

TIDINGS

Southern 

AUGUST 2023

HEALTH MINISTRIES:

Engaging Communities to Teach and Heal

THE ICONIC LIFE
OF THOMAS
MARSHALL KELLY

ALTAMONTE
SPRINGS
COMMISSIONER
VISITS FOOD
DRIVE

CROSSWALK
CHATTANOOGA'S
NEW HOME
LAUNCHES SEASON
OF MIRACLES

COMMUNITY FREE
CLINIC SERVES
LOCAL HEALTH
NEEDS

The Ministry of Mingling



Michael K. Owusu, D.Min.
President of the
Southeastern Conference

Guest Editorial

In our pursuit of making disciples and spreading the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a rich history of engaging in evangelistic endeavors. However, attracting large crowds and witnessing numerous baptisms has become increasingly difficult. The days when people eagerly attended our evangelistic meetings are now gone, with many churches experiencing low attendance and minimal tangible outcomes from our evangelistic efforts. So, what has caused this decline, and how can we reverse this challenging situation? There are various perspectives to consider, but I would like to propose a well-known approach deeply rooted in our Adventist heritage and biblical teachings that seems to have been overlooked: the Ministry of Mingling.

Ellen G. White, in her book *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143, emphasizes that Christ's method holds the key to successful evangelism. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." Jesus, through mingling with people, expressing compassion, meeting their needs, earning their trust, and inviting them to follow Him, set a powerful example. This five-step model is crucial for fruitful evangelistic endeavors.

The first step, mingling, involves connecting with others without compromising our identity. Just as Jesus connected with people to display sympathy (compassion) toward them, minister to their needs, and gain their trust before extending the invitation to follow Him, the Church today must embrace the Ministry of Mingling to reach souls for Jesus.

John 1:14 provides a compelling illustration of the Ministry of Mingling as it describes Jesus "pitching his tent among us." Just as Jesus came to us, we must be willing to go to others. We cannot wait for people to come to us; we must actively reach out to them.

Matthew 5:12-14 further illuminates this concept through the metaphors of light and salt. As "light," we are called to live out the Gospel, visibly displaying its principles for others to see. The "salt" metaphor emphasizes the need for close contact with people, making a tangible impact on their lives. Isolation hinders our role as "light" and "salt."

Traditionally, evangelism has been regarded as an event, but true success lies in consistently mingling and building redemptive relationships long before any public meeting takes place. Neglecting this crucial step has contributed to the lackluster results of our evangelistic efforts.

To revitalize our evangelism, we must prioritize the Ministry of Mingling. By genuinely connecting with people, demonstrating compassion, addressing their needs, and earning their trust, we can extend the invitation to follow Jesus and bring souls into God's Kingdom. Let us wholeheartedly embrace this model with renewed purpose and dedication to fulfill the Great Commission.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Mingling holds the key to effective evangelism in our contemporary era. By following Christ's example, we can overcome the challenges we face and witness the transformation of lives. Let us respond to the call to mingle with people, showing compassion, ministering to their needs, earning their trust, and inviting them to follow Jesus. May our endeavors lead many to follow Jesus while we experience the true success of evangelism. ❶

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HEALTH MINISTRIES:

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO TEACH AND HEAL

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God,” 1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV.

Community clinics. 5K races. A church garden in a food desert. Health ministries throughout the Southern Union are finding ways to promote healthy living as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In *The Ministry of Healing*, Ellen White writes, “In the work of the Gospel, teaching and healing are never to be separated,” p. 141. Most Adventists adhere to this belief and are using the Adventist health message to engage with the community and teach as well as heal.

Some churches in the South Central Conference, in particular, have wholeheartedly embraced this practice, said Roger Wade, South Central’s communications and public relations director.

“Our health ministries come alongside our evangelistic thrust,” said Wade. “We teach about diet, we teach about rest, we teach about exercise. We use the health principles to help people have a healthier life, and then if along the way they trip into Jesus, praise God, they can have a better spiritual life and be ready for eternity.”

When the call came to donate blood to help individuals with sickle cell anemia, Wade said health ministries at New Covenant Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, stepped up with quarterly blood drives in partnership with the American Red Cross.

“We’ve had other churches that have

participated in blood collection, but it’s been a one-off kind of situation,” said Wade. “New Covenant and Orchard Park are making it part of their community outreach.”

In Nashville, Tennessee, Gordon Jones, pastor of Riverside Church, noticed a major health need in his community shortly after moving to Nash-



Church member Rolanda Standifer oversees the Riverside Community Garden.



ville about two years ago. He said he went to a Dollar General store near the church, and there were people trying to find groceries.

“It broke my heart,” recalled Jones, “because I know the Dollar General store is not designed to be a supermarket.”

Jones said he did some research and discovered that his church is in a food desert. He talked to his members, and they decided to open a food pantry at the church. But, they didn’t stop there. They wanted people who came to the food bank to get as much nutrition as possible, so they created a garden at the back of the church to grow produce like cucumbers, squash, and peppers.

Recently, the church had a reaping, and they were able to pull from the garden and add fresh produce to the food bank items people receive, said Jones. He said the church’s action reminds him of what White said in *The Ministry of Healing* about Jesus mingling with

“What becomes future is what we do now,”

Andrew Mwavua



people, and ministering to them as one desiring their good. He won their confidence, says Jones, and then He said follow Me.

“I think that as we minister to people providing food, addressing their needs, we are winning confidence,” said Jones. “As we win their confidence, we can point them to Jesus Christ. I can’t think about tomorrow if today I’m hungry. I can think about tomorrow if my basic today needs are met; then I can start to envision a future.”

Riverside also has an annual dental/





Packaged produce goes with food pantry items people receive.

health clinic scheduled for October. Previous clinics were facilitated by Wonder Drake, M.D., a Riverside member who is currently senior associate dean of facul-

ty affairs at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She said Adventists are in a unique position to promote healthy living.

“By observing health reform, it helps us be a witness in a way that people don’t necessarily think about day to day,” said Drake, who recalled an encounter she had with a woman at a grocery store.

“Don’t I know you?” the woman asked her. “You went to that church where they taught us how to eat vegetarian. They cooked all this food for us. I still eat that way. I got so much better: I lost weight, I don’t have to take blood pressure medicine anymore. I’m so grateful for what you all did.”

Over in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, several events are held to promote healthy living in the community, such as 5K races, Reversing Diabetes programs, and health rallies at other Adventist churches to empower and equip members to spread the health message in their communities.

EW Dempsey, who oversees health ministries for the Conference, said the rallies focus on heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and the importance of having a healthy immune system.

“We approach it from a nutritional



standpoint, but also exercise: aerobic exercise, strengthening your pulmonary system,” said Dempsey. “This is something ... people need.”

Meeting the needs of people is something that AdventHealth takes seriously. In communities they serve, a rigorous assessment is undertaken every three years to identify the needs and formulate a plan for bringing wholeness to those communities, reports AdventHealth. Each Community Health Plan (CHP) serves as an action plan for addressing the priorities outlined in AdventHealth’s 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which was released in December and included record input from 22,000-plus community members, 366 stakeholders, and 69 focus groups from AdventHealth hospital-campus communities in nine states.

While mental and/or behavioral health ranked among top priorities in most plans, also notable on this assessment cycle is the factoring in of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), such as access to services and quality health care, transportation, safe and affordable



First produce from the Riverside Community garden is gathered.

housing, and food security (nutrition and healthy eating).

Andrew Mwavua, executive director of community advocacy at AdventHealth, said the CHPs serve as a sort of “State of Our Communities.” Those plans and the CHNAs upon which they are based help advance the strategic goal of heightened awareness around community health needs and what AdventHealth is doing to address those needs.

Ultimately, Mwavua said, the goal is to build capacity in and with local communities so that they can more actively participate and, to an even greater extent, co-own the process and the deliverables. “What becomes future is what we do now,” said Mwavua. “Community Health Plans help guide strategic investments toward creating a more conducive ecosystem that increases the probability of longevity of life with quality.”

Whether it is a health rally, marathon, or community assessment, Adventists are working to teach and heal — “all for the glory of God.” 🕊

Lucas L. Johnson II is a freelance writer who lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Upcoming 5Ks:

AdventHealth’s Pink on Parade 5K to raise awareness and honor individuals and their families who have been touched by breast cancer: Lake County, Florida, on September 17, 2023; Orange/Osceola/Seminole and Flagler County, Florida, on October 8, 2023. For more information, visit: <https://www.adventhealth.com/pink-on-parade/pink-parade-virtual-5k-registration>.

Lady Track Shack 5K on October 18, 2023, in Orlando, Florida: Mothers and daughters, sisters and friends come together at this all-women 5K to celebrate women’s health and fundraise to provide early diagnosis for those in need. For more information, visit <https://www.trackshack.com/event/19>.

Virtual 5K to benefit the Virtual Care Center at AdventHealth Heart, Lung, and Vascular Institute: Funds raised will help to provide heart monitors and remote patient monitoring (RPM) kits to treat vulnerable patients 24 hours a day. For more information, visit: <https://www.adventhealth.com/foundation/adventhealth-foundation-central-florida/heart-heart-5k>.



REMEMBERING KEN ROGERS

BY **DON KEELE JR. AND GREGORY TAYLOR**

More than 1,000 individuals gathered on April 1, 2023, at the Collegedale, Tennessee, Church, with another 253 watching via livestream, to celebrate the life of Kenneth E. Rogers, recently retired youth and young adult director for the Southern Union Conference. “Pastor Ken,” as he was affectionately known, lost his battle to renal failure on March 17, 2023, at the age of 68. He passed peacefully to his rest and is awaiting the resurrection call of Jesus.

Pastor Ken spent almost all of his career serving the youth and young adults of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, first as a youth pastor in numerous churches, later as chaplain of Southern Adventist University for many years, as vice president of student life at Walla Walla University, and finally serving as the youth and young adult director for the Southern Union Conference, the position from which he retired in January of 2023.

Many of those Pastor Ken served during their formative and growing-up

years remember him as a mentor, a kind and compassionate pastor, a person who they knew always cared for them. Pastor Ken believed that empowerment of young people lay at the core of his ministry philosophy, and relationships were the currency that he used to empower them. He forged strong, often lifelong, relationships wherever he served.

Rogers was honored by the North American Division in January 2023, with a Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor the Church Ministries



Department bestows on a person. When presenting the award, North American Division associate youth and young adult director, Vandeon Griffin, D.Min., said, “We thank God for the ministry, the leadership, the humor, and Ken’s commitment to God and to students across the North American Division.”

In his last position, he worked with all the Southern Union Conference’s youth and young adult directors, Pathfinder directors, and camp directors. We asked this group of Rogers’ colleagues about his impact on their life and ministry. Here are some of their responses:

“Ken’s leadership was one of a kind. His childlike spirit was always twinkling in his eyes, and he taught me to never lose the sense of childlike love for Jesus. ‘Keep it about Jesus,’ is what he would tell me. And, it was in his shared smiles and kindness that I saw God reflected in him,” said Theresa Stride, year-round program director for Camp Kulaqua.

“Ken had a unique ability to make you think that you were the most important person he had ever talked to. He had a gift of valuing and fostering meaningful relationships,” said Gregory Taylor, former Kentucky-Tennessee Conference youth director and current Southern Union Conference youth and young adult director. “I thank God for using Ken to remind us all of the need to disciple young people and to ask God to help us create lifelong followers of Jesus,” said Pedro Perez, Florida Conference club ministries director.

“Ken was my friend, and Ken was fun,” said Rick Faber, Carolina Conference senior director of camp ministries.”

“Ken epitomized the gentle leader. He led from the side. He would come alongside you and lead. We ministered together during the ‘Discover the Power Camporee,’ and I witnessed his gentle leadership of the overflowing, enriched talent of the praise team, as he gently led them. I admired that about him,” said Roger Wade, South Central Conference communication director and former youth director.

“Ken was a man of many talents. He



shared with me how he felt a calling from God when he was a teenager at Sunset Lake Camp in Washington state. He was also a tremendous choir director. I’ve never seen anyone who could lead the Vespers on Friday night at Southern any better than Ken. He could preach. He loved sports and was a great tennis player and golfer. He was involved in youth ministry as a leader because it was in his heart. He heard God’s call when he was a teenager at camp, and he never backed up from the challenge. Faithful to the end, we look forward to the day when Ken hears Jesus say, ‘Well done my good and faithful servant,’” said Phil Younts, Florida Conference camp ministries director.

“Ken was a guest speaker my freshman year at Forest Lake Academy. His sermon, which I still remember to this day, changed the trajectory of my life. He returned my senior year and solidified God’s calling on my heart to join the ministry. Afterward, in college and beyond, he gave me great wisdom, empowered me to become stronger, and gave me opportunities as a young man to have influence in the lives of my peers,” said Juan Rodriguez, Florida Conference youth and young adult ministries director.

“The past 10 years, we have worked closely in developing Young Adult and Adventist Christian Fellowship Minis-

tries, both in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, as well as in the Southern Union. I miss his wisdom, wit, leadership, and most of all, his friendship. I look forward to the day soon when we can gather around the Throne of Jesus and swap stories for eternity,” said Don Keele Jr., director of Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s young adult and Adventist Christian Fellowship Ministries.

While Pastor Ken will be deeply missed, we can find hope as we resonate with the words of Viv Cook, left on Rogers’ Facebook page a few days after his passing. “Ken, until then our hearts will go on singing ... until then our joy will carry on ... until that day when our eyes behold that city ... Until the day God calls us ALL home.”

To watch his memorial service, go to <https://livestream.com/collegedales-dachurch/churchprograms>, and select “Ken Rogers’ memorial service” from the list on the right. ❶

Don Keele Jr. is the young adult and Adventist Christian Fellowship Ministries director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Gregory Taylor, former youth director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and current youth and young adult director for the Southern Union Conference.

THE ICONIC LIFE OF THOMAS MARSHALL KELLY

MARCH 2, 1930–FEBRUARY 5, 2023

BY VICTORIA L. JOINER, ED.D.

An icon is defined as “A person or thing widely admired especially for having great influence or significance in a particular sphere.” The irony is this: Calling Thomas Marshall Kelly an icon in the Seventh-day Adventist Church would drive him to quickly deflect that moniker away and direct any focus back to Christ. Still, that was what he truly was – an icon – widely admired, of great influence, and of great significance.

Have You Got Any Rivers

Thomas Marshall Kelly’s influence began 92 years ago in Cleveland, Ohio, when he was born as the only child of an Adventist couple, Louis and Mary Kelly. Though a precocious boy, he unfortunately developed a severe stutter that made expressing himself difficult. Other children teased him, and he later spoke about a teacher who completely wrote him off, and declared that he would never amount to much. But, God had a much different plan for his life. His amazing baritone singing voice began to develop, and it would soon change his life.

God Leads His Dear Children Along

A product of Adventist Christian education, Kelly went from Ramah Academy to Oakwood Academy and Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in the 1940s. He became featured in a quartet called “The Velvetones” that toured



with E. E. Rogers, Ph.D., around the nation to recruit students for Oakwood. He transferred to Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) to receive his four-year degree in theology in 1952. A popular student, he became the class pastor, and was a charter member of a choral group called “The Collegians.” Upon graduation, he was called to serve in the Lake Region Conference, where he would pastor for 25 years.

Never Doubt His Love

In 1952, he married a girl he had known since kindergarten, named Jean Garland. Their romance would span 63 years and produce two talented children, Eric Marshall and Karen Nadine. Marshall and Jean’s life was never a life of ease. As a pastor’s family in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there would be many

years of relocating from one area of the midwest to another and ministering in eight different congregations. As a young couple, they would experience the pain of a pregnancy loss. But, in the midst of their sorrow, the Lord gave Marshall a song that would forever be one of his most famous, “Never Doubt His Love.” His lyrics, “He who sends the sunshine, He allows the rain, but never, never doubt His love,” would soothe hearts of the broken-hearted for generations. God’s great love for His people would forever be a recurring theme throughout the ministry of T. Marshall Kelly.

It Takes Everything to Serve the Lord

Kelly began a recording career when it was not the most popular or even an acceptable enterprise for an Adventist pastor to conduct. The irony is that Scripture is very clear that the duties of the Levites include the ministry of music. His musical gift was to be shared in “temples” around the world. In fact, his powerful, musical ministry would draw countless people to Christ in numerous evangelistic efforts and campaigns. As Ellen White said in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, “Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an act of worship as is prayer.” Kelly’s albums and performances became a part of the rich lexicon of musical ministry as he toured throughout the years with church evangelists Don Jacobsen, Earl E. Cleveland, Charles D. Brooks, W. C. Scales Jr.,

Tim Lewis, and John Carter. His songs, broadcast over loudspeakers, drew people to countless tent efforts — including my own father, Murray E. Joiner’s “Big Bible Tent” meetings in Mississippi and Alabama. We will never know how many lives were changed as he ministered around the world in Canada, Bermuda, Japan, Ghana, New Zealand, Fiji, New Guinea, and South Africa. He also had the honor of singing at the world-renowned Sydney Opera House in Australia.

All That Thrills My Soul is Jesus

For more than 40 years of ministry, Kelly was featured on various media outlets. His first televised appearance was on the program “Faith For Today” with William and Virginia Fagal. He sang and spoke on the 3ABN television network over the years, and was featured on “The Voice of Prophecy’s” Family Reunion series. He began his own talk show, called “Think It Over,” on Oakwood University’s radio station 90.1 FM WOCG/WJOU. “Think It Over” has run continually every Sabbath afternoon for more than 44 years. It has the distinction of being the longest-running program in station history, and has always started with the greatest Scripture of all — John 3:16, 17.

As his fame grew, Kelly became even more grounded in Jesus. He never wanted accolades from people, and would often shy away from award ceremonies and declined honors. He said in one of his last interviews, “I never thought that I would go some of the places I have gone. But God has never been impressed with me!” Everywhere he went, he lifted up Christ and Christ alone.

Peace in the Valley

After 25 years of pastoral ministry in the Lake Region Conference, Kelly made the difficult decision to step away from the pastorate and move from Detroit, Michigan, to the Tennessee Valley. He did not even have a job, but felt led by the Holy Spirit to take time away to focus on his family. He had ventured into educa-

tion in Chicago, where he was pastoring when he taught Bible classes at Shiloh Academy. It was a natural fit for him to continue at Oakwood Academy and Oakwood College as a teacher and chaplain. Kelly’s kindness and tender love endeared him to the students over the many years in Huntsville, Alabama. At his recent memorial service, dozens of former students lined the pulpit of the Oakwood University Church to pay homage to their beloved teacher and friend.

I Could Never Outlove the Lord

In his latter years, he was called to pastor several churches, including congregations in Harvest and Athens, Alabama, as well as the Breath of Life and Westminster Good Samaritan churches in Southern California. He tried to retire over and over again but was called back into service as a pastor and later as interim chaplain at Oakwood University. Early in the mornings, he would venture to Oakwood Adventist Academy to open doors and greet each student with a courtly bow and a cheerful, “Good Morning, Miss!” or “Good Morning, Sir!” His music ministry continued at countless concerts, weddings, funerals, and church services. His weekly talk show never ended, even when he was commuting between Texas, California, and Alabama. Well into his 80s and early 90s, he kept up with the latest technological advances in radio broadcasting, and gave weekly messages online through Zoom meetings throughout the pandemic and beyond.

And finally, one of his most cherished ministries was his gift of intercession. He spent countless hours over the years visiting the sick or calling friends, loved ones, and leaders to pray earnestly with or for them. To be the recipient of those phone calls and prayers was truly a gift from God.

Follow Me

When word came of his passing, tribute after tribute poured out across social media with one recurring theme — Elder T. Marshall Kelly was truly a man of God. We all knew he was connected completely to the Holy Spirit. Everyone repeated the

same story, “When I was at my lowest, the phone would ring, and he would say, ‘The Lord placed you on my heart today, and I called to pray with you.’” It was always right on time! He was always there when we needed a word of encouragement or even a word of admonition! He was real; he was funny; he was caring; he was the living embodiment of what a Christian should be. He was not perfect, but he was always quick to ask for forgiveness. He was so generous, loving, and so very kind, to the point that everyone felt as if they were members of his family.

Until Then

This loss hurts. Our beloved icon rests now. He is survived by his son, Eric (Lori) Marshall; his daughter, Nadine (Dane); his grandson, Justin (Sheree) Marshall; his granddaughter, Marissa, and her mother, Marci; his grandson, Corey, and his father, Vernon; and his two great-grandchildren, Adella Lynn and Charles Marshall, as well as a host of family and friends in the worldwide community of faith.

Thanks be to God, we have this hope. God will swallow up death in victory, and He will wipe away all tears from our eyes. One day we will all be reunited around the throne to sing with Elder Kelly and all of the saints of God. But until then, we must pick up the mantle that he has left for us. Let us all follow after him as he followed after Christ. Let us remember to live as he said, “When you help somebody, don’t help them for a plaque, or for praise, or to be called a nice person. Do it for Jesus.”

“A new commandment I give to you that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another,” John 13:34 ESV. ●

Victoria L. Joiner, Ed.D., is a professor, veteran broadcaster, writer, historian, speaker, musician, mother, and book author. For more than 20 years, she and T. Marshall Kelly served as colleagues at the Oakwood University station WOCG-FM that later became WJOU-FM.

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS COMMISSIONER VISITS FOOD DRIVE

BY CARLOS MEDLEY

When one offers a cup of water to a thirsty stranger or a bag of groceries to a needy family, there's no telling who's watching — or, better yet, who might step up to lend a helping hand.

Members and friends of Altamonte Springs, Florida, Church found that out recently as they prepared for their weekly food giveaway. The group welcomed Bob O'Malley, who serves on the Altamonte Springs City Commission. O'Malley oversees the neighborhood where the church is located. He responds to residents' concerns and makes sure they receive basic city services. It's his responsibility to understand what's happening in his district.

Dion Henry, Altamonte Springs pastor, invited the newly elected commissioner to observe the church's food drive. When O'Malley arrived, he was dressed and ready to work, not just observe. The commissioner helped volunteers unload the food truck and move boxes. "This is a wonderful project, and I want to help," he said. "It fills a real need in the community. It's great that the church does this every week and that it's happening in my district. A lot of families are struggling, and it's wonderful that the church is helping them out."

Cars fill the church's parking lot every Tuesday. Some recipients arrive hours before the distribution starts. As cars line up, volunteers lay out an array



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Helping Hands: Michael Dada (left), volunteer; Bob O'Malley, Altamonte Springs commissioner; Sonya Pusey, Altamonte Springs Church community services leader; and Dion Henry, Altamonte Springs Church pastor.

of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, cheese, eggs, canned goods, bread and pastries, pet food, and water.

Grateful Hearts

Recipients are grateful for the assortment of fruits and vegetables. Lisa Martin, a local resident who has come to the food drive for two years, said, "With the healthy food they're giving away, I don't have to go to the grocery store. I used to go just to get cat food because I feed them before I feed myself. Now I don't have to do that because they even have cat food. The food they offer is really healthy. I share the food with my neighbors and my parents."

Apart from the food, recipients are

also touched by the kindness of the volunteers. "These are the kindest people I've ever met anywhere," said Martin. "When I come to the church on Tuesdays, I see them working so hard, but they don't care. They just want to serve the Lord by serving people. I've never seen a church do this. This is special."

People come to the food drive for different reasons. Oleg and Lyudmila Karpik fled war-torn Ukraine, and had just arrived in Altamonte Springs when they came to the food drive. The Karpiks lived in the city of Lutsk in northwestern Ukraine, less than 100 miles from the Polish border. "We are very grateful for what the church is doing," said Oleg Karpik. "We've only been in Altamonte Springs



Loading Up: Dion Henry, Altamonte Springs pastor, takes an active role in the weekly food giveaway.



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Quick Orientation: Bob O'Malley (center), Altamonte Springs commissioner, receives a briefing of the food drive process from Sonya Pusey (left), Altamonte Springs community services leader; and Dion Henry, church pastor. Pusey leads a team of 30 volunteers.



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Fresh Produce: Altamonte Springs Church's food drive provides recipients with a wide assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables.

for one week. We haven't received all our work permits, so our money is limited."

As the Karpiks offer thankful prayers for their resettlement and free food, they also pray for friends and loved ones who struggle to survive amid the bloodshed of Ukraine's year-long war.

Liz Butler, who has two children, said the food drive is helping her get out of debt. "This saves me \$200 a month. I don't qualify for any other assistance. Food is expensive. With this food we are able to have a healthier diet."

Mission Driven

Community service has long been a hallmark of Altamonte Springs Church. For several years, the church operated a soup kitchen. "Volunteers gave a devotional message, then served a hot meal, and gave away bags of groceries," said Sonya Pusey, community services director. "Volunteers would give away about 50 bags of food each week. Unfortunately, the program stopped in March 2020 because of COVID, and there was no activity for 12 months."

In August 2021, the lingering COVID threat prompted the church to forgo its soup kitchen. Working with Advent-Health and a local food bank, eight dedicated volunteers began loading food into cars. Today, more than 30 volunteers staff the distribution. "We don't advertise because people are asking to



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Ready and Waiting: Every Tuesday morning, cars start lining up several hours before the giveaway begins.

volunteer. Even some of our recipients volunteer," said Pusey. "They thank God that we're distributing food every week. That's a rare thing. People are grateful for the food. They show up and tell their friends and neighbors."

Statistics show the growing need for the program. In August 2021, volunteers served 7,292 individuals; in 2022, 27,346 people; and through May 2023, 14,455 people. This year, 2,900 people are being served each month, putting the church on track to serve more than 34,000 people by year's end.

After witnessing the operation, O'Malley expressed his appreciation for the program. "It's great to see churches and nonprofits with programs like this. I hope, in my role as commissioner, to spread the word, look for more volunteers, raise awareness of this program, help identify grant opportunities, and pursue those opportunities," he said.

Henry is grateful for the growth of the food drive. "We give God the praise for the impact that we've had on the community. The progress has been amazing. We're getting volunteers from church members and nonmembers. These volunteers are passionate about their service. They serve in a loving, compassionate way."

Though the food drive has grown significantly, Henry says more work needs to be done. "In the future we want to expand into other forms of social services. In addition to providing food, we're already helping people who want to upgrade their healthcare. We want to help people get housing and further their education. We want to take a person from despair and desperation to a point of deliverance."

Henry sees community service as a vital part of the Gospel ministry. "My appeal to other pastors is to find ways to connect with the community. That's how churches thrive. That's how they grow and impact society." Henry already sees the difference that Adventist Community Services has made. Others are taking notice. "Local organizations approach us, saying, 'We see what you're doing. How can we help?'" 📌

Carlos Medley, a retired online editor of *Adventist Review*, lives in Orlando, Florida.

CROSSWALK CHATTANOOGA'S NEW HOME LAUNCHES SEASON OF MIRACLES

BY ALYSA DARMODY

So, the feedback we got is that people haven't seen it done before. What's our next move?"

When Crosswalk Chattanooga signed their new building's lease agreement,

their leadership team knew they'd need to be ready for anything. But, they weren't expecting the space to fall into foreclosure two weeks after they signed.

"We were in a seemingly impossible

position," said Justin Wampler, church administrator. "We could panic or get to work and trust that God had a better plan for us than we could ever imagine." After weeks of legal discussions



Tim Gillespie (left), lead teaching pastor for Crosswalk Global, along with Dave Ferguson, lead pastor for Crosswalk Chattanooga, stand outside Crosswalk Chattanooga's new building. The church raised \$2 million in just 15 days to be able to purchase the building that went into foreclosure two weeks after signing a lease agreement for the space.



Dave Ferguson, pastor, and Caryl Lynn are welcomed by the leadership team on their first weekend serving at Crosswalk Chattanooga. Ferguson began his new role on May 14, 2023.

and prayer, the owners came back to Crosswalk, asking if they had an offer. Chattanooga's local campus of Crosswalk Global Network of Churches satellite church model had rented multiple buildings in four years. The new location, off of Lee Highway and Highway 153 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was centrally located, move-in ready, and hard to pass up. Church members voted to step out in faith, raise the funds, and put down an offer, as long as the Georgia-Cumberland Conference could help finance the quick purchase.

The challenge? Raise \$2 million in 15 days.

A fundraising committee quickly worked with the leadership team to meet with as many donors as possible, and social media pushes ran non-stop. Stories about Crosswalk's culture of belonging and momentum swirled. And members showed up, with more than 85% in donations, including col-

lege students, parents and grandparents of members, and even sister Crosswalk campus members. "In two weeks, we saw miracle after miracle, and not just from the local Crosswalk community, but engagement from around the world," said Tim Gillespie, lead teaching pastor for Crosswalk Global. "It was an affirmation of all the incredible Kingdom-focused work the leadership team and church has done over the last four years."

Fifteen days later, the celebrations started, and they haven't stopped. Since then, Crosswalk Chattanooga also welcomed their first lead pastor, David K. Ferguson. Ferguson had been an invitee to the church's leadership team since launching in 2018. "Since our inception, Dave has been invited to guide, consult, share wisdom, and participate in the vision of Crosswalk Chattanooga," said Gillespie. "While we looked at other names, Dave just kept coming back to the surface as the

God-given choice for this community." Ferguson and his wife, Caryl Lynn, began their time on campus during their "Weekend of Gratitude," celebrating both the pastoral team and closing on the new building. "God has been clearly leading here, and I couldn't be more excited," said Ferguson. "I love the people of Crosswalk. My heart is naturally drawn to what they are doing and, while it was captivating to watch the miraculous numbers raised, it really speaks to passionate people. There's a hunger for belonging and the unique mission of this church." 📌

Alysa Darmody serves as a leadership team member at Crosswalk Chattanooga.

RELUCTANCE TRANSFORMED: LIFE-CHANGING MISSION TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

In the heart of Ariana Mercado, a member of the Nashville, Tennessee, First Church, a hesitant reluctance brewed when she first heard about the upcoming evangelistic mission trip to the Dominican Republic organized by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Youth Department. She found herself crafting an assortment of excuses, citing constraints like time and money. However, it seemed that God had different plans for her, and, as if He was determined to make it happen, all the doors opened for this opportunity.

“As I was praying about [the mission trip], I had to ask myself: what is my real reason for not going?” said Mercado. “I didn’t really have an excuse anymore. I could feel God saying, ‘I can provide for you. I will help you get the funds. I will help you have that courage to speak in public. You have to trust me.’”

And so, in June of 2023, Mercado flew to Santo Domingo alongside 11 other participants for a life-changing opportunity. The eager missionaries, most who were preaching for the first time, shared God’s message throughout seven nights

and two mornings. The theme for the week was “Conocer a Jesus Es Todo,” (Getting to Know Jesus is Everything).

The mission trip was a joint endeavor by Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and Southeast Dominican Conference. Nelson Silva, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference associate youth director,

says this turned out to be a remarkable partnership in evangelism.

“We came with an attitude of collaboration,” said Silva. “I think that that’s the most important element, that they see us as partners. This means that we were coming to learn from them. They were in charge of their events, and we



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

The mission trip group pose inside the Dominican Republic Southeast Conference. The evangelistic mission trip was a life-changing opportunity for the 12 participants, many who preached for the first time in their lives.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Ariana Mercado preaches her first sermon at the Brisas del Este Church in Santo Domingo. At first, Mercado was hesitant about joining the mission trip, but God opened the doors for her to go and now she shares the experience of how she was blessed.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Samantha Barclay connects with a member at the Villa Esfuerzo Church, where she preached a total of nine sermons. At the end of the evangelistic mission trip, 25 people were baptized, and an additional 51 signed up for Bible studies.

As they practiced their sermons together and shared their testimonies each day, they discovered newfound depths in their connection with one another.

“When you have conversations with peer missionaries, you realize that something is going on inside of them, that they are changing from within,” said Silva. “During this week, the group becomes family and gains a similar sense of community as the early church where they ate, worshipped, and preached together.”

As the mission trip drew to a close, Mercado emerged from the journey with a newfound understanding of God’s guidance. She learned that when God has a mission for you, He will ensure that you find your way there. Now, she has signed on for another evangelistic mission trip, to Peru in October 2023.

“I once again heard God saying, ‘Don’t worry about all the obstacles, we’re going to get through them together,’” said Mercado. “This experience really showed me that He is in control. I know that at the end of the day, God’s got me and He will continue to use me to bring Him glory.” ●

just cooperated with what God was already doing in their community.”

At the end of the series, 25 people were baptized and 51 others signed up for Bible studies. The evangelistic series not only impacted the local community at Santo Domingo, but also the lives of the Conference preachers.

One of the mission trip’s participants, Justin Johnson, from the Woodbury, Tennessee, Church, found himself in a similar state of apprehension as Mercado when deciding to join the Dominican Republic mission trip. Struggling through a difficult period in his life, Johnson felt as if his own troubles rendered him unable to make a difference in the lives of others. But as with Mercado, God was guiding him to this mission trip.

Johnson dived deep into his Bible studies as he prepared to share God’s message. When he was nervous to preach, Johnson says he felt the Holy Spirit working through him. Reflecting on his experience, he now realizes that God had been calling him to the Dominican Republic for a special reason.

“People think mission trips are just

about where they are going or the people that they’re going to be preaching to,” said Johnson. “And, while that is obviously important, mission trips are also about God calling you because He knows you have something going on in your life, and He just wants to get closer to you.”

Beyond the individual transformations, Silva says the mission trip fostered a sense of unity among the participants.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Jon Remitera (left) and Justin Johnson enjoy some delicious mangoes from the Dominican Republic.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Amanda Hagar (left) prays with Monalisa Dubujena. Each day, mission trip participants got together to worship, practice their sermons, and share their testimony.

COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC SERVES LOCAL HEALTH NEEDS

BY RIKA MEYER

AdventHealth Gordon proudly joined forces with community partners to organize the AMEN Free Clinic on Sunday, June 11, 2023. This collaborative event aimed to provide essential medical, dental, vision, and mental health support to the local community, free of

charge. With nearly 370 individuals served by 175 dedicated volunteers, AdventHealth Gordon's unwavering commitment to "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ" was put into action throughout the event.

Denise Rustad, community wellness coordinator at AdventHealth

Gordon, dreamed of this event for several years. After the idea was put on hold due to COVID-19, Rustad and others at AdventHealth Gordon, Calhoun Church, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, and Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church rallied together to bring the vision to life. Recogniz-



ing the immense need for basic medical services, the group partnered with the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN), an organization specializing in offering free clinics to uninsured and underinsured individuals across the United States.

The AMEN Free Clinic served as a beacon of hope for those in the community lacking adequate health care coverage. Patients had the opportunity to receive much-needed dental services, vision care, mental health support, and comprehensive medical consultations. Many patients who received care had not seen a doctor or dentist in years. AdventHealth Gordon also provided additional medical equipment, health screening devices, and essential supplies to ensure a seamless experience for patients.

Throughout the event, AdventHealth Gordon's dedicated team members went above and beyond to serve the clinic's participants. Lynn Janzen, AdventHealth Gordon laboratory director, guided patients to their desired services. Daniel Ahn, M.D., ophthalmologist at AdventHealth Gordon, conducted vision exams, addressing any visual impairments that patients may have been experiencing. Nursing staff also played a crucial role in the success of the AMEN Free Clinic by conducting pre-screening labs for all patients and readying them to see a doctor or dentist. Sally Smalley, M.D., an otolaryngologist at AdventHealth Medical Group Ear, Nose & Throat at Calhoun, provided ear cleanings.

Chris Self, president and CEO at AdventHealth Gordon, worked to find and deliver essential supplies such as hand sanitizer and dental supplies. Wendy Taylor, community outreach coordinator at AdventHealth in Georgia, directed the registration and patient check-in process, greeting each patient with a smile. The hospital's plant operations team contributed to patient privacy by delivering room dividers, creating a

confidential environment for medical consultations.

Calhoun resident Tammy Minchew was one of the first in line at 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, and heard about the clinic the week before on social media. "Today was a tremendous blessing for me," said Minchew. "I checked to see what this dental treatment would cost, and it would have been thousands of dollars."

A team of dentists, dental assistants, registered dental hygienists, and sterilization crew delivered expert care to people in need of cleanings, extractions, and other procedures. Dental assistant students from Georgia Northwestern Technical College and dental hygiene students from Chattanooga State University volunteered their time to help.

During her visit with one of the volunteer dentists, Minchew received fillings, smoothed teeth, and a sparkling smile. "The dentist filled my broken tooth, and it was smooth for the first time in seven months. He didn't want me leaving here in pain and made a difference in just 30 minutes. Now I can eat, sleep, and talk more normally. And now I have my smile back," said Minchew.

The event's organizers were intentional about creating access and a positive experience for attending Spanish-speaking participants. Bilingual medical providers met with patients, and the dental area had many volunteers who were able to communicate in various languages. A translation team of volunteers guided attendees and helped them locate their desired services.

"The AMEN Free Clinic perfectly embodies the heart of what we do at AdventHealth Gordon – Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ," said Self. "This event brought together numerous community partners to address the health care needs of our community. It is rewarding to witness the dedication of the 175 volunteers and the positive impact they have made." The success

of the AMEN Free Clinic serves as a testament to AdventHealth Gordon's unwavering commitment to meeting the diverse health care needs of the community. 📍

Rika Meyer is the marketing and communication manager at AdventHealth in Georgia.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- AdventHealth Gordon
- AdventHealth Redmond
- AdventHealth Murray
- Georgia-Cumberland Conference
- Calhoun Adventist Church
- New Town Baptist Church
- Heritage Baptist Church
- Coble Elementary School
- GCA SDA Church
- City of Calhoun
- Healing Hands Clinic
- Gordon County Department of Health
- Highland Rivers Behavioral Health
- The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Inc.
- The Family Resource Center
- Chick-fil-A
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Chattanooga State University
- Many local dental practices

Carolina Conference Camp Meeting 2023 is Week of Spiritual Growth, Fellowship

Carolina Conference Camp Meeting 2023 took place from Sunday, May 28, to Sabbath, June 3, at the picturesque Lake Junaluska, N.C. The theme for this year's gathering was "Seeking His Face," and it proved to be a transformative and enriching experience for more than 2,500 attendees of all ages.

The event kicked off on Sunday evening with a warm welcome from Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, and his wife, Carole Louis. Louis emphasized that the theme of seeking Christ's face was not just a mere slogan, but a prayer that the attendees would earnestly seek a deeper connection with Jesus. The opening night featured a powerful presentation by Tom Evans of Child Impact International, the Global Vista presenter. He was followed by Kameron Devasher, director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department for the Michigan Conference, who continued to deliver thought-provoking messages in the evening sessions. His presentations highlighted the significance of knowing the enemy and the role of God's divine plan in dealing with sin.

Numerous speakers and presenters shared valuable insights and messages throughout the week. The mornings were filled with inspiring talks and calls to action from Carolina pastors. Patrick Williams, pastor of the Asheville Foster Church in Asheville, N.C., shared a personal story of regret when he left a birthday card from his father unopened. He stressed the importance of opening God's love letter, the Bible, to receive the gift of Jesus Christ. Ryan Ashlock, pastor of the Fletcher, N.C., Church, addressed the challenges of sharing the Gospel, and



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

provided insights on effective ministry based on principles from 2 Corinthians.

Camp Meeting also provided a platform for attendees to explore various ministries and engage in discussions. The Harrell Center hosted booths that showcased missionary stories, provided information about sponsorship and mission opportunities, and even offered free items.

The event also touched on important topics that are often considered taboo in Christian circles. Mike Carducci and Ron Woolsey, co-founders of "Coming Out" Ministries, shared their testimonies as individuals who have come out of active homosexual backgrounds. They addressed the topic of sexuality and sexual identity, providing resources and guidance for families seeking to better understand and minister to their loved ones who identify as LGBTQ+. Retired pastor but forever evangelist John Earnhardt delivered compelling messages to the men highlighting the divine calling to be a beacon of light in the world. Another seminar by Jim and Becky Ingersoll prepared attendees to respond to unforeseen disasters.



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Camp Meeting was not just limited to adults; it catered to children and youth as well. The children's programs offered engaging activities and interactive lessons that centered on biblical teachings. From space-themed classrooms for kindergarteners to discussions on Jesus' true identity for youth, each group had a unique and meaningful experience. Several outings took place in the younger groups during Camp Meeting. The teens and young adults both took rafting trips,

and the earliteen group joined in the water activities with a tubing excursion.

The week was also filled with memorable moments and special tributes. A Memorial Day tribute on Monday night honored the sacrifices of those who served in the military, and on Wednesday the annual senior tribute recognized those who don't let age become a factor in their dedication to attend Camp Meeting. The most senior man and woman this year were both 97 years young!

The week also featured prayer walks each morning and trips to the Adventist

Christian Book Center to browse a diverse range of books and materials (and to pick up an ever-popular fruit bar). On Friday morning, young and old participated in the Run4Life 5K and 1-mile Fun Run race that brought together participants of all fitness levels.

Near the close of Camp Meeting, attendees gathered for an anointing service led by Beth Grissom, Carolina Conference prayer ministries director. This service provided an opportunity for attendees to seek spiritual healing and experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Bradshaw of It Is Written concluded the final meeting on Sabbath. Carolina Conference Camp Meeting 2023 was a truly transformative experience. It provided a platform for spiritual growth, fellowship, and the exploration of important topics relevant to end-time faith. The event left each person inspired, challenged, and equipped to continue seeking God's face in their individual journeys. 📖

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Community Rallies as North Anderson Church Rebuilds After Devastating Fire

The North Anderson, N.C., Church was completely destroyed by a fire on March 31, 2023, believed to be caused by a lightning strike during severe storms. Chris and Kristin Johnson, longtime church members, discovered the blaze while driving home, and were devastated to realize it was their home church. Approximately 30 firefighters and first responders, assisted by five fire trucks from three different departments, battled the fire at the scene.

Chris Johnson, church elder, described the experience as surreal, standing helplessly in the pouring rain and feeling completely devastated. Despite the best efforts of the first responders, the building was completely lost, and nothing could be salvaged from the ruins. Another church member expressed sadness over the loss, recounting cherished memories of children's programs, musical performances, and Vacation Bible School held in the church.

Brian Howland, church elder, acknowledged the fire as an act of God,



PHOTO BY: KRISTIN JOHNSON

but emphasized the congregation's belief in God's love and assurance that blessings would come from the tragedy. The church members have grown closer in the aftermath of the fire, supporting one another and finding solace in God's promises of peace during difficult times.

Following the fire, the congregation has managed to continue its services with minimal disruption. Sister churches in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, including Greenville, Pickens, and

Fletcher, have generously offered folding chairs, a sound system, and hymnals. Additionally, a local business, Orion Rugs, donated a beautiful rug to define the "platform" area.

The church members face numerous challenges moving forward. The rising costs of construction in the area have significantly reduced the insurance coverage for rebuilding a structure similar in size and type to the lost sanctuary. The estimated cost of constructing an equivalent sanctuary now exceeds \$900,000. Currently, the congregation gathers in the gym, which lacks air conditioning. As summer approaches, church members must address the need to either install air conditioning in the gym or find an alternate meeting space.

Despite these challenges, the congregation remains steadfast in their faith, believing that God will guide them through this difficult time. 📖

BY JENNIFER HOWLAND

Company Celebrates New Church Membership in Sisterhood of Churches

Jupiter Spanish Company held a celebratory service on January 14, 2023, when this group of believers organized from a company into an official Florida Conference church. Walter Castro, pastoral ministries field associate for volunteer lay pastors, presented a certificate of church recognition from Florida Conference.

The Florida Conference family congratulates the Jupiter Spanish congregation in its official organization as a church, and commends Rolando Morgado, Jupiter Spanish pastor, for his leadership, as well as all the leaders and members who serve faithfully with love. The church family prays for God to continue to lead this beautiful church and fulfill His purposes in this city through His people.

The company began with humble be-



Abdiel Del Toro, vice president for Spanish-language ministries, addressed the Jupiter Spanish Church members and welcomed them into the Florida Conference sisterhood of churches. Also participating was Rolando Morgado (second from right), pastor of Jupiter Spanish Church.

ginings 15 years ago when a group of believers started to worship together. With the efforts and passion of mem-

bers, God provided for the purchase of a permanent house of worship building almost nine years ago.

The purpose of Jupiter Spanish Church is to welcome Christians and those who seek to connect to Christianity in the Jupiter area by:

1. Aiming to make contact with others and encourage them to join in a life-changing Christian journey.
2. Maintaining a friendly Christian community where others are welcome to join in the worship and service to God.
3. Visioning for the future on making an impact for God in Jupiter, Fla., by helping people understand the enriching messages of eternal hope given by Jesus Christ through His words and deeds.

"Everyone is welcome, no matter the age, beliefs, or background," says Morgado. 📞



Jupiter Spanish Company received church status on January 11, 2023, as Jupiter Spanish Church, *Iglesia Adventista Hispana de Jupiter*. The award was presented by Walter Castro, pastoral ministries field associate for volunteer lay pastors, on behalf of Florida Conference.

Flea Market Booth Yields Harvest

Plymouth-Sorrento Church in Apopka, Fla., opened a booth in 2015 at Renninger's Flea Market, one of the largest markets in the state of Florida at that time and still today. The plan for a booth was to give out free Adventist Christian books and magazines. Every Sabbath and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., eight teams take turns running the booth. New teams take over every weekend.

Along with giving books and magazines, shoppers who are interested are invited to sign up for free It Is Written Bible studies. As of April 2023, more than 2,000 people have been enrolled in Bible studies. People have remarked about being impressed by God to stop at the booth. Volunteers from Mount Dora Church are now taking turns on the weekends and are enrolling others in Bible studies as well.

Plymouth-Sorrento Church recently baptized Ralph Vandygriff, a first convert from the market, and another convert will soon follow.

Two years ago, they started bring-



Plymouth-Sorrento Church's booth at the Renninger's Flea Market is well attended.

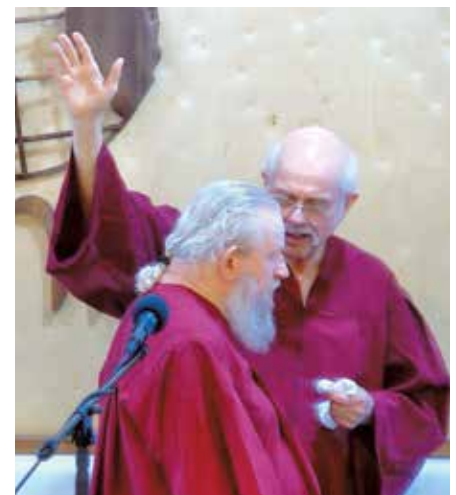
ing vegetarian samples once a year to offer to vendors working in our area. Both Plymouth-Sorrento and Mount Dora members have made delicious, mouth-watering dishes which have become popular. The vendors are discovering that vegetarian food can be deli-

cious as well as nutritious. God is truly blessing the members' endeavors at the booth, and God is given all the praise and all the glory. ①

BY CHARLOTTE HUENERGARDT



Some of the members who worked with new member Ralph Vandygriff: Robert Putt (left), Plymouth-Sorrento pastor; Dave Sanders, personal ministries director; Ralph Vandygriff; and Glenn LeBrun, head elder.



Ralph Vandygriff is a recent convert through the ministry of a booth at Renninger's Flea Market operated by Plymouth-Sorrento Church.

Calhoun Serves Community with Free Healthcare

Long lines of patients, especially for dental and vision needs, waited patiently in the Calhoun, Ga., Church on Sunday, June 11, 2023, for free health care. The total registration was more than 360 persons. Physicians, dentists, ophthalmologists, a dermatologist, physical therapists, an ENT (ear, nose, and throat doctor), gynecologist, counselors, and pastors all donated their time and expertise. A total of 180 volunteers from as far away as California, and as nearby as Rome, Adairsville, Chattanooga, and Calhoun assisted with

registration, greeting, giving directions, organizing, translating, and providing musical entertainment.

Community support was evident. While the primary sponsors for the clinic were AdventHealth Gordon, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, the City of Calhoun, and local area churches, community support extended far beyond these sponsors.

The Calhoun Times ran an article about the clinic with a photo of the church on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Following orientation on Friday, the local Chik-fil-A donated a vegetarian supper for all the volunteers. New Town Baptist Church provided volunteers with veggie subs for lunch during the clinic. Heritage Baptist Church donated drinks and snacks to fuel the volunteers and patients throughout the day. Chattanooga State Community College, Rome Dental, and Georgia Northwestern Technical College all brought dental hygiene and dental assistant students to assist on Sunday. Aspen Dental in Rome came with several trained professionals to serve. Representatives from the Healing Hands Clinic of Gordon County, the Health Department, and the Highland Rivers Behavior Health organization, were present to provide care and resources

for additional services they offer in the community.

Calhoun Church's food bank, God's Pantry, offered free taco salad lunches to those attending the clinic as well as staff members, with young volunteers serving almost 400 meals. A representative from God's Closet, the church's clothing distribution outlet, was on hand to bring awareness to services offered. Free Bible studies in English and Spanish were available in the church foyer, and ministers were present to offer prayer and counseling for anyone who felt the need.

When asked about her visit to the Amen Clinic, Lynn appreciated getting an eye exam, a prescription, and dermatology check. Pamela was extremely grateful to have a jagged tooth extracted. Mario received prescription glasses, had his ear cleaned of wax, and found some relief of shoulder pain after time well spent with the physical therapist. Donald, who received a prescription and vision check, said, "They did a fine job!" Karen also got new glasses and received dermatological care. Despite the long wait in line, she summed up her experience as "Phenomenal!"

BY RUTH HOFFER



PHOTO BY: RIKKA MEYER, ADVENTHEALTH

Gordon County residents lined up for hours to receive free dental cleanings and extractions at the AMEN Free Clinic on June 11, 2023. The clinic held at the Calhoun Church provided eye care, physical therapy, and other medical care to 360 people.

Jasper Members Return Home

When I saw Rhonda in church, I thought, Jesus must be coming very soon," Judy remembers. It had been almost four decades since her cousin had attended church. Her eyes mist as she says, "Rhonda was the last one I expected to see from my family!"

Not only did Rhonda become a regular attendee, but she also started weekly

Bible studies with retired pastor, Dan Hall. It was evident that she was falling in love with Jesus.

As the church got to know Rhonda, they learned about why she and the majority of her family left the Church many years ago. A needless hurt to one of the patriarchs who had participated in building the church had led to the family being hurt too.

At Christmas some of the members decided to make gift packets with sharing magazines, some cookies, and a note saying, "We are praying for you and we miss you!" from the church. These gifts were delivered to about 12 homes of members who hadn't been seen in church for more than two years, including the aforementioned patriarch and his wife.

After the holidays, a weekly prayer group was started to pray over the names on the membership list. And then, a homecoming Sabbath was scheduled and providentially set for April 8, 2023, which they discovered was 75 years after Rhonda's grandma got baptized (April 8, 1948). Efforts were made to invite every member, including those not currently attending church. This was a personal prayer for Rhonda and Judy as they prayed for their family to respond.

During the afternoon homecoming program, Rob Snider, pastor, beautifully shared about people being hurt by people, and that he was sorry for pains inflicted upon others. One of Judy and Rhonda's relatives took a *Steps to Christ*



Jasper Church youth tell the history of the church through skits. The church celebrated a homecoming celebration on April 8, 2023, and invited members who were no longer attending the church.

PHOTO BY: DIANE HOOKER

book on the way out and placed it in his back pocket. God was healing wounds.

Since then, two of Judy and Rhonda's cousins regularly attend on Sabbath. Moreover, on Monday nights, while a small group of members are still praying at church, Judy, and her husband, Danny, host a Bible study for her sisters, Rhonda's sister, and two of their cousins. In addition, the patriarch and his wife once again attend every Sabbath with their eldest child, Rhonda, and niece, Judy. The church family's hearts can only sing, "Hallelujah!"

BY DIANE HOOKER, JASPER PERSONAL MINISTRIES CO-LEADER

Stone Mountain Hispanic Receives Church Status

The Stone Mountain Hispanic Company was officially organized as a church on June 17, 2023, after 13 years of sharing the Gospel in the community. This milestone reaffirmed the faith and hope of its congregants, who were very joyful for the occasion. During the ceremony officiated by Georgia-Cumberland Conference administrators, Gary Rustad, Conference president, highlighted the importance of remembering to give thanks to the Lord, to keep sharing Jesus, and to make disciples. Chester Clark, vice president for administration, officiated the church organization service.

All three pastors — Orlando Gonzalez (2009-2013), Aldo Espinoza (2010-2011), and Danilo Cornejo (2013-2022) — who have led the church since its beginning, were in attendance to celebrate and congratulate the church members. Each one thanked the members for their hard work in achieving this accomplishment. "The waiting time has served to unite the members, develop new leaders,



Nadin Diaz (left), first elder, receives a plaque from Gary Rustad, Georgia-Cumberland president, recognizing the Stone Mountain Hispanic Church as the 184th church in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

and understand the value of the church structure," declared Danilo Cornejo, pastor.

Virginia Guillen, one of the Stone Mountain Church members, provided the church's history and how it has grown over the past years, and positively impacted the community. She reported that Cornejo was the one who requested

the Georgia-Cumberland Conference administration on April 4, 2014, to establish the group as a company, a petition granted on November 15, of the same year. He also was the one who led the church to receive its full church recognition.

On the same day of the ceremony, the Conference installed Ronald Rojas as the church's new pastor; he challenged the church not to sit as if the full church status was the ultimate goal, but rather to use the new status as a springboard to fulfill God's mission of spreading the Gospel to the Stone Mountain community.

In the history of the Stone Mountain Church, this event marked the beginning of a new chapter. With gratitude to God for all His favors, leaders, and members reaffirmed their commitment and dedication to continue growing God's Kingdom by sharing the Gospel in the community. 🕊

BY VIRGINIA GUILLEN AND CECILIA CORNEJO

Building Connections is Power of Friendships at Camp Meeting

Thomas and Cindy Day, from the White House, Tenn., Church, have been attending the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Camp Meeting for more than 60 years. In 1993, the couple started a tradition of offering breakfast on Sabbath morning to any and all of their fellow campers. Since then, the “pancake gathering” has become a staple of the Conference’s Camp Meeting, attracting more than 100 people each Sabbath morning.

“While Camp Meeting is all about the spiritual lessons, it is also about the community of the church coming together,” said Thomas Day. “This breakfast leads people from all over the camp to just sit on a table, have a meal, relax, and spend time together.”



Cindy and Thomas Day pose with their pancake mix at the 2023 Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting. For 30 years, the couple has been cooking breakfast on Sabbath mornings for any Camp Meeting attendee who wishes to join in fellowship.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Camp Meeting offers activities for all ages, allowing for even the younger audiences to make meaningful connections.



PHOTO BY: ABI HOSTLER

Camp Meeting gives members the opportunity to take a break, find spiritual renewal, visit old friends, and make new ones.

Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting has been a tradition since 1908. Each year, there are many new visitors who are checking out Camp Meeting for the first time, but there are also church members who have been faithfully attending the meetings for years.

One of the church members is Bonny Calkins. Calkins grew up in Michigan and attended the weekend Camp Meetings there. In 1972, her husband found work in Kentucky as a pastor, and they started to attend the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting. Ever since, it has been something their family has enjoyed and returned to every year — even after she moved back to Michigan three years ago.

“What keeps us coming back [is the people],” said Calkins. “Sometimes, it’s only at Camp Meetings you get to actually see [friends], and share and get caught up. We still feel very much a part of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference family even though we’re presently in Michigan.”

This year’s Camp Meeting theme was “We Have This Hope,” and the primary

guest speakers included Ty Gibson and David Asscherik, speakers and directors for the Light Bearers ministry. The event offered activities for all ages, allowing for even the younger audiences to make meaningful connections.

Fifteen-year-old Susan Oms, from the Middletown, Ky., Church, has been coming to Camp Meeting for seven years, and participates in the children’s meetings. Oms says being with her age group gets her excited to attend Camp Meeting as she feels more comfortable to share her thoughts.

“I really enjoy coming because the pastors are a lot of fun, and the morning discussions are in depth and meaningful,” said Oms. “Also, I really enjoy spending time with my friends.”

Tom and Cindy Day spend more than \$600 to host their breakfast reunion at Camp Meeting, serving 30 pounds of pancakes, more than 12 dozen eggs, boxes of Stripples, and a big variety of fruits. To them, while it takes a lot of work, it is all worth it when they see fellow believers connecting with one another.

"I just look forward to seeing folks you only get to see once a year strengthening friendships and growing together spiritually," said Tom Day. "[These people] are coming from all over, yet we can connect as one because we share one hope."

Camp Meeting gives members the op-

portunity to take a break, find spiritual renewal, visit old friends, and make new ones. Next year they are looking forward to having this event all over again with the theme, "Send Me." It will take place May 24 to June 1, 2024. Guest speakers will include Shawn Boonstra, Voice of

Prophecy director, and Randall Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church. The Conference looks forward to making connections again! ❶

BY ABI HOSTLER

Testimony of Darrell and Jane Ashley Demonstrates First Fruits of New Church Plant

Darrell Ashley was earnestly seeking for truth. Ever since giving his heart to the Lord many years ago, he grew more and more dissatisfied, as what he had been reading in the Bible differed from what he had seen and heard in the churches he had been to. Through his own study of the Bible, some historical works, and later Amazing Facts, Ashley discovered the truth about the Sabbath, man's mortal state, salvation by grace, and some other biblical doctrines.

Ashley started to fast every Sabbath and ask God to guide him to more truth and to a church that shared the same beliefs. One day as he was driving down the parkway, he saw a familiar sign — a sign he had seen for many years but had not caught his attention until now. That sign was the sign of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winchester, Ky. Ashley felt impressed to go to the church to check it out.

Darrell Ashley and his wife, Jane, then visited the Winchester Church. Coincidentally, that same Sabbath an announcement was made: The Winchester Church was going to start a church plant in Stanton — just minutes from where the Ashleys' house was located. The timing was perfect. The couple was amazed and excited that a church was going to be right in their own community.



Jane and Darrell Ashley pose with their copies of *The Great Controversy* and *Lessons of Love*, which they had bought two years prior to finding the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After searching for the truth, the couple became the first fruits of the new church plant in Stanton, Ky.

After attending the Stanton Church for a couple months, the Ashleys decided to become members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Stanton members were rejoicing as God sent them the first fruits of the harvest of souls that would come to Him because of this church plant.

It is always encouraging to hear the testimony of others and how they came

to the faith. It is even more encouraging when you realize that God may have used you in a small way to help to bring those precious souls along.

One day Gary Hess, Stanton Church elder, and member Romone Gibbs went to visit the Ashleys in their home as they prepared to join the church by profession of faith. As the men got out of the car and walked up to the door, Hess exclaimed, "I have been here before. We canvassed this house." Darrell opened the door and invited them in, and Hess excitedly told his story.

"Oh! That was you?" asked Jane. "I remember two people came by and I bought a few books from them, a food book and two other books." This was truly exciting to hear.

Jane shared how she had read some of the books she had bought two years prior. The two other books she bought were *The Great Controversy* and *Christ Object Lessons*. These books had prepared the way for her to accept the prophetic gift in the Church.

Now, Darrell and Jane Ashley are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they are actively trying to share the truths that have given them a brand new experience with Jesus. ❶

BY ROMONE GIBBS

Southeastern Showcases Black History Month

During Black History Month, a unique Black history showcase was held to celebrate the diverse, unified ethnicities of the Southeastern Conference office employees.

This inaugural “lunch and learn,” titled “Africa is Everywhere,” was a one-of-a-kind celebration. As Jennifer Sankey, Ph.D., director of health ministries for Southeastern Conference, read historical facts about the workers, wonder and laughter filled the room.

Dayami Valdespino, Southeastern human resources director, captivated the attention of her co-workers when she shared her moving story of migrating from Cuba to the United States, and shared pictures of her family.

The employees provided delicious, nutritious foods from various cultures and displayed beautiful memorabilia. The fashion extravaganza was a fun showstopper as several employees dressed in beautiful, colorful attire proudly walked the runway to parade clothing of their heritage.

The full participation of the administration and employees made this first-time Black History Celebration an overwhelm-

ing success, reinforcing that diversity makes them stronger and more effective together. Nine cultures were represented: America, Haiti, Cuba, the Cayman Islands, Ghana, Columbia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. In the words of Pierre Francois, Southeastern executive secretary, “Our diversity is our strength.” 📌

BY JENNIFER SANKEY, PH.D., R.N.



Shea Crockett, Southeastern youth ministries director



Pierre Francois (left), Southeastern executive secretary; Jennifer Sankey, Ph.D.; Dayami Valdespino; and Michael Owusu, D.Min., Southeastern president



Jennifer Sankey, Ph.D. (left); Emmanuel Charles, Southeastern CFO; and Dayami Valdespino



Southeastern staff



Dayami Valdespino (left), Southeastern human resources director, and Jennifer Sankey, Ph.D., R.N., Southeastern director of health ministries



Arnaldo Cruz, Southeastern media evangelism director



Olinto Groce (left), Southeastern personal ministries director; Lucious Hall, Southeastern publishing director; and Brent Waldon, vice president for pastoral and church leadership development

Recreational Therapist Certification Offered at Southern Adventist University



Southern's Outdoor Leadership Program combines adventure with valuable skills such as teambuilding and interpersonal communication.

Students can now earn a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist credential with outdoor leadership degrees at Southern Adventist University, the only college in the North American Division to currently offer this certification, granted by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation.

The curriculum for Southern's program not only instructs in canoeing, rock climbing, kayaking, whitewater rescue, wilderness first aid, and topography maps, but also teaches interpersonal communication, psychology, and counseling. Two-year as well as four-year degree options combine behavioral science, leadership training, and wilderness adventure education.

"In an increasingly face-paced, technological world, spending time outdoors is needed more than ever," said Robert Bengt, recently retired dean of the School of Health and Kinesiology, which houses the program. "The balance it brings is essential."

Tasked with helping patients achieve mind, body, and social well-being, a recreational therapist creates and coordinates recreational-based treatment programs and techniques targeting specific illnesses, disabilities, and injuries. Career and ministry opportunities include positions as adventure recreation and outdoor education specialists, naturalists, cultural interpreters, camp rangers, and activity guides.

Daniel Tanksley, a senior majoring in outdoor leadership, said the multi-purpose degree is "giving me the confidence to take on responsibility and be the leader for groups. And, while knowing hard skills is necessary for keeping people safe in the outdoors, training in soft skills allows me to be able to serve people from diverse perspectives and help them reach their greatest potential."

For more information about the Outdoor Leadership Program, visit southern.edu/health. 📞

BY TINA FRIST SMITH

High Schoolers Explore Academic Areas Through Academic Summer Camp

This summer, Southern Adventist University welcomed 94 high-school-aged students to the school's sixth annual Academic Summer Camp.

The camp offered eight different areas of interest that students could choose from — automotive repair, biology, computing, film, journalism, outdoor leadership, photography, and vegetarian culinary arts. Each of these camps offered hands-on activities to help students learn more about their selected area of interest.

Students in the vegetarian culinary arts camp were able to make several dishes,

including mango chia pudding, red pepper hummus, and guacamole for the nachos they also made.

Samson, a 15-year-old-camper, said he has been passionate about cooking for years but took the class to become a better cook. Samson wants to pursue vegetarian culinary arts at Southern in the future.

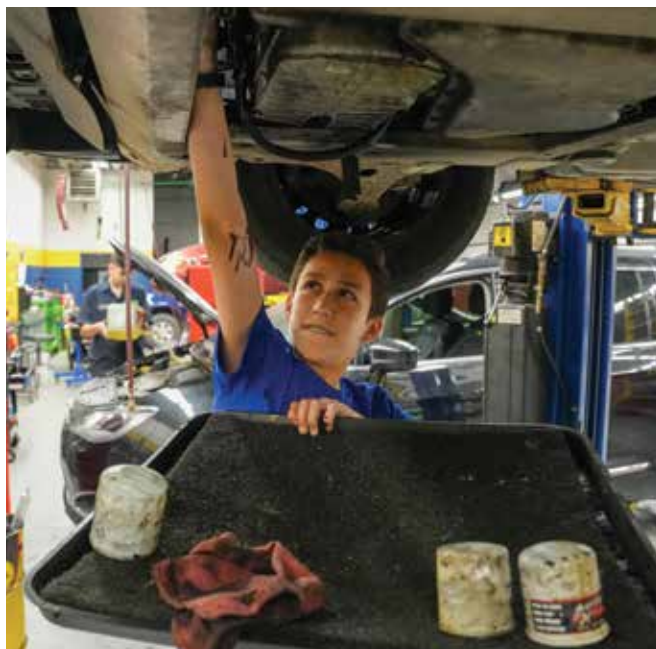
While many campers were local, some campers traveled from different states and even countries to attend the camp.

Abigail, a photography camper from Guam, said the photography camp was

really interesting, partially because of the instructor, Stephen Ruf, a photography professor at Southern. Abigail said Ruf is extremely knowledgeable and experienced in photography. The photography campers learned skills such as lighting, photographing objects in motion, and portrait and nature photography. Some of these photos were showcased in front of all students at the end of the camp.

Computing campers also showcased the websites which they worked on using HTML and CSS programming languages.

Madison, a computing camper, said she



Paul David Castro from Cleveland, Tenn., joined 15 other students who got their hands dirty while learning about vehicle maintenance and engine disassembly during Southern Adventist University's Academic Summer Camps this past June. All gained practical experience along with tips for taking a Christ-centered approach to automotive and construction career options, including owning a business.



PHOTO BY: SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Hailing from the island of Guam in Micronesia and traveling farther than any other camper, Abigail Manigat learned how to set up a camera for "panning" or motion-blur shots using slow shutter speed, thanks to help from associate professor Stephen Ruf. Amateur as well as advanced photographers captured nature and action shots along with news photos during Academic Summer Camps on the campus of Southern Adventist University this past June.

learned a lot during the camp and had fun making web pages look “really pretty.”

“There’s been a lot of information I’ve learned a lot of abbreviations that I had never heard before and the order you put things in It’s really cool,” said Madison.

While computing students worked on writing with code, journalism campers worked on writing articles. The journalism camp was designed so students got detailed glimpses at life as a journalist through interactive games, writing assignments, and a tour of a local printing press and radio station.

“I actually wasn’t super interested in the journalism camp at first, but after attending the camp, I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would,” said Sarah, a journalism camper who attended a different camp area last year.

Preston was also a return camper, attending the automotive camp both this year and last.

“I came back to do the same camp again because I enjoyed it so much last year,” said Preston.

Preston said the class’s instructors



PHOTO BY: SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Along with the basics of web development, students participating in the computing camp also learned how to design and build a website from the ground up. This marks the seventh year Southern Adventist University has opened its campus to high schoolers with interests ranging from pre-med and computer science to journalism and outdoor leadership.

helped prepare automotive campers well so they could pursue their possible future careers in auto mechanics.

Each camp included the same amount of in-class instruction time as a one cred-

it college class, all taught in only 2 1/2 days.

Outside of instruction time, students were able to enjoy meals together, tour Southern’s campus, and participate in various activities in the Bietz Center for Student Life.

The center offered students activities like a two-story slide, a large chess set, table tennis, video games, and more. The opportunity to make friendships and participate in these types of activities is one reason some campers hope to attend again next year.

According to Anna Lewis, a Southern student ambassador and Summer Academic Camp helper, preparations for next year’s camp are already in the works, as the team begins planning a year in advance.

The team said next year they hope to see even more camp areas available for campers to choose from. ①



PHOTO BY: SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Students with a passion for creating tasty plant-based cuisine donned aprons and joined assistant professor Bonnie Musgrave (far left) and The Garden manager Maggie Pickens (front row, far right) in the commercial kitchen at Southern Adventist University during Academic Summer Camps this past June. In addition to experiencing a fun hobby and making friends, students also embraced an important life skill with potential as an increasingly popular career choice.

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY THE JOURNALISM CAMP STUDENTS:
SADYE CARPENTER, SARAH GUILD,
MACKENZIE LARCHE, JULIANNE PALMER,
WHITNEY PHILLIPS, AND DANIA QAHHAAR

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sition. This role is responsible for the operation and repair of HV/AC systems, transmission lines, and associated controls. See full job descriptions and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment or contact Paul Jenks at paul.jenks@ucollege.edu. [8-9]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member with pediatric expertise to join a cohesive, mission-focused team for the School of Nursing. Teaching responsibilities include undergraduate pre-licensure child health and simulation. Requisite qualities include pediatric RN experience, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. Teaching experience and an earned doctorate are preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs [8]

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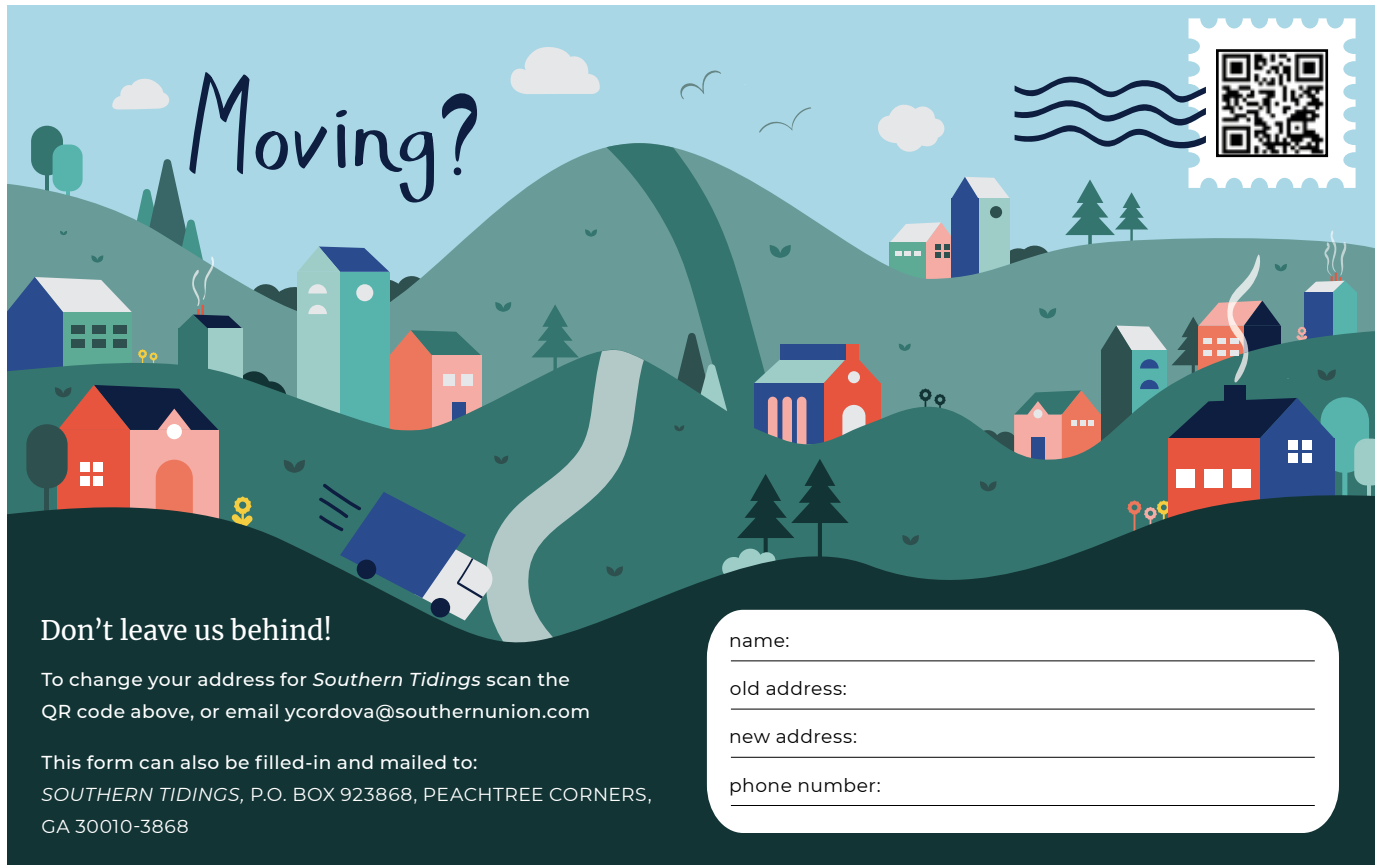
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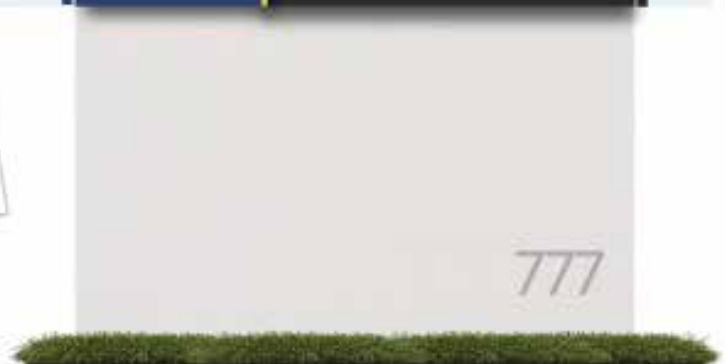
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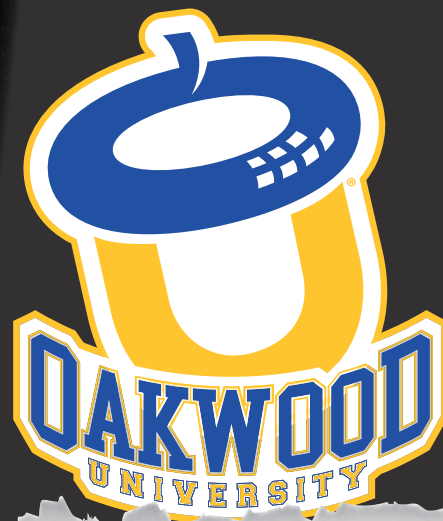
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Low Country Harvest Impact – Oct. 6, 7. Summerville.
Hispanic Women's Retreat – Oct. 6-8. Nosoca.
Carolina Women's Retreat – Oct. 13-15. Nosoca.
Let's Talk Young Adults:
 July 29. Winston Salem First.
 Oct. 21. Greenville North.
 Nov. 18. Albertson Spanish.
 Dec. 9. Greenville, NC, Spanish.

FLORIDA

Family Camp – Sept. 1-4. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.
Young at Heart (50+ retreat) – Nov. 6-9. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.
Free Savvy Retirement Series via Zoom. Sponsored by Florida Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services: Aug. 29. Full and Detailed Medicare Workshop, Part I; Sept. 5. Full and Detailed Medicare Workshop, Part II; Oct. 24. Managing and Lowering your Tax Bills at Retirement. Registration: planned.giving@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000, x2246 or x2241.
National Camps for Blind Children – Sept. 17-22. A ministry of Christian Record Services, it is proud to partner with Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida. The camp will provide confidence-building opportunities for individuals ages 18-65 who are blind and visually impaired as they participate in a variety of summer camp experiences. For more information about summer camp programs, visit www.blindcamps.org.
Camp Kulaqua's 70th Anniversary – Oct. 13-15. Tell Your Camp Story: Invited are all previous camp staff, volunteers, and those connected to camp to come and join the celebration! Visit website: www.campkulaqua.com.
One Day Marriage Retreat for English Speakers – Nov. 4. Featuring Dr. Dion and Dr. Dilyn Henry at Florida Conference Office, Altamonte Springs.
One Day Marriage Retreat for Spanish Speakers – Nov. 11. Featuring Dr. Consuelo Romera at Florida Conference Office, Altamonte Springs.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Southern Deaf Camp Meeting – Aug. 9-13. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Design for Impact Communication Training – Aug. 17. Facebook & YouTube.
AYMT Leadership Training – Aug. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
Managing and Lowering Your Tax Bills at Retirement – Aug. 29. Zoom.
Young Adult L.I.F.E Retreat – Sept. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
Adventurer Ministries Convention – Sept. 8-10. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
Hispanic Couples Retreat – Sept. 8-10. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.
Northeast Tennessee Camp Meeting – Sept. 15, 16. The Oaks Retreat Center, Greenville, TN.
TLT Kickstart – Sept. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
Marriage Retreat 2023: Rekindle the Flame – Sept. 22-24. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.
Engage Youth Leadership Convention – Sept. 29, 30.
Sabbath in the Smokies – Sept. 29, 30. Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountain National Park.
 Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Fall Classes Begin – Aug. 21. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Homecoming – Oct. 26-29. Mark your calendar and join fellow alumni and attendees for the ultimate Southern family celebration. Honor Classes include: 1943, '53, '63, '73, '83, '93, '98, '03, '13. Check out all the weekend activities at southern.edu/homecoming or call 423-236-2827 for additional details.

PreviewSouthern – Nov. 2, 3. 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. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN, email visit@southern.edu, or visit southern.edu/preview.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD'S CLOSET FREE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES - BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT - Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Smyrne French Church, 11000 Reed Mine Road, Midland, N.C. 28107. For more details, call the church's phone number at 704-350-5840. God's Closet is a ministry led by AdventSource that offers free children's clothes to any family who needs them. All families are invited to come and "shop" for free! We ask for a \$1 entrance fee, and then bags are provided, and families fill them with whatever they need.

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 24-27. Orlando, FL. Call 770-408-1800, x137 for details.

SUNSET

| | AUG 4 | AUG 11 | AUG 18 | AUG 25 | SEP 1 | SEP 8 |
|------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| ATLANTA, GA | 8:37 | 8:30 | 8:22 | 8:14 | 8:05 | 7:55 |
| CHARLESTON, SC | 8:17 | 8:10 | 8:03 | 7:55 | 7:46 | 7:37 |
| CHARLOTTE, NC | 8:24 | 8:17 | 8:09 | 8:00 | 7:51 | 7:41 |
| COLLEGE DALE, TN | 8:42 | 8:34 | 8:26 | 8:18 | 8:08 | 7:59 |
| HUNTSVILLE, AL | 7:47 | 7:40 | 7:32 | 7:23 | 7:14 | 7:04 |
| JACKSON, MS | 7:57 | 7:51 | 7:43 | 7:35 | 7:26 | 7:17 |
| LOUISVILLE, KY | 8:51 | 8:43 | 8:34 | 8:25 | 8:14 | 8:04 |
| MEMPHIS, TN | 8:01 | 7:54 | 7:46 | 7:37 | 7:28 | 7:18 |
| MIAMI, FL | 8:06 | 8:01 | 7:55 | 7:48 | 7:41 | 7:34 |
| MONTGOMERY, AL | 7:42 | 7:35 | 7:38 | 7:20 | 7:11 | 7:02 |
| NASHVILLE, TN | 7:51 | 7:43 | 7:35 | 7:26 | 7:16 | 7:06 |
| ORLANDO, FL | 8:15 | 8:09 | 8:03 | 7:56 | 7:48 | 7:40 |
| TAMPA, FL | 8:18 | 8:13 | 8:07 | 7:59 | 7:52 | 7:44 |
| WILMINGTON, NC | 8:12 | 8:05 | 7:57 | 7:48 | 7:39 | 7:30 |

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Students are extraordinarily friendly, professors are exceptionally caring, and the whole campus is focused on Christ.

But don't just trust our word. Arrange your own free visit to Southern's campus, or join one of our special events.

See Southern for yourself.

Upcoming **FREE*** PreviewSouthern events:

November 2-3, 2023

February 19, 2024

March 21-22, 2024



Call **1.800.SOUTHERN**
or go to **southern.edu/visit**.

**Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit, too.*



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Beyond the Hospital Walls

AdventHealth team members from West Florida recently amplified the AdventHealth mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ beyond the hospital walls to Ecuador together with Clínica Adventista de Quito in Ecuador. The hospital is one of 14 international partnership locations established through the AdventHealth Global Missions program. Through this partnership, AdventHealth aims to share its mission and provide care to local underserved communities through mission trips and other activities.

During this most recent mission trip, physicians from AdventHealth provided care for more than 1,400 members of the community in Machachi and Quito, Ecuador. In addition to serving the communities, AdventHealth's partnership with Clínica Adventista de Quito focuses on key growth areas like expanding the chaplaincy program, leadership development, operations, research, philanthropy and more.

Thanks to this partnership, AdventHealth is able to help extend the healing ministry of Christ to more communities.

To learn more about AdventHealth Global Missions,
visit AdventHealthGlobalMissions.com.

