris) Soler of Longwood, FL, Eddie (Milca) Soler of Monteverde, FL, and Kenny (Maura) Soler of Apopka; one daughter, Jeanette (Josue) Vasquez of Apopka; one sister, Ester Medina of DeBary, FL; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A service was conducted at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

**TAYLOR, WAYNE**, 85, born in Meridian, MS, died July 28, 2022 in Milton, FL. He was a member of the Community Church.



candidate can connect and build relationships with various individuals and organizations and has a solid ability to deliver compelling stories of impact. The Communication Director works in partnership with key management to help design and implement strategies and campaigns to increase community awareness and engagement with the Samaritan Center at all levels. Preferred qualifications are a bachelor's degree in public relations, communication, or a related field. Send resume to erinbarthle@thesamaritancenter.net. [10]

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SDA** is looking for individuals who are interested in using their talents and skills in a mission-oriented setting and who have work experience at all levels of Human Resources, Software development and technology as well as TV and social media. Must be an SDA church member in good standing. For additional information, contact Johanna Prestol-Dominguez at prestoljd@gc.adventist.org. [10]

**HOME AND CAREGIVER** needed in rural setting for mentally challenged adult female or caregiver to live in house near her home rural Alabama. Free rent in three-bedroom home and salary of \$2500 monthly or \$4500 for two individuals working in the same family. Verifiable church affiliation and background check needed. 334-855-0733 [10]

**CAREGIVER** Free house rent in country setting 3 bedrooms 1 bath on one acre near Uchee Pines institute in Seale, Al. Must oversee complete care of two disabled ladies who have no physical limitations or health issues and live their own home nearby. \$3000 monthly must have verifiable church affiliation. More details 334-855-0733 [10]

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**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](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist). [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/gradutestudies](http://www.southern.edu/gradutestudies) [10-4]

**SHOP FOR NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH SERVICES** offers used Adventist books at [www.LNF-BOOKS.com](http://www.LNF-BOOKS.com) or new book releases at your local ABC or [www.TEACH-Services.com](http://www.TEACH-Services.com). AUTHORS let us help publish your book with editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. [10-4]

**CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS.** High quality 20-gauge steel, includes 2nd coming picture, Ten Commandments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and 3 Angels message displayed on Casket. Priced under \$800.00. Text / call 865-382-1834 on online at <https://1844casketsforadventists.com> [10-12]

**#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](mailto:jbrianking@allstate.com) or visit us at [www.allstate.com/jbrianking](http://www.allstate.com/jbrianking) [10-7]

**ADVENTIST TOURS 2023.** Israel in Jesus' Steps April 16-25 & June 4-13 with Andy Nash, and June 18-27 with Clifford Goldstein; Egypt & Exodus April 6-14; Revelation's Seven Churches/Patmos/Greece March 22-April 2; Tanzanian Safari March 1-8; Germany Reformation/WWII June 16-28, 2024. Contact [tabghatours@gmail.com](mailto:tabghatours@gmail.com) or [tabghatours.com](http://tabghatours.com) or call 423.298.2141. [10,1]

**IMPACT HOPE! Bringing HOPE & EDUCATION to REFUGEE** youth in Rwanda. Your monthly gift of \$50 empowers a young refugee

to create a brighter future through receiving a Christian education. 100% of your donation goes directly to sponsorship, including school fees, access to medical care, living arrangements, and three meals a day! [Impact-hope.org](http://Impact-hope.org) 503-673-3905 [10]

**CLERMONT CHURCH.** When in the Orlando area, Pastor Jim Gilley invites you to visit Clermont Church, 498 Montrose, Clermont, Florida, 34711. SS 9:30, Church 11:00. [10-12]

**GEORGIA SDA COUNSELOR:** No stigmas here! Regardless of beliefs, we can all benefit from professional counseling. I'm Tamara, a licensed therapist, and I treat issues of anxiety, depression, grief, and family matters, Only In The State of Georgia. However, I can be your life coach from any state. Call for your free 15-minute consultation and get started. 678-203-8680 [www.newbridge-counseling.net](http://www.newbridge-counseling.net) [10-1]

**WATCH GROUNDED:** It Is Written will air Grounded October 19-22. Grounded is a revival series focused on leading viewers into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God. Presented by John Bradshaw, Grounded will broadcast live from Knoxville, Tennessee. Grounded will air on It Is Written TV, 3ABN, Facebook, and YouTube. Register & learn more at [grounded.study](http://grounded.study). [10]

**ISRAEL TRIP** - February 6-16 Join Jim Gilley and friends for this special priced 11-day tour; Jim's 41st \$3,399 includes airfare from Chicago round trip plus two extra days in Jerusalem, daily breakfast and dinner, buffet, hotels, tips, and taxes. For information, call 602-788-8864, ask for Shay or Jennifer, or call Jim's cell at 352-459-4762. [10,1]

**SDA SCHOOL TEACHER AND FAMILY WANTS TO BUY A HOME** in Palm Bay, Florida. 4 bedrooms 3 bathrooms, 1,900-2,500 + sq feet, mortgage approved for max \$250,000. Earle Greenidge (910) 689-8381, email [jgreeni7@yahoo.com](mailto:jgreeni7@yahoo.com). [10]

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**

**Marriage Retreat** - Oct. 7-9, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Dirt Works Men's Summit** - Oct. 21-23, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**ACS Warehouse and Donations Management Training** - Oct. 28-30, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Hispanic Men's Retreat** - Oct. 28-30, Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.  
**Joy in Jesus Women's Ministries Day Retreat** - Oct. 29, Rogersville, TN.  
**ACF Leadership Reboot** - Nov. 4-6, TBD.  
**Joy in Jesus Women's Ministries Retreat** - Nov. 4-6, Cordele, GA.  
**Pathfinder Teen Challenge** - Nov. 4-6, Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Pastors' Wives Retreat** - Nov. 4-6, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
 Please check our website for the latest information, [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

**Ask an Attorney** - Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 28. Southern's Planned Giving office will host a four-part workshop on estate planning, presented by local attorneys. Featuring such topics as "Do I really Need a Will?" and "Estate Planning 101," this free series will be held in person and livestreamed. To learn more and register, visit [southern.edu/ask-an-attorney](http://southern.edu/ask-an-attorney).  
**Wind Symphony Concert** - Oct. 9. Southern's Wind Symphony, with Ken Parsons conducting, will present an evening of music on the theme "The Power of Three" at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. To learn about more School of Music events, visit [southern.edu/musicevents](http://southern.edu/musicevents).  
**Homecoming** - Oct. 27-30. Mark your calendar and join the Alumni Association in person or virtually for the ultimate Southern family celebration. Honor Classes include: 1942, '52, '62, '72, '77, '82, '92, '97, '02,

'12. Visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni) or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.  
**PreviewSouthern** - Nov. 3-4. Interested students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Space is limited, so please plan ahead. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email [visit@southern.edu](mailto:visit@southern.edu).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 8-11, 2023.** Orlando, FL. **SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 7-9.** FA Campus. Celebrating 112 years! Join us as we honor the class years ending in 7's and 2's. The Class of 1972 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special

invitation to those connected to our Farm. More details at [fletcheracademy.org](http://fletcheracademy.org)  
**BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY AND CHURCH CELEBRATE 100th Homecoming/Anniversary. Save the date: Nov. 5.** More details to follow, but you may monitor on BMA Church's website: [basschurch.org](http://basschurch.org). Attention: Former church members, teachers of BMA & BCE, and students, please send any information you may have regarding the Talowah Church and school, BMA, BCE, and O.D. McKee's childhood home to [bma100year@gmail.com](mailto:bma100year@gmail.com) and/or 601-688-4082 and leave a message.  
**ARDEN CHURCH HOMECOMING CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY - Dec. 9, 10.** Event includes Vespers on Friday evening, Dec. 9, and a special church service on Sabbath, Dec. 10. All former members are invited to attend.

**SUNSET**

	OCT 7	OCT 14	OCT 21	OCT 28	NOV 4	NOV 11
ATLANTA, GA	7:15	7:06	6:58	6:50	6:44	5:38
CHARLESTON, SC	6:58	6:49	6:41	6:33	6:27	5:22
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:00	6:51	6:42	6:34	6:27	5:21
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:17	7:08	6:59	6:51	6:44	5:38
HUNTSVILLE, AL	6:23	6:14	6:05	5:58	5:51	4:45
JACKSON, MS	6:39	6:30	6:22	6:15	6:09	5:04
LOUISVILLE, KY	7:18	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:41	5:35
MEMPHIS, TN	6:37	6:27	6:19	6:11	6:04	4:58
MIAMI, FL	7:02	6:55	6:49	6:43	6:38	5:34
MONTGOMERY, AL	6:23	6:15	6:07	5:59	5:53	4:48
NASHVILLE, TN	6:23	6:14	6:04	5:56	5:49	4:43
ORLANDO, FL	7:05	6:58	6:51	6:44	6:39	5:35
TAMPA, FL	7:10	7:03	6:56	6:49	6:44	5:40
WILMINGTON, NC	6:49	6:40	6:31	6:24	6:17	5:11

# BE INSPIRED.

Download the brand-new AWR360° app!

Inspiration and a full media library at your fingertips!



visit: [awr.org/apps](http://awr.org/apps)



**AWR360°**  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Adventist World Radio | 1530111 | www.adventist.org | 800.543.3600

Let's Connect!

[f awr360](#)

[@awr360](#)

[@awr\\_360](#)

[awr.org/videos](#)

[awr.org/apps](#)

# MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS

Business With a Biblical Perspective



**You'll acquire the skills you need to be successful in today's workforce—based on the biblical principles of honesty, integrity, and high ethical standards.**

**It's convenient.**

Eight-week online sessions accommodate busy schedules and allow students to accelerate their degree completion.

**Courses provide value-added content.**

Foundations of Business Writing and Research ensures a smooth transition to graduate school. Integrated Business Simulation gives students real-world experience in a controlled setting. The MBA Portfolio class allows students to share relevant projects with prospective employers.

**Prep for CPA Review.**

Students with an MBA Accounting emphasis may take the Wiley CPAexcel review courses for six of their 12 elective hours.

**Call or visit online to find out how you can get started.**

- Master of Business Administration
- Dual Degree—MSN and MBA
- Dual Degree—MSW and MBA