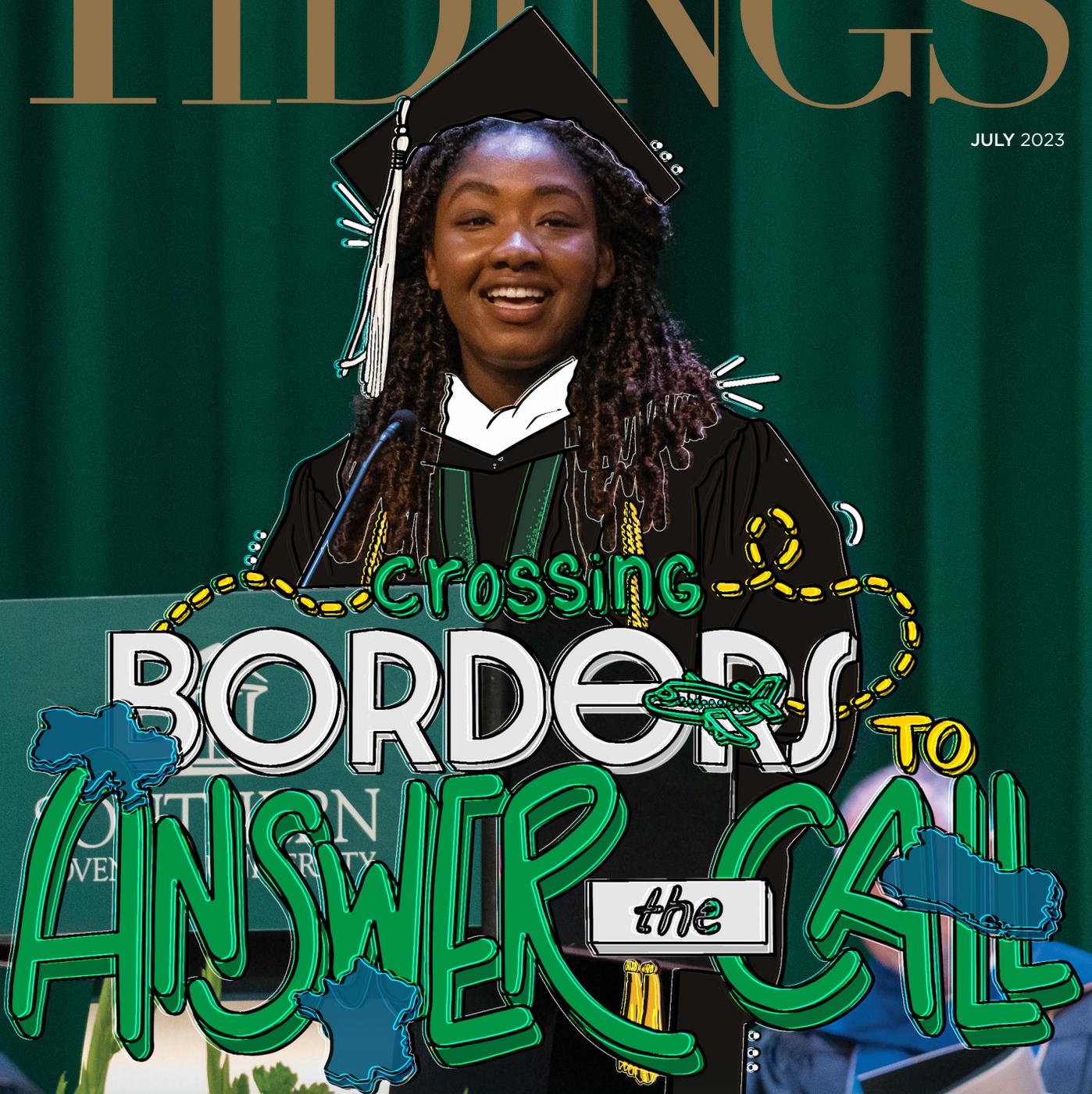


T Southern TIDINGS

JULY 2023



70 YEARS INTO A
VISION CAST IN
1953

ADVENTHEALTH
UNIVERSITY
WELCOMES NEW
PRESIDENT

GRANDFATHER
MARCHES WITH
GRANDCHILDREN

DRIVEN BY
MISSION

The Ministry of Hope for the Future



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

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not,” Jeremiah 33:3.

Zedekiah, Judah’s last king, really was a sorry creature. He flirted with the Babylonians and then sought the hand of the Egyptians. Not that they were of use to him. Nothing could withstand the armed might of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Egypt had troubles enough within its own borders and did little more than offer a few tut-tuts to the inroads of its northern rivals.

Jeremiah knew for sure what would happen. Jerusalem would fall. The king and the princes would go in chains to Babylon. The Temple would be desolate. The land would appear like an uninhabited wasteland. He knew all that. But, he knew something else as well. God planned a complete reversal of Israel’s misfortune.

No matter what Jeremiah said, the king and the court regarded him as a prophet of doom. Zedekiah locked him up. The armies of the Babylonians surrounded the city.

He did the most practical of things. He bought land. Probably it was going at bargain prices, under the circumstances. But, he still bought that piece of land and had the documents notarized and stored safely away. Thus, he witnessed to the future in which the fortunes of God’s people would prosper.

They did come back out of captivity. Did any of Jeremiah’s heirs claim the land he had bought? We do not know. We know only of his hope expressed in such a practical way.

What do you believe about the future? Do you see it bright with the faithful promises of God? I recall the story of an old grumbling man who was extremely wealthy. What did he do with his money? He supported students for the ministry. He sent hundreds of thousands/millions of dollars to assist ministry projects in different places.

For some, Jeremiah has the label “prophet of doom” because he saw too clearly the results of the course taken by Israel’s leaders. To others he was the prophet of hope. He saw just as clearly that God would reverse the present negative situation.

The future asks what you will do for it. How will you show your faith in it?

We are admonished in the Spirit of Prophecy to: “Talk faith, Keep on God’s side of the line,” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 514.

May I submit that, as bleak or hopeless as your future might seem while you’re reading this editorial, the prayer of faith to God makes the difficult doable, the improbable usual, and the impossible attainable. Prayer is not religious exercise or religious duty as is done in monasteries or convents. Prayer is necessary to turn needs, hopes, and dreams into reality. Trusting God fosters our bright futures.

As we prepare for a new ministry initiative for 2024, “Equipping Believers to Evangelize Unbelievers,” we must remember that God has a master plan which supersedes all our plans. We often pray for an easier life, while God intends for us to have eternal life.

When we talk and walk with God, He will show us a spectrum of things we’ve never seen, heard, or experienced before. With God this will translate into effective ministry through the Southern Union for the balance of this year, and for the unleashing of ministry in 2024. Let’s be ministers of promoting a vision for bright futures. –RCS ●

Volume 117, No. 7, July 2023
The *Southern Tidings* is the official house organ of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE
302 Research Drive
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092
Mail Address P.O. Box 923868
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868
Telephone 770-408-1800
www.southernunion.com



EDITOR Bryant Taylor, D.Min.
MANAGING EDITOR Irisene Douce
CIRCULATION Yaime Cordova
ADVERTISING Yaime Cordova
LAYOUT O'livia Woodard
PRODUCTION College Press

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ADVENTHEALTH
Elizabeth Camps
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
Jennifer Audette
CAROLINA
Rebecca Carpenter
FLORIDA
Gladys Neigel
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
Nathan Zinner
GULF STATES
Daniel Claudet
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
Paola Mora Zepeda
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
Norman Jones
SOUTH ATLANTIC
James Lamb, Ph.D.
SOUTH CENTRAL
Roger R. Wade
SOUTHEASTERN
Benia Jennings
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
Janell Hullquist

CONFERENCE/
INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

CAROLINA 704-596-3200
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215
FLORIDA 407-644-5000
351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND 706-629-7951
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
GULF STATES 334-272-7493
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE 615-859-1391
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088
SOUTH ATLANTIC 404-792-0535
P.O. Box 1688, Decatur, GA 30031-1688
SOUTH CENTRAL 615-226-6500
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202
SOUTHEASTERN 352-735-3142
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056
ADVENTHEALTH 407-357-2083
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY 800-500-7747
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY 256-726-7000
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
800-SOUTHERN
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 117
Number 7 | July 2023
Published monthly by the Southern Union.
Free to all members.
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to
Southern Tidings
P.O. Box 923868
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868
EMAIL: ycordova@southernunion.com



july 2023

features
4

CROSSING BORDERS TO ANSWER THE CALL

8

70 YEARS INTO A VISION CAST IN 1953

10

ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

11

GRANDFATHER MARCHES WITH GRANDCHILDREN

12

DRIVEN BY MISSION

13

PATMOS CHAPEL HOSTS TOWN HALL ON GUN VIOLENCE

news

- 16 ADVENTHEALTH
- 17 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
- 18 CAROLINA
- 20 FLORIDA
- 22 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- 24 GULF STATES
- 25 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- 28 OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
- 30 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
- 32 SOUTHERN UNION

- 33 OBITUARIES
- 36 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
- 39 EVENTS CALENDAR/
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SUNSET SCHEDULE

COVER ILLUSTRATION: O'LIVIA WOODARD
COVER CONCEPT: O'LIVIA WOODARD & AIDYN EDWARDS





Southern Adventist University welcomes students from around the world, such as Esther Manu from West Africa who graduated summa cum laude this past May with a bachelor's degree in international development studies.

Crossing BORDERS TO ANSWER *the* CALL

BY ANGELA BAERG

As French international student Priscille Mikala packed her bags to travel to the United States, she tried to shake off her nervousness. She was excited to study music at Southern Adventist University, having made a special connection with the dean of the School of Music during a virtual tour of the Tennessee campus. He had encouraged her and her family to pray for guidance before making a final decision, and al-

though Mikala had received a full-tuition scholarship offer at another school, she felt called to Southern.

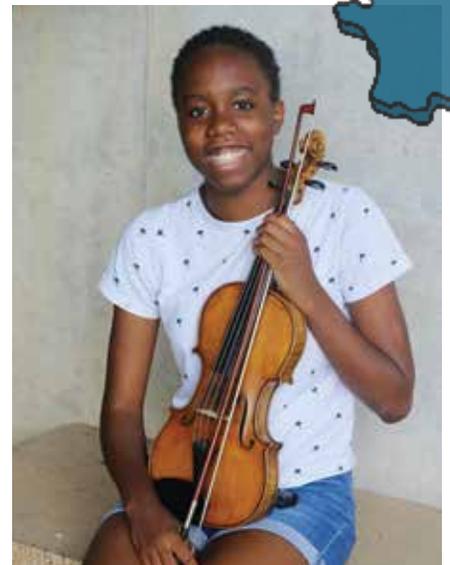
“I was afraid of going to a new country,” said Mikala. “I wasn’t sure if I would easily make friends, but it has gone really well. The faculty and staff have been exceptional, and the variety of campus activities has helped me connect with people from many different backgrounds.”

Nearly 3,000 students answer God’s

call to attend Southern each year, coming from across the country and around the world. During the 2022-2023 school year, the University welcomed students from all 50 U.S. states, as well as 40 different countries, each on a journey of matching their passions with God’s purpose.



Priscille Mikala (front row, second from left) is a talented member of Southern’s Symphony Orchestra.



Despite being far from home, Priscille Mikala, sophomore music performance major, is thrilled to pursue her passion for music at Southern.

“I really like how people understand what I believe. The professors are helpful, and I have made great Christian friends.”

Ivan Vakal



Fleeing Ukraine

Ivan Vakal never planned on studying abroad, but when war broke out in Ukraine, his parents urged him to leave the country right away.

“I was just 17 when I crossed the border alone,” said Vakal. “I remember wondering what would happen next and when I would be able to see my parents again. There were just too many things happening too fast.”

Vakal’s sister found a sponsor family who would pay his university fees and pro-



God made a way for Ivan Vakal, junior computer science major, to leave his home in Ukraine and study at Southern.

vide him with a place to live in the U.S. At the time, Ukrainian refugees were allowed special entrance to the U.S. at the Mexico border, so Vakal began the long 26-hour series of flights that would take him there.

“My English was beginner,” he said. “Along the way, God sent a lot of people to translate for me. One of them even helped me when I was exhausted and lost at the Mexican border, unable to find the special line for Ukrainians.”

The stranger helped Vakal backtrack to his plane, where he discovered he had missed a procedure. He was assigned a number and joined a long line. After five hours, he finally met his sponsor family, who flew him to his new home in Collegedale.

Before leaving Ukraine, Vakal had studied computer programming as a freshman. He was very grateful that he could transfer his classes to Southern Adventist University and continue as a sophomore in the School of Computing, his first experience in a Christian education setting.

“My favorite part of Southern is the people,” he said. “I really like how people understand what I believe. The professors are helpful, and I have made great Christian friends.”

Vakal is deeply grateful that the rest of his family is now safe in the U.S., as well. In spite of the war that continues to rage in his home country, he remains positive, determined to praise God and follow His call, no matter where it might lead.

Alone in El Salvador

Fernando Portillo was born in El Salvador, and while he was still a baby, his mother left for the U.S. Her goal was to work there and send money back so that he could have a better life. Portillo was raised by his grandmother, the first Seventh-day Adventist in their family. On Sabbaths, they went to church together; during the week, she asked him to read the Bible to her since she didn’t know how. They lived in a rural area where his walk to school every day was 40 minutes each way. Their life was simple, but they were happy together.



This past May, Fernando Portillo graduated from Southern with honors.

When Portillo was 10, his grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. Watching the kindest woman he knew suffer through each stage of the horrible disease shook his faith to its core.

“She was like a mother to me,” said Portillo. “I started to ask God questions like, ‘Why would you take her away from me?’ She was the perfect definition of what a Christian should be.”

Portillo moved in with extended family after this tragedy. Trying to find himself while searching for acceptance, he began to drift into gang circles. When his mother found out about the new direction his life was taking, she realized she must find a way to bring her 12-year-old to be with her in the U.S. immediately. She saved up \$7,000 to have him smuggled across the

“I’ve been so privileged to come to this University where it has been a blessing to learn...”

Fernando Portillo





Thanks to his family's sacrifices and God's guidance, Fernando Portillo (right) is equipped and prepared to give his all in ministry.

border, but his group was caught, jailed for a month, and sent back home.

When Portillo was 14, she tried again. This time, the escort abandoned him and his group in the middle of the desert. With no idea where they were, they began to walk. As their food and water diminished, Portillo and two others decided to backtrack to a small road and hitch a ride. Although risky, they decided it was better than death in the barren landscape. Miraculously, a kind stranger picked up the trio and drove them the five remaining hours to Houston, Texas, a destination they never would have reached by foot.

The next 24 hours were an emotional whirlwind as Portillo met both of his parents for the first time. His biological father picked him up in Houston and drove him partway across the country to meet his mother, who took him the rest of the way to her home in Kentucky. She had made a vow to God that if her son arrived safely, she would take her family to church. Although he did not want to go at first, his mom kept her promise.

"What finally attracted me to church was when I started understanding answers to some of the questions I had asked about my grandma," said Portillo. "I started thinking maybe it wasn't an accident that I went through this. Maybe God did have a plan. The closer I got to Him, the more the things that had happened in my life started making sense."

Portillo's stepfather, an American citizen, adopted him when he turned 16. He received his green card, and five years later, he became a U.S. citizen. When it came time to consider careers, Portillo felt called to the ministry but felt insecure about his English fluency and biblical knowledge.

That all changed when he enrolled at Southern and participated in the Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT) program. SALT is founded on the theory that all of God's followers are called to be the salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:14), and participants receive hands-on training in evangelism and a Bible worker certificate. As a theology major, Portillo's experience at Southern was transformative, helping him break free from his insecurities. He particularly appreciated his professors' support and prayers. In May, Portillo graduated magna cum laude with a theology degree and three awards for excellence from the School of Religion.

"I've been so privileged to come to this University where it has been a blessing to learn," said Portillo. "Southern became home to me, and I've seen God's hand in every step of this journey. Here I have been able to not only survive but also thrive." 📍

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

SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE

Many students who enroll at Southern Adventist University don't yet know what God is calling them to pursue, but the Life Calling and Career Services office provides tools to help them explore their options. Trained staff members assess students' values, interests, personalities, and strengths, and then match them with potential career paths and experiential learning opportunities. They offer resources such as job shadowing, the Sophomore Success Program, and the Employee-to-Student Mentorship Program.

All Southern students can receive career counseling, resume reviews, cover-letter building, assistance with interview preparation, and other free services. Career and graduate school fairs are among events that open up opportunities for students to connect with purposeful and meaningful work options through their careers.

"I really love my job, because I get to help students discover how God made them each unique," said Nova Munselle, Life Calling and Career Services coordinator. "I want to help them understand how their talents and strengths can be used to impact the world around them in so many different ways."



70 YEARS INTO A VISION CAST IN 1953

BY PHIL YOUNTS

Seventy years ago, members of the Florida Conference Executive Committee gathered on the banks of Hornsby Spring. They prayed to God asking if they should buy these 250 acres for the youth of Florida Conference’s 6,000 members and the glory of His kingdom. God answered their prayers and gave them a vision that is still fulfilling today. They purchased the 250 acres for \$18,000, offered it to God, and He blessed it.

Today, Camp Kulaqua has expanded to more than 800 acres, and Florida Conference has grown to almost 70,000 members. The camp has expanded and grown with the Conference, striving to meet the retreat and Conference needs of an expanding Church family.

Camp Kulaqua today contains more than 100 buildings and is used and visited by more than 50,000 people per year,



Wayne Foster, founding youth director, led teams of volunteer church members to hack their way into the Camp Kulaqua property and start the process of building a youth camp.

with a year-round staff of 80 workers and an additional summer staff of 130. Camp Kulaqua is the largest camp operation in the Adventist world.

From the very beginning, the camp’s

mission has never changed. It is still to serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church with friendly and quality camping and with a retreat facility that sets an atmosphere allowing for the Holy Spirit to touch as many lives as possible and to share Jesus with all who come through our gates.

Camp Kulaqua has been blessed with an abundance of God’s creatures and creation. Whitetail deer, turkeys, hawks, owls, turtles, and tortoises greet the guests as they arrive on their adventures in God’s country.

Another unique feature of Camp Kulaqua is the wildlife sanctuary and nature center. In the 1960s, a pair of abandoned raccoons needed a home, so Camp Kulaqua provided that home which later became a home for multiple species that needed a place to live. The most famous is Judah, the African lion.



Camper baptized in Hornsby Spring Run: 59 campers were baptized during the summer of 2022.



Big Dan, third oldest cypress tree in Florida, was born in 684 BC during the time of Daniel.

His roar wakes guests up in the morning and welcomes them throughout the day.

Camp Kulaqua is made up of many adventures and activities, including out-post camps, horseback riding, canoeing, swimming in the water park, tower of faith, and much more. Camp activities and programs strive to connect the youth of today with the core values of the Church.

One of the summer camp girls' cabins of teens was scheduled for the Tower of Faith which has a zip line, climbing walls, and a leap of faith. When the girls arrived at the leap of faith, one young lady could not jump off the 60-foot freefall. She tried but couldn't bring herself to do it. She tried again to no avail; even after watching her cabin mates jump off, she was still too fearful to take the leap of faith. The instructor said, "Let's kneel down right here on the tower and ask God to give you strength and courage to accomplish the challenge." She prayed, stood up, and jumped off the leap of faith. We hope when this young woman faces challenges of life, she will remember the leap of faith she accomplished at Camp and trust God.

Since that first day sitting on the banks of Hornsby Spring, millions have come



through the gate, and thousands have been baptized in that place of dedication to God. The vision continues to build God's kingdom. Praise God for the 70 years He has blessed Camp Kulaqua! ●

Phil Younts is the executive camp ministries director for Florida Conference.



**CAMP
KULAQUA'S
70-YEAR
CELEBRATION!**

October 13-15, 2023

All are welcome,
especially previous
**Camp staff
Volunteers
Campers**

Visit campkulaqua.com
for registration

ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE



AdventHealth University's (AHU) new president and CEO, C. Josef Ghosn, Ed.D., FACHE, believes a college education is about preparing informed and productive citizens, growing the workforce pipeline, and practicing one's profession as ministry. Yet, to him, it signifies so much more. "Higher education is a social justice imperative," said Ghosn, who began serving as the 30-year-old University's third president in May 2023.

"Education is the great equalizer, allowing individuals to achieve upward mobility and make our communities better," said Ghosn. "At AdventHealth University, we are committed to mak-

ing a college degree attainable for those in marginalized communities, and to welcoming and supporting first-generation students. Higher education is the key to a stronger, more vibrant workforce and community."

AHU, which offers 25 health care degrees and 20 certificate programs, was recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution in 2022 by the federal government. With campuses in Orlando and Denver, AHU prides itself on its 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

Ghosn, 61, is familiar to AdventHealth University and higher education. He's been a tenured professor and associate dean of academic affairs at Atlantic Union College as well as holding professorships at AHU and Southern Adventist University. Ghosn lends his expertise on several advisory councils, including Middle East University's Board of Trustees and the Board Academic Committee.

"I am deeply honored to accept this role," he said. "AHU is a very special place, where we have a unique opportunity to be a vital part of the solution to health-care workforce shortages by amplifying student enrollment. Now is an incredibly powerful time to pursue a rewarding career in health care, and I look forward to working closely with AHU's faculty and staff to discover new ways to embrace technology, impart whole-person care philosophies,

and keep the student at the center of all we do."

With extensive leadership experience in health care administration, Ghosn served most recently as vice president of strategic planning for AdventHealth's Multistate Division, and before that as AdventHealth Florida market senior vice president for strategic planning.

Ghosn earned his doctoral degree in education leadership from the University of Massachusetts and his master's degree in business administration from Andrews University. He is married to Fiona Ghosn, and they have one adult son, Josef Ghosn.

In addition to his professional role, Ghosn enjoys traveling internationally, learning about other cultures, hiking, reading, and dining. ●

Jennifer Audette is the social media and communications manager for AdventHealth University.

GRANDFATHER MARCHES WITH GRANDCHILDREN

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

William Freeman and his family got excited when they learned during Oakwood University's Homecoming that he and two of his grandchildren might have the opportunity to march together during the baccalaureate service. Freeman would be one of 35 members of the Oakwood Class of 1973 celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation by marching in gold regalia and wearing 50th anniversary medallions. Freeman's grandson, Harold U. Freeman Jr., a civil engineering major, and granddaughter, Pariss Holbert, who majored in pre-law, would be members of the 2023 Oakwood University graduating class. This would be the second time two of his grandchildren graduated from Oakwood together. The first time he watched them, but this time he wanted to walk with them.

Such an opportunity would be a capstone event for Freeman, a longtime supporter of Adventist education. He and his wife, the late Loretta Young Freeman, attended Oakwood, then sent all five of their children and a niece to Oakwood. As a pastor, Freeman and his wife established an elementary school in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where she was the teacher-principal. Because he was also a builder, he helped with the construction of the Eva B. Dykes Library and O. B. Edwards Hall on the campus of Oakwood while he was a theology student. As the conference builder for the South Central Conference, he constructed two or three schools and numerous churches.

Freeman believes Adventist Education should be free to students. "Churches and members should give enough money for Adventist education that teachers can be



PHOTO BY: ELAINE HUMPHREYS NORMAN

William O. Freeman, Oakwood University Class of 1973, marched with his grandson, Harold O. Freeman Jr., and granddaughter, Pariss Holbert, both graduates of the Class of 2023, during the Baccalaureate Ceremonies on May 13, 2023.

paid, and every parent be able to send their children to school free," said Freeman. He underwrites his conviction by sponsoring students. Indeed, on the 50th anniversary of his graduation, he contributed to the Class of 1973 Needy Student Endowment Fund at Oakwood. His vision could be realized if every student who receives an education became a philanthropist who gives to help other students.

After a lifetime of supporting Adventist education, Freeman rode to the Von Braun Civic Center on May 13, 2023, looking forward to participating in the Sabbath morning baccalaureate service. However, he had a dilemma. He is blind and was not sure how to get to Harold and Pariss. Michael Paschal, pastor, learned of his dilemma and led him to his grandchildren, who chose to walk with him in the Golden Class. Soon they were walking arm in arm down the aisle to the cadence of "The War March of the Priests."

Looking back on the opportunity to walk with her grandfather, Pariss shared, "It was such a great moment to walk with not only my cousin but my grandfather; to see the results of working hard and receiving degrees through successive generations – first my grandparents, the parents, and now my cousins and me. It was a moment of Black excellence for me, and I am so happy I was able to share that moment with my family."

When asked how it felt to march with his grandchildren, Freeman smiled and said, "It was grand! I just couldn't take it all in since I do not have any vision." Freeman may have lost his physical vision, but his vision for education and commitment is as strong as ever. ●

R. Steven Norman III is retired communication director and editor for the Southern Union.

DRIVEN BY MISSION

BY DEBORAH HARRIS, PH.D.

To understand what it means to be driven by mission, one need only look at the relentless passion Judy Toney has for community service. Judy is a member of Maranatha Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and she was born with the gift of service. As a young child with a difficult upbringing, Judy remembers her mother going beyond what seemed reasonable to provide for those who were “less fortunate.” Judy, at the time, did not understand why her mother gave food, clothes, and furniture to others when their own family had so many needs.

Judy is now just as committed to the mission as her mother. Judy gives beyond what many see as reasonable. She and her husband, Julius, an Air Force veteran, have sacrificed beyond their means to ensure those who are “less fortunate” have food, clothes, furniture, and unceasing encouragement in difficult times.

She has faced numerous challenges, but always finds a way to keep the mission alive for those she is born to serve. A recent challenge could have ended her service. Instead, it shone a light on her unwavering commitment. Her perseverance despite obstacles resulted in her being selected to receive the North Carolina Governor’s Volunteer Achievement Award on April 17, 2023, a prestigious honor reserved for a select few.

She was acknowledged for continuing to serve the community despite misfortune. When required to leave a building she had served out of for years, she continued to serve the homeless and surrounding community out of tents on an empty lot. After several months, she secured another building. Even though the new building is not ready for occupancy, she continues to serve outside despite



Judy Toney (second from left), a member of Maranatha Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, was awarded the North Carolina Governor’s Volunteer Achievement Award.

unfavorable conditions including rain and freezing temperatures. Every Monday and Wednesday she serves more than 300 hot meals and distributes clothes and food in one of the poorest regions in the city of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

She has also persisted in service through the diagnosis and treatment of stage 4 breast cancer. She has persisted through very little volunteer help, personal character attacks, and potentially dangerous circumstances. She does not break under the pressure. She persists because she is driven by her God-given mission.

Many of those she has helped now give back.

Lisa said, “Eight years ago, me and my children were homeless. Ms. Judy found me a place to live, gave me furniture, beds, clothes, and food.” Lisa is no longer homeless and now volunteers with Judy.

Vernon said, “Ms. Judy has done so much for me, I just don’t have words. I met her five years ago, and she helped

me get off drugs.” (Judy said she went to a crack house to retrieve Vernon for his mother. Right now, Vernon is living with Judy and her husband, Julius). Vernon also volunteers at the center.

A veteran fell on hard times. Judy spent hours encouraging, feeding, clothing, sheltering, and trying to help him reset. That gentleman now owns a concrete business and provides services to help Judy restore her building.

A drug-addicted mother Judy was trying to help gave birth to a son who had seven different drugs in his body at birth. The hospital would not allow the mother to take the child. When asked for the next of kin, the mother named Judy. Judy and her husband, Julius, are now the adoptive parents of the 7-year-old who is thriving.

The stories are endless because Judy is driven by the mission. She senses the needs of people and responds without hesitation. It is certain she has “entertained angels unawares,” Hebrews 13:2. 🕊

PATMOS CHAPEL HOSTS TOWN HALL ON GUN VIOLENCE

BY CARLOS MEDLEY

Amid the rising tide of gun violence in Orange County, Florida, nearly 60 public citizens, neighborhood activists, police officers, pastors, and civic leaders, gathered at Patmos Chapel Church in Apopka, Florida, seeking ways to stem the bloodshed.

The April 19, 2023, forum was convened by Orange County Citizen Safety Task Force, a working group that is gathering public input, reviewing policy proposals, and recommending action steps to stem the growing threat of gun

violence. Areas being researched include prevention, interventions, prosecution, and enforcement.

A Crisis Response

Jerry Demings, Orange County mayor, appointed the task force in March after a shooter killed three people, including a news reporter who was killed while reporting at the scene of an earlier shooting. The 30-member panel is composed of public officials, educators, community activists, clergy, and law enforcement

“There’s funding available for many resources that most people don’t know about.”

Miles Mulrain



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

James R. Doggette, D.Min., Patmos Chapel senior pastor, moderates the public forum for the Orange County Citizen Safety Task Force.

officers. James R. Doggette, D.Min., Patmos Chapel senior pastor, co-chairs the task force along with James Coffin, a retired Adventist pastor who served 11 years as executive director of the Interfaith Council of Central Florida.

As Doggette invited comments, attendees offered ideas. Cyndy Vargo, from Orlando, Florida, recommended that police departments stage a quarterly guns-for-shoes event where a pair of shoes or sneakers is exchanged for each surrendered firearm. She also suggested that vocational tech programs, offered by local colleges, should be marketed to high school students. “It’s the best kept secret in Orange County,” she said. “You do not have to have a high school diploma. This is a way to give people hope.”

Ruben Saldana, a community activist in Orlando and former gang member, believes that those closest to the problem can provide the solutions. He explained that a united community would have a more effective impact on neighborhoods than government hand-outs. He also observed that one of the most troubled areas of the county had no community center.

A pastor from south Apopka whose son was murdered mentioned dormant



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Jerry L. Demings, Orange County mayor, said the government needs the help of the community to address gun violence.

facilities in south Apopka that could be used to provide activities for youth. He suggested that a midnight basketball program, along with other activities, would reduce crime if facilities were available. “You can’t put money into a community and then take it away. The funding should be ongoing,” he said.

Miles Mulrain, a task force member and a community activist, who helps victims of crimes in Orlando, urged the audience to lobby city and county officials to provide resources and get educated on government funding cycles. “There’s

funding available for many resources that most people don’t know about,” said Mulrain. “Don’t wait for meetings like this to contact officials and air your concerns and your ideas.”

Next Steps

Doggette thanked the audience for their ideas and for their willingness to actively work with civic leaders to reduce violent crimes. He explained that the committee will review the county’s current projects and new proposals, and make recommendations to the Orange



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Ruben Saldana, a community activist and former gang member, airs his concerns to task force members.



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Mayor Jerry L. Demings addresses the media. Three TV stations covered the Town Hall and aired reports on the local news.

County Board of County Commissioners. The information will inform the Board's funding allocations.

Demings stressed the importance of community involvement. "We cannot reduce violent crime in our community without the community," he said. "If you are looking for the government to solve the problem alone, that will not happen."

Demings expressed his gratitude to Doggette for making the church available for the meeting. He reiterated the

importance of churches partnering with local governments to provide programming for young people. "There's no way that we can do this without the help of faith-based communities," he said. ●

Carlos Medley, a retired online editor of the *Adventist Review*, serves as community service liaison for the Patmos Chapel Church in Apopka, Florida.



PHOTO BY: CARLOS MEDLEY

Miles Mulrain (left), a task force member and community activist, who helps victims of crimes in Orlando, Florida, is interviewed by the media

A UNIQUE VENUE

The April 19, 2023, forum was held in Patmos Chapel's newly constructed sanctuary, just one month after the room was opened on March 18, 2023. The Hub multi-purpose worship space is part of Patmos' 107,000 square-foot sports complex, The Well.

The Well contains basketball courts, a kid's gymnasium, volleyball courts, batting cages, martial arts facilities, space for COVID testing, a restaurant, and an outdoor video screen used to stream services to the parking lot. The Hub is also available for wedding receptions, banquets, conferences, training sessions, and other events. During its grand opening ceremonies, G. Alex Bryant, D.Min., president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, described The Well as a "center of influence," a place that attracts the community.

Marvin McClean, Patmos' executive pastor, said that providing a resource for the community is an essential part of the church's mission. "The Well is a building that has eternal consequences. We provide opportunities where our community can intersect with our church. It's a place where our kids can grow, learn, and where they can expand in ministry. Just as Jesus met the woman at the well in John 4, so The Well is where our church and our community meet."
-Carlos Medley

Nurse Donates 37 Gallons of Breastmilk, Benefits More Than 14,200 Babies Across Florida

Laura Baran fell in love with helping mothers and babies when she became a nurse at AdventHealth for Women in Orlando, Fla. Working on the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) caring for preemies, she learned firsthand how important breastmilk is for infant health and how some mothers struggle to breastfeed.

Baran didn't have that problem. In fact, she was an over-producer, and after breastfeeding her two boys, was left to figure out what to do with a freezer full of leftover milk.

"I knew exactly where to go," she said.

She became a donor at Mother's Milk Bank of Florida, which serves 51 of the state's NICUs. It's one of about 30 accredited nonprofit milk banks in North America and the only certified milk bank in Florida.

The availability of donor milk has significantly reduced the number of infants who develop necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a sometimes-fatal gastrointestinal disease that mostly affects premature babies. Up to 17% of extremely preterm infants who are fed formula acquire NEC, compared to only 1.5% of extremely preterm infants who are fed human milk.

Potential donors provide complete medical and lifestyle histories and undergo blood tests, similar to the screening process used at blood banks. Donated milk is then tested for bacteria and levels of nutrients and pasteurized to kill any bacteria or viruses. Before the pasteurized milk is dispensed, bacteriological testing is done to ensure it meets the highest levels of safety.

Donor milk is only available through



a doctor's prescription. It meets strict screening, processing, and dispensing guidelines established with help from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the blood and tissue industries.

Saving Lives Through Donated Milk

Over the span of four years, Baran donated 37 gallons of breastmilk to Mothers' Milk Bank of Florida. Her milk went to 28 NICUs across the state, including AdventHealth NICUs in Orlando, Celebration, and Tampa.

"Knowing that I was in the unit where some of the milk would go to, that was amazing and that's what kept me going," Baran said in a recent interview with WESH-2 News. "And, knowing that my milk was going to these vulnerable ba-

bies, and it was doing good, I would have kept going if I could."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Human Milk Banking Association of North America put out an urgent call for breastmilk donors, citing surging demand and dwindling supply. Kandis Natoli, executive director of Mothers' Milk Bank of Florida and a former nurse, said countless women stepped up to meet that call, including Baran.

"Thirty-seven gallons, 128 ounces to a gallon, one ounce feeds three babies: Do the math," Natoli said, reflecting on Baran's incredible donation. "The women who donate to this milk bank are saving lives every day." 📌

BY CAROLINE GLENN, SENIOR EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST FOR ADVENTHEALTH IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

New Degree Provides Additional Path to Becoming a Nurse

AdventHealth University (AHU) is pleased to begin offering an associate of science in nursing (ASN) degree, with its first cohort set to begin Spring 2024.

“AdventHealth University is committed to playing a vital role in the nursing workforce pipeline, and this new nursing degree will promptly allow highly skilled and compassionate nurses to practice health care as ministry,” said Deena Slockett, Ed.D, MBA, RT(R)(M), interim provost at AdventHealth University. “Thank you to our outstanding nursing administrators for creating a robust program combined with valuable clinical experience that will appeal to those called to a nursing career.”

The ASN degree can be completed in as little as 20 months, and the coursework and clinical experience will pre-

pare students to feel confident when taking their National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and embarking on their nursing careers. Students will learn alongside health care professionals at AdventHealth’s world-class care centers. AdventHealth is recognized by Forbes as one of America’s Best Employers for New Grads.

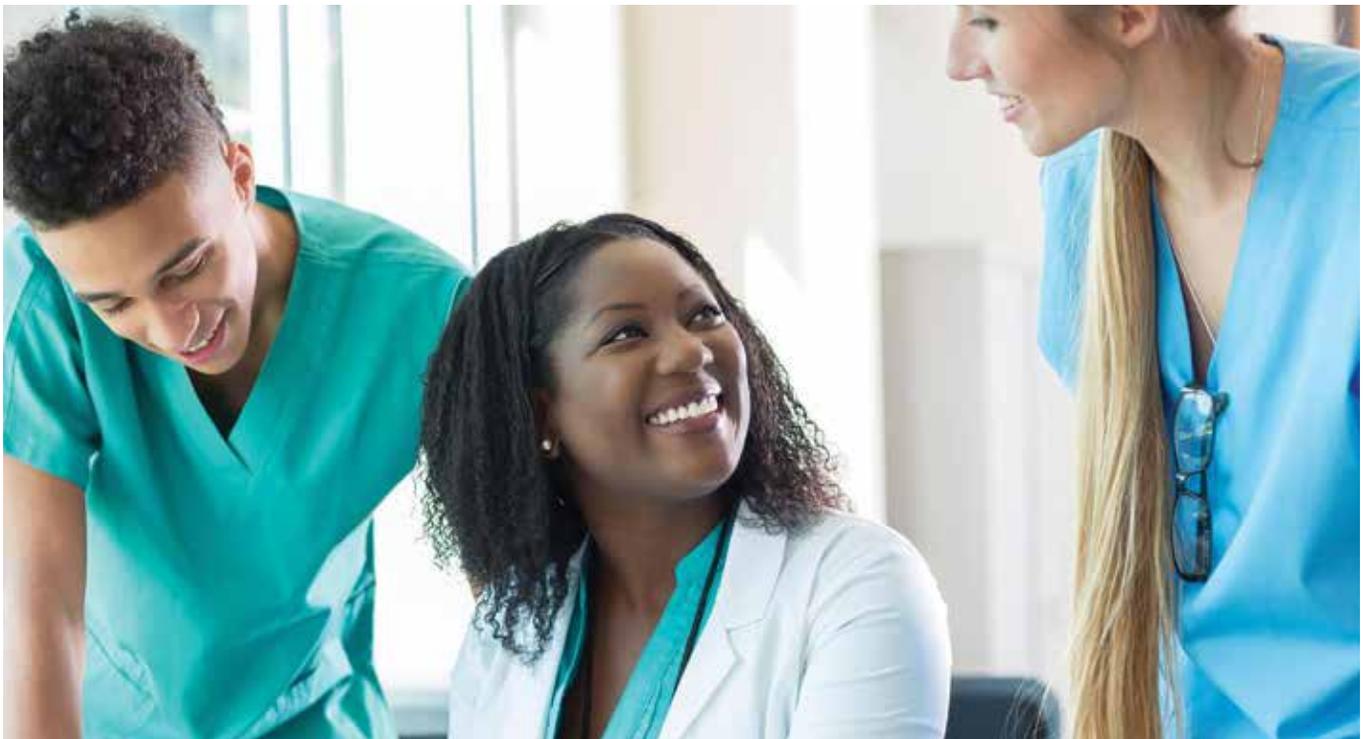
“Now is an exciting time to become a nurse,” said Julie Vincent, DNP, MBA, RN, CENP, who as chief integration officer helps to connect and facilitate AHU faculty and students with nursing resources at AdventHealth. “Nurses make a memorable difference in the lives of so many patients and families.”

AHU’s ASN program is pursuing candidacy through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

The associate degree expands the continuously growing nursing degree portfolio available at AdventHealth University, consisting of a daytime and evening bachelor’s nursing degrees, RN-to-BSN degree, master’s nursing degree (administration track and education track), doctoral degree in nursing practice, and doctoral degree in nurse anesthesia practice.

Application deadlines for the ASN degree are August 1 for the Spring 2024 trimester and April 1 for the Fall 2024 trimester. To learn more about how to earn an associate of science in nursing degree, please visit AHU.edu/Programs/AS-Nursing. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY



Mount Pisgah Academy Students Preach the Gospel in Barahona

Thirteen missionaries from Mount Pisgah Academy departed on a two-week-long trip to Barahona, Dominican Republic on March 8, 2023. The group included seven students, three staff, and three local church members. While there, the students and adults partnered with ShareHim to preach an 11-part sermon series about the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each preacher had a local church with audiences ranging from 10 to 80 people. Many church members invited visitors, adding to the audience size.

The group traveled for 16 hours from Asheville, N.C., to Barahona, Dominican Republic. Everyone was excited to get some well-needed rest before sermon preparations the next day. Thursday evening was exciting as the preachers met their church elders and translators. Some translators could not join the meeting, which added to anxieties as they departed for their first sermon on Friday. The first preaching night always has challenges, but everyone persevered despite the many bumps.

Although not being physically taxed, the missionaries were mentally exhausted each day from editing, preparing, and practicing their sermon for the evening. Luckily, the group had several relaxing days dispersed throughout. During the middle of the series, the students and adults took the morning off to visit Villa Miriam Spa, composed of natural pools and waterfalls gushing through the area's lush hills. It was a great way to relax and rejuvenate before finishing the sermon series. On Sunday, the students traveled to Bahía de las Águilas Beach. The group took a boat ride through the beautiful blue waters of the Caribbean Sea to a private beach area. They enjoyed a picnic lunch on the beach, played in the ocean,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

and relaxed on the sand.

While in Barahona, the group enjoyed delicious meals provided by a local chef. The food was brought to the hotel where the group dined in a private area. Although each meal was incredible, many meals resulted in leftovers due to the generosity of the chef. The ShareHim representative decided to purchase take-out containers so the remaining food could be given to the local homeless population. After each meal, a small group of students and adults would walk to the town square to hand-deliver the food. Several of the locals began to recognize the students, and

looked forward to their visits and generosity. The unexpected ministry had students excited and passionate during their visit.

All the hard work and effort culminated on Sabbath afternoon, March 18, when everyone gathered for baptisms at the beach. Although everyone had churches at separate locations, all the churches came together for baptisms at Saladilla Beach. It was an exciting day as students and adults each received certificates for their work in sharing the Gospel. Following the presentation, 30 individuals were baptized in the ocean by Freddy Rivera, ShareHim representative and retired Carolina Conference pastor, and Carlos Rillo, president of the South Dominican Republic Conference. It was an incredible day for all in attendance as they sang and rejoiced about winning people for God's Kingdom.

The last Saturday night was emotional as the preachers shared final sermons. It is incredible how close each individual became to the members of their church. Although they had only known them over a week, the bond was tight. Many gave and received gifts as they celebrated the hope of seeing each other again in Heaven. The group began their 21-hour travel day to return to Mount Pisgah Academy on Monday, March 20. Although distance separates them from their new-found friendships, they have the hope of Jesus' soon return where they can meet again. Thirty individuals were baptized, and many more will continue to study and give their hearts to God because of these meetings. The ShareHim family is so proud of the students, staff, and church members for their dedication to spreading the Gospel to all parts of the world. 📌

BY ABBY ACKERMAN, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & RECRUITMENT, ECONOMICS

Lighthouse Fellowship Organized as Church

The Lighthouse Adventist Fellowship of Fuquay-Varina was celebrated as a new church in the Carolina Conference on February 11, 2023.

Those who came to worship that Sabbath morning were greeted at the door by David Sharpe, retired pastor. Sharpe has provided guidance and support from the beginning — even from a distance of hundreds of miles for many years, before he relocated to the Raleigh, N.C., area.

The congregation’s journey to “the sisterhood of churches” presented its share of challenges. Their beginning was well before there were guidelines and formal steps toward planting a church. There wasn’t a “mother church” to nurture or assist. They were charting a new course.

It began in 2001, when the late Ron Schmidt, then Carolina executive secretary, asked members of the Raleigh First Church to start a church. Sharpe and Shari Leader were involved in Sabbath School and other responsibilities, but they accepted the challenge. They, with many others, including their four sons, Jeffrey, Jeremy, Jared, and Jordan; and remaining charter members Tommy and Annette Johnson and Lindsey Miles began a process of meeting after lunch on Sabbath to pray, discuss, plan, and strategize what would be involved.

The congregation has had a nomadic experience, much like Abraham of old. Their first Sabbath service was in a park in October, 2001. Then for years the group met in the Leaders’ home until their home experienced a catastrophic fire. So, the congregation migrated to meeting in the Leaders’ rental home, and then back to the reconstructed house. They even held communion in the garage, with Dexter Richardson, pastor, conducting the service. Organization as a company came in April 2002. Proper-



David Sharpe, retired pastor

PHOTO BY: HASKELL WILLIAMS

ty was purchased, but proved inadequate and had to be sold.

Rental space was found in the lower floor of a Mormon bookstore in Apex, N.C., for five years. When that building was sold, the company met in a series of community centers and daycare centers. Because none of them would offer a long-term commitment, Shari Leader searched every week for a place to meet. She would literally have to announce from Sabbath to

Sabbath where the company would meet the next week. Sometimes it was down to Friday at 5 p.m., when a place to worship was secured. But, God always provided.

In 2016, the gracious members of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church offered their sanctuary as a consistent place to worship. The fellow-Christian hosts have been most helpful and accommodating, even allowing multiple evangelistic series to be conducted in their church.

Despite the challenges of COVID, the Lighthouse Fellowship has been diligent and strategic in holding one to two series of evangelistic outreach each year, most of which have been streamed online. The resulting growth has grown the congregation to meet the benchmarks of a church. Consequently, the church planting committee recommended their next step.

The Carolina Conference Executive Committee voted to recognize the Lighthouse Adventist Fellowship on October 3, 2022. Ahead are more plans to reach the community with the everlasting Gospel. ●

BY HASKELL WILLIAMS,
MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR



PHOTO BY: HASKELL WILLIAMS

Fort Myers Members Brought Help With Construction, VBS, Evangelism to Dominican Republic

A group of members from Fort Myers, Fla., Church recently took a Maranatha Volunteers International mission trip to the Dominican Republic. During the day, the group of 31 built a major portion of a retaining wall for a new school/church campus.

In addition to the building project, the team also coordinated a Vacation Bible School (VBS) outreach program at a local public school for more than 600 children. This event took a lot of coordination and effort, but the volunteers tackled the challenge with great enthusiasm and found creative ways to bond with the kids and share Jesus.

Fort Myers members spent evenings holding meetings as part of an evangelistic campaign. During the week, 10 people were baptized, including two indi-



Stephanie Sousa from Fort Myers Church bonded with VBS students on the mission trip.



The team coordinated a VBS outreach program at a local public school for more than 600 children.



Thirty-one Fort Myers Church members took a Maranatha mission trip to Dominican Republic.

viduals from the tour group. Many other decisions were made, too, as a result of the evening evangelistic meetings.

This ongoing school/church project will require the help of many additional volunteer groups over the next couple of years before everything is completed. The campus itself will be the realization of a 50-year

dream the church members in North Santo Domingo have had for an Adventist school where they could send their kids.

Team members were able to donate funds to fix one of the churches in the area. The group donated a guitar to the local host pastor who had taken time to help build the retaining wall. The pastor

also gave the team members a short tour of old town Santo Domingo. Both the beauty and poverty of the country were viewed, but most of all, the love of Jesus was experienced.

Both young and older members of the group experienced transformative and

spiritual-life change. A full report of the trip, along with the participants' testimonies, was shared during a Sabbath service at the Fort Myers Church upon the group's return.

"I can't believe the Maranatha Volunteers International mission trip to the Do-

minican Republic has come to an end," says Travis Walker, pastor. "Thank you for all the prayers and donations that made this trip possible! God is good!" 📌

BY TRAVIS WALKER

Health Ministries Presents Lunch and Learn Program



PHOTO BY: LES MCCOY

The Florida Conference Health Ministries department hosted an in-office Lunch and Learn event. Presenter Luisa Cordero, registered dietician/nutritionist, taught employees how to make healthy choices by reading labels on food containers.

Health ministries at Florida Conference offered a Lunch and Learn program in the Conference community room for three Tuesdays: March 28, April 4, and April 11. The class was made available to all staff members during the lunch hour.

"The Art of Reading Labels" was the theme of this program taught by Luisa Cordero, a registered dietician/nutritionist. She teaches classes on science-based diabetics and lifestyle education, and she is also certified in weight management/behavior modification.

Les McCoy, Florida Conference health ministries director, had previously taken the class and invited the staff to attend.

"I felt it was worth my time, and I was happy to arrange to hold this Lunch and Learn program for Florida Conference staff members," said McCoy.

Preceding the presentations, guests were treated to a wholesome lunch provided by health ministries. This Lunch and Learn program was part of the continuing health and wellness contributions introduced by the Conference health ministries throughout the year to improve the well-being of its members. In this case, the well-being of the office staff was emphasized.

"The class was very enlightening in many ways, and I was excited to go home and share some of the key points

with my husband," said Jennifer Stefan, senior benefits coordinator/risk management for Florida Conference. "I'm looking forward to the next class and appreciate this opportunity to learn."

Events are also held around the Conference to highlight healthful living for all members, including Reversing Diabetes; CHIP programs; and the yearly Fit Together Health and Fitness Weekend at Camp Kulaqua, which will be held September 29 to October 1, 2023. Registration started April 3, 2023, on campkulaqua.com. 📌

BY LES MCCOY

Atlanta Belvedere Experiences Spring Revival

The Atlanta Belvedere Church completed a successful spring evangelism crusade on Sabbath, April 29, 2023, which resulted in 23 persons being baptized. David Long, pastor and director of stewardship, personal ministries, Sabbath School, prayer ministries, and prison ministries for the Southern Union Conference, was the speaker for the revival with the theme, “Restoration Now.” The central focus of the revival was “God’s Restorative Power and Promises.” Through his impassioned preaching, individuals were brought to a clearer understanding of the mighty power of God.

Samuel Bulgin, D.Min., lead pastor, and Donneival Walker, D.Min., associate pastor, provided excellent support, and the event was strongly supported by the members.

The 23 individuals who surrendered to Christ consisted of two adults and 21 youth from Atlanta Belvedere Church and the Atlanta Zomi Church, located on the Belvedere campus.

Baptism is a significant and meaningful act of faith and obedience to God. It is



PHOTO BY: JAMES CARTER

Twenty-three individuals (not all pictured), including 21 youth, were baptized as a result of a spring revival. The meetings, held by David Long, pastor, highlighted God’s restorative power and promises.

a public declaration of someone’s faith in Jesus, and a witness of receiving God’s grace and forgiveness.

In the book of Acts, there are several examples of people being baptized after accepting Jesus as their personal Savior (Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-38, 10:47-48). The Apostle Paul also spoke about baptism, saying it symbolizes the union with Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).

The church members praise God for the significant and meaningful act of faith and obedience to God by the 23 who surrendered their lives to Christ during the evangelism meetings. 🙏

BY JAMES CARTER, ATLANTA BELVEDERE COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, AND LEISA GREEN-CARTER, PH.D., ATLANTA BELVEDERE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Member Witnesses While Legally Blind

In the Brunswick and Camden churches in southeast Georgia, you will find a very active member named “Mike.” Mike is legally blind and a devoted and committed Adventist who is a faithful member of the Brunswick Church family. His pastor, Chris Hufnagel, describes Mike as “a member with a phenomenal heart of ser-

vice.” Mike developed his condition due to the side effects of oxygen in an incubator after his premature birth. Now at the age of 67, he humorously states about his eyesight, “I can see enough to get in trouble and run, hoping I don’t get caught.”

Mike has worked at convenience stores for more than 40 years, and though

he has never had a driver’s license, he does not allow that to impede him. While he can take a taxi, each day finds him walking many miles. He walks a portion of the distance to work, and often makes long walks into town.

When attending church, Mike faithfully arrives early in the morning to

ensure that the sanctuary and church rooms are clean and ready for use. He collects the mail, checks the phone messages, and picks up the trash from loiterers on the church property. Along with attending his church faithfully, Mike enjoys sharing the Advent Message at his workplace, where he deposits literature for those who enter, and he witnesses to those willing to entertain a conversation about the Good News of salvation and coming prophetic events.

Mike was married for 23 years before

his wife passed away. Hufnagel shares that “he is a great blessing to our church family here at Brunswick. At Christmas time, you’ll find him handing out gift cards to local restaurants. On Mother’s Day, he has gifts for the moms. On Valentine’s Day, he provides chocolate and flowers. Things just wouldn’t be the same around here without him. He has been a great blessing to me as a partner in ministry and companion throughout the trials of life.”

Hufnagel shares, “If there were a Bible verse that sums up Mike’s attitude,

it would be Acts 20:35 – ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ While I appreciate all of our members at Brunswick SDA, Mike is a special addition to our group. Even though his vision is blurred, Mike, hasn’t let his vision stop him from serving the Lord and leading a productive life in every respect. His fortitude and perseverance are an example for us all.” 📌

BY SHAUN BROOKS, D.MIN.

Hiram ACS Demonstrates Incredible Response to Families in Need

The Hiram Adventist Community Services (ACS) team displayed an immediate response to an opportunity to help three families in need on April 3, 2023. “I have never seen such a tremendous amount of speed as was given to this moment, coupled with robust desires to serve the Lord,” said Fredric Preston, community services director at Hiram, Ga., Church. Preston coordinated the event based on knowledge from Cliff McGrady, the zoning administrator and project manager for the City of Hiram, and Kim Cayetano, a Paulding County School District (PCSD) social worker.

The first family that received assistance was a mother who had been evicted from her home by the home owner. She was sleeping in her vehicle with her two children. The second family was a mother going through a divorce and working seven days a week to take care of her four children. She made too much money to qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. In addition, her vehicle had broken down, and she was using Uber to get to work. The third family was a single mom with four children employed as an Uber driver. During Christmas, her son submitted to the school counselor on the



Audrey Medley (left) and Charles Wilkinson present Kim Cayetano, Paulding County School District social worker, with supplies for three families. Hiram Church Adventist Community Services provided household goods and toiletries after hearing about the need from a City of Hiram project manager.

Christmas wish list that his family needed food. The food, household goods, and toiletries provided included literature that shared the everlasting Gospel.

This event is inspirational because it establishes opportunities to serve the Lord in the most unexpected places. Being ready and willing to help others is the whole idea of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Everyone must care, seek, and take notice of these types of occasions. The rewards

are marvelous. Efforts such as these advance the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in calling all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting Gospel embraced by the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12, and to prepare the world for Christ’s soon return. 📌

BY FREDRIC PRESTON

Panama City Holds Global Youth Day



Eddy Nunez (standing, center), pastor of Panama City, Fla., Church, poses with the members.

Global Youth Day (GYD) was a busy, blessed event for not only the youth, but all who attended the Panama City, Fla., Church. “The purpose was to make a dual impact. First an impact in our church and then an impact in our community,” said Eddy Nunez, pastor. He explains further, “When young people lead, they not only get experience, but they also showcase their God-given gifts and talents.”

More than 30 youth and young adults conducted the church service with the theme “Love is a Verb.” The program included special music, skits, and two youth baptisms. Nineteen-year-old Josmar Polanco was one of those baptized: “I waited for a long time to give my life to Christ and get baptized —

Global Youth Day seemed like the perfect opportunity.”

After a fellowship meal, the youth were stationed on different street corners where they waved Christ-centered signs and handed out flyers to encourage others and make the name of Jesus known to those who passed by. The signs displayed different messages, including “Jesus loves you,” “Jesus is coming back soon,” and “Honk if you believe in Jesus.”

During the afternoon outreach program, Nunez shared, “Julian, a passerby, stopped his car at one of our stations and offered to give money to our effort. We thanked him but clarified that we were not doing this for donations, but to show others Jesus.”

The group invited him to pray with them. After the prayer, tears filled Julian’s eyes, and he said he knew God led him to stop his car and approach us. He was also convicted to come to church and get his life back on the right track.”

After the outreach, a concert featuring the youth was held at the church. This was followed by Vespers and an evening meal.

GYD is a worldwide event celebrated in most Adventist churches. The youth team and pastor organized the program for Panama City Church. 📍

BY REBECCA GRICE

A Mighty Warrior for God: Remembering the Life and Legacy of Richard Hallock

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Richard Hallock, pastor, who served as the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference president from 1992 to 2009. Richard died April 16, 2023, following a brief stay at the hospital. He was a beloved figure and will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to the ministry of the Church, his love for people, and his faithfulness to God.

Richard was born on June 10, 1944, in Wichita, Kans. He attended Union College to pursue a degree in theology. It was here that he met the love of his life, Connie, on his way to a basketball game. The couple got married the summer between their sophomore and junior year of college in 1965. Upon graduation, Richard went on to pursue his master's degree at Andrews University, and Connie began her career as a teacher.

The Hallocks welcomed their oldest son, Kevin, in 1969, and then their second son, Ed, three and a half years later.

"He was a wonderful father," said Connie. "He was often very busy but always made time for his family. We traveled a lot when [the boys] were little. We had a pop-up camper and just had a lot of fun together. I would say his biggest desire was to see his children and family in Heaven."

All his life, Hallock was committed to serving the Church. He served as a pastor in the Missouri Conference, and as the ministerial director and president at the Gulf State Conference. In 1992, God called him to serve Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as president — an invitation he and his family gladly accepted.

During his 17 years at Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Richard brought



Richard Hallock served as president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference from 1992 to 2009. Hallock died April 16, 2023, following a brief stay at the hospital.

many positive changes. Not only did the Conference grow from about 10,000 members to more than 13,000 members, but it moved to a position of financial strength with 113% recommended working capital and no debt. In addition, during these years, Indian Creek Camp was rebuilt and upgraded with new lodging facilities, a state-of-the-art kitchen, dining facility, and auditorium.

However, his greatest impact came from his loving leadership.

"I will always love and admire Richard for seeing something in his pastors that we didn't even see in ourselves," said David Hartman. Hartman, who is now a professor at Southern Adventist University, worked with Hallock for 24 years, both in the Gulf State Conference and

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. "I believe I'm partially where I'm at today because of the leadership and the mentoring of my friend Richard. He was confident, a visionary, a spiritual leader, and a builder of people."

Hartman recalls Richard's passion for evangelism. While at Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Richard implemented a "Healthy Church Survey," which through a series of questions, churches identified ways they could connect and grow in Jesus, as well as serve their communities for Jesus. According to Terri Jenks, who worked as his administrative assistant for seven years, Richard was a man after God's own heart.

"He was a mighty warrior for God," said Jenks. "It's touching to see our leadership being humble, loving, and setting an example. When decisions were being made, he always tried to err on the side of compassion."

Upon his retirement in 2009, the Hallocks moved to Collegedale, Tenn. The couple enjoyed traveling, and Richard especially enjoyed gardening. In 2018, Richard had a stroke that left him paralyzed on the right side of his body. The week before he died, Connie recalls him whispering "I love you" as he looked at her.

"Because of the stroke he had difficulty speaking, so that was very special," said Connie. "If I were to describe our relationship in one sentence, I would say that I'd do it all over again." ●

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Lawrenceburg Church Hosts Seminar to Help Church Members “Claim Children Back”

The Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church hosted a two-day seminar about the power of prayer and the Lord's promise to rescue those who have strayed away from the faith, on April 28 and 29, 2023. The seminar, “Claiming Your Children Back,” was attended by many church members and visitors.

The program was organized by Lawrenceburg Church member Kelli Scott. It was inspired by Scott's desire to see her children in Heaven. Every Friday, Scott meets with a group to pray for their loved ones who have walked away from the Church.

“We get together and we pray for not just our children, but all the young people,” said Scott. “This is a burden of mine, and I know I am not alone in that. We pray and we claim God's promises. We need this to encourage our hearts so



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Guests listen to Grant Agadjaniand. The presentation gave practical advice on how to reach out to those who have lost their faith.

that we can start anew and start fresh, and really fight the battle for their salvation on our knees.”

The seminar guest speaker was Grant Agadjaniand, Creative Media Ministries president. The sessions focused on the importance of prayer, the power of love and forgiveness, and the significance of leaning on God's promises.

During the two-day event, participants were encouraged to remember that Christ is the only one who can bring back their loved ones to a life of faith. The seminar also included practical advice on how to reach out to those who have lost their way.

“I think it's important to realize that we may be the only Jesus [our loved ones] are seeing right now. So, what do they see?” said Scott. “If our desire is that they will fall in love with God, we can't do that through condemnation or by being critical, but just by loving them to Jesus.”



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Seminar participants and guest speaker Grant Agadjaniand enjoy fellowship potluck following morning presentation. The seminar, “Claiming Your Children Back,” was attended by many church members and visitors.

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Welcome Table: Couple Open Plant-based Restaurant to Share Jesus in Their Community

Ever since Erica and Ken Jones started offering cooking and health seminars, participants would ask, “When are you opening up your own restaurant?”

The Joneses had been enjoying a plant-based diet for years, which had been inspired by a fitness camp they had attended while in the Pennsylvania Conference. In 2018, the couple also took some courses with the Wildwood Lifestyle Center in Wildwood, Ga. Erica Jones said these classes were crucial for the ministry God had in store for them.

In March 2022, the couple finished a



The BBQ jackfruit tacos are one of the restaurant’s best-selling dishes. Other famous meals include roasted vegetables and a house burger.

cooking demonstration at the Tullahoma, Tenn., Church, which they now attend, and once again people asked, “When will you open up your own restaurant?” After much prayer, they decided it was time to take a leap of faith; and so, on December 4, 2022, the couple had the grand opening for “Welcome Table Kitchen and Bakery.”

“When we moved to the South, I knew in my heart that God had put us here for a reason, though at that time I did not know why,” said Jones. “Now I understand that God brought us here [because of the restaurant]. This is His ministry, and it’s our way to introduce others to the health message.”

Based in Morrison, Tenn., the restaurant’s slogan is “Enjoying tasty and healthy meals that heal.” Jones said when she switched to a plant-based diet, it was important for her to not compromise taste, which has helped the popularity of the restaurant. Some of her best-selling dishes include roasted vegetables, a house burger, and BBQ jackfruit tacos.

“It has been great showing people that healthy food can be tasty food, too,” she said.

According to the Joneses, opening the restaurant required a lot of sacrifices on their end, like downsizing living finances. However, they do this joyfully because they see this as an opportunity to share the Gospel with their community.

“We are individually doing this work ourselves, and the Lord is sustaining us and providing what we need,” said Ken Jones. “Our biggest hope is that this ministry can ultimately please Him, and that we can faithfully represent the face of the Church in this community.”



Erica and Ken Jones pose in front of their restaurant, “Welcome Table Kitchen and Bakery.” The restaurant’s mission is to introduce the local Morrison, Tenn., community to the benefits of healthy eating.

PHOTO BY: ERICA JONES

PHOTO BY: ERICA JONES

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Oakwood University Announces Presidential Scholars

Beginning with the Class of 2023, the most academically distinguished seniors in the graduating class at Oakwood University will be recognized as Presidential Scholars. Throughout their tenure at Oakwood, they will have maintained the highest standard of academic excellence, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average every semester for four years. This impressive accomplishment was achieved by only 1% of the Class of 2023.

The first Presidential Scholars at Oakwood University:

- Christyn Alexis Byrd – Biology - PreMed/PreOsteopathic major, Department of Biological Sciences

- Raichel Griffiths – Management Information Systems major, Department of Business & Information Systems

- Wilbert Freddie Mays II – Biochemistry major, Department of Chemical & Biochemical Sciences

During the 114th Commencement ceremony of Oakwood University, May 10-13, 2023, a total of 269 students who entered to learn four, five, or

even six years ago, have now departed to serve.

“The Oakwood University graduating Class of 2023 is uniquely positioned for success because of the lessons they’ve learned while navigating the crisis of the pandemic. They describe themselves by one word — survivors. We salute them for their fortitude, perseverance, resiliency, and determination,” said Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., MBA, Oakwood University president.

Consecration speaker Max Gomez,



The Class of 2023 during Commencement on May 13, 2023



Master's graduate Max Gomez received his hood from Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., during Commencement, and also spoke for Consecration 2023.



Jancess Pinnock, Class of 2006, poses with her son, Nathaniel Pinnock, Class of 2023.

pastor, made it into the historical record of Oakwood University graduates by being the first speaker to also graduate

during the same weekend. Gomez graduated from Oakwood University in 2019 with a bachelor's in ministerial theology, and in 2023 graduated with a master's in urban ministry and community development. He is currently pastoring the Sumter Berea and Manning Maranatha churches in South Carolina for the South Atlantic Conference.

The following story illustrates a special tie between mother and son graduates. Both Nathaniel Pinnock, Class of 2023, and his mother, Jancess Pinnock, Class of 2006, are recipients of the Martin Luther King/Oakwood University Scholarship. Additionally, Nathaniel's journey at Oakwood University took somewhat longer than the typical four years. He enrolled at Oakwood University in August of 2014. Unfortunately, after a terrible car accident in the summer of 2015, it took Nathaniel three years to return to Oakwood.

Due to brain injuries sustained in the accident, upon Nathaniel's return to campus, he could only manage two classes

per semester. By grace and in time, his enrollment increased to three classes. He never lost sight of his goal, and eventually persevered to take four courses each semester. "It took Nathaniel six years to reach his goal — one year before the accident and five years after his return in 2018. I graduated from Oakwood on May 13, 2006; my son, Nathaniel, graduated 17 years later, the same day, May 13, 2023," said Jancess Pinnock. This is only the beginning of what God has in store for their family.

Commencement signals a farewell to the young and older adult students who have been befriended, supported, advised, prayed for, counseled, fist-bumped, and, yes, even cried with during the past several years. The Oakwood family wishes all graduates God's continued blessing and success in their future endeavors! 🙏

BY INTEGRATED MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF WRITER

Enactus Team Places Third in Top Tier of National Competition

The Enactus chapter at Southern Adventist University won third place at the 2023 Enactus United States National Exposition, ranking in the elite 1% of more than 300 teams in the country. This marks the second time Southern's student team, which is housed

in the School of Business, has advanced through the competition to the final round with the top four U.S. schools.

Enactus is an international nonprofit that brings together student, academic, and business leaders who are committed to using the power of entrepreneurial

action to improve the lives of people in need. Academic advisers and business experts help guide student leaders in implementing sustainable community empowerment projects across the globe.

Junior management major Roman Johnson, Southern's chapter president, described the expo as "an incredible experience. My team and I had the opportunity to grow in our commitment to Christ-centered service through our projects this past year, and then showcase His work through our team in the competition."

The Southern team's current projects include Akuna Soap Industry, producing natural, affordable soap that equips women and youth in Zambia to open their own businesses; BringIt, empowering student entrepreneurs; Tomorrowpreneurs, inspiring underserved children with business knowledge and confidence; HIRE, providing job networking and training for unsheltered individuals; and Illuminate Marketing, offering promotion assistance for struggling small businesses.

"I am so proud of the amazing work our team did this year," said Michelle Doucoumes, associate professor in the School of Business and Enactus faculty sponsor. "The level of learning, teamwork, leadership, and innovation that goes into these projects is truly experiential learning at its best. Plus, we get to use our time for projects that make a positive impact in people's lives." 📌



Southern's Enactus team of students received national recognition for their work helping those in need.

BY TINA SMITH

Southern Awarded \$3 Million Federal Grant as Hispanic-Serving Institution

Southern is set to receive \$3 million over the next five years as part of the Department of Education's Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. This marks the largest-ever grant awarded to the University, which has a current enrollment of nearly 3,000.

The federal government considers colleges and universities with Hispanic student enrollment of 25% or higher to be Hispanic-Serving Institutions, a designation which allows the schools to apply for select funds that help expand and enhance academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability. Southern is the only Hispanic-Serving Institution in Tennessee.

Goals established by Southern as part of the grant include increasing financial-aid education and STEM-career inspiration among high school students and their families, improving student retention and workforce readiness once enrolled in college, and boosting graduation rates.

"We are delighted that our proposal was selected for funding and will support the improved success of Hispanic, low-income, and other underserved populations," said Robert Young, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic administration. "A side benefit of the grant is that programs put in place will also support the success of all students enrolled in our STEM programs."

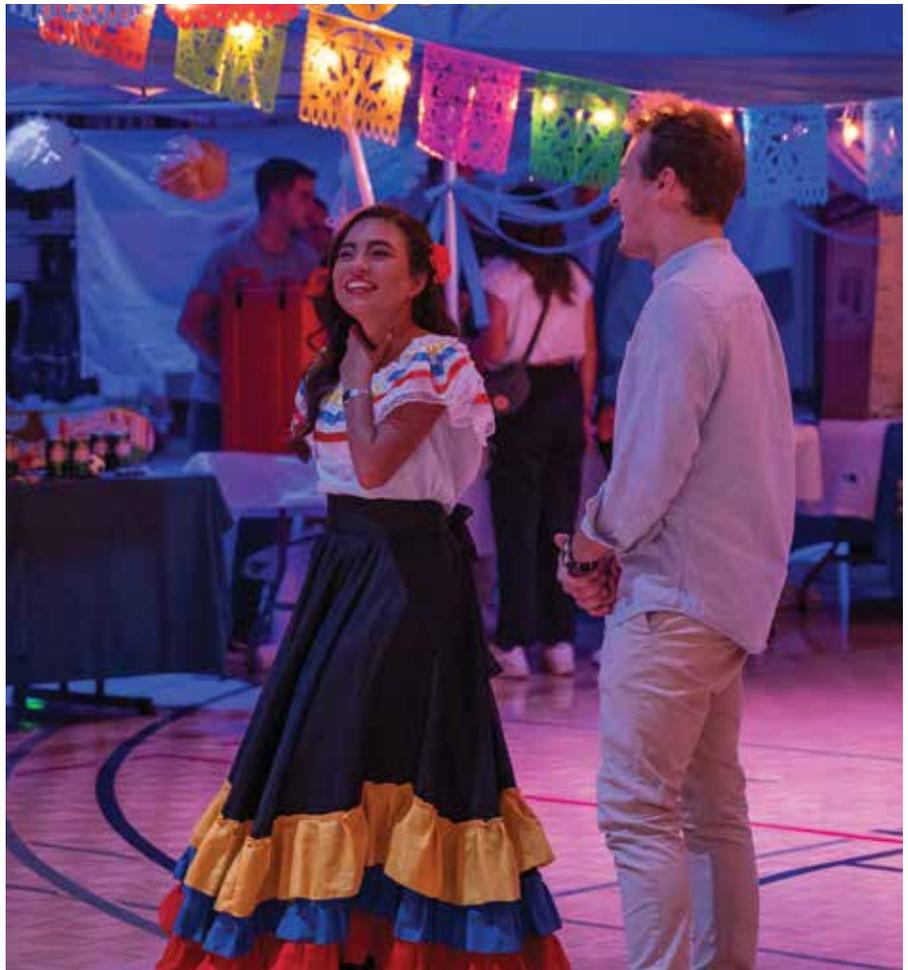
One third of the total grant has been earmarked for STEM equipment and upgrades to campus labs, better equipping students with tools for independent research. Training on any new instruments also will help students be more attrac-

tive to local businesses for meaningful internships and employment in a highly competitive job market.

Other grant monies will help create an endowment, matched by Southern funds, for undergraduate student research and internships. In related efforts, faculty workshops will explore curricula modi-

fications for core general education and STEM major gateway courses with below average passing rates. ①

BY TINA SMITH



Latin American Club Night is a vibrant annual cultural celebration at Southern, which is the only official Hispanic-Serving Institution in Tennessee.

2023 Adventist Robotics National Championship Held

Sensors, motors, control hubs, autonomous mode — yes, you guessed it — the Adventist Robotics National Championship buzzed with energy as FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge (grades 4-8) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) (grades 7-12) teams arrived at Forest Lake Academy (FLA).

A total of 39 teams from across the United States gathered at FLA on Sunday, May 7, 2023, to compete in the tournament. The day began with teams checking in at the registration table, receiving their individualized team buttons, and collecting the day’s schedule. The atmosphere was filled with overwhelming energy. The 2022-2023 FIRST Robotics season, presented by Qualcomm, was themed “ENERGIZE,” with FLL teams tasked with “reimagining the future of sustainable energy.” This year, Adventist Robotics had a record number of 15 FTC teams compete in the National Championship.

“Participating in the Adventist Robotics FTC tournament this year was both exciting and filled with worry. It was invigorating to see our robot complete its objectives and score points, and successfully complete our autonomous code. It was also filled with stress because we were worried that our robot wouldn’t perform as we expected it to, or that one of the drivers would make a crit-

ical error that could cost us the match,” said CPUsaders team member Nathan Neidigh, FTC Dean’s List finalist from South Lancaster Academy. He added, “These tournaments are never boring, and it inspires my team and I to work harder next year so that our robot could do even better. This year I was fortunate enough to receive the Dean’s List Award. This award is significant to me because it signifies to me how much I have grown as a leader and as a person.”

The opening ceremony set the tone with a performance by the Winter Park Spanish Pathfinder Club drum corps. Greetings were given from Glen Baker, FLA principal; Frank Runnels, Florida Conference vice president of education; and Eder Marski, Southern Union IT director. Ken Wetmore, a pastor, and Randy Magray, the Digital Ministries director, both from the Whole Life Church, served as the master of ceremonies for the FLL Tournament. Richard Sardinas, from United Data Technologies in Miami, Fla., served as the FTC master of ceremony.

The FTC Tournament featured both rookie and veteran teams determined to put their skills to the test. The teams were tasked with a challenging game to score more points than their opponents. Representing the Southern Union in the FTC Tournament were Forest Lake Academy in

Apopka, Fla.; Walker Memorial Academy in Avon Park, Fla.; Greater Fayetteville Adventist Academy in Fayetteville, N.C.; Tri-City Academy in High Point, N.C., and the Senjus of Raleigh, Rolesville, N.C. The GatorBytes from Newbury, Calif., were the winners of the Inspire Award, which “celebrates the pinnacle of FIRST Tech Challenge achievement. The team has performed well in all categories and is chosen as a role model for all teams.”

During the closing ceremony, teams eagerly awaited the announcement of awards. Each team received a plaque, while team members and their coaches/mentors received participation medallions for the robotics season. The Tranquility STEM Stars received the prestigious FLL Champions Award for outstanding achievement in the tournament.

Adventist Robotics is a ministry of the Florida Conference Office of Education for Adventist schools and communities across North America. The organization extends its gratitude to the volunteers who made this event memorable for the teams, coaches, and mentors. For more information about Adventist Robotics, visit adventistrobotics.net. 📍

BY KHANDI COOPER, M.ED.



PHOTO BY: MEL WADE

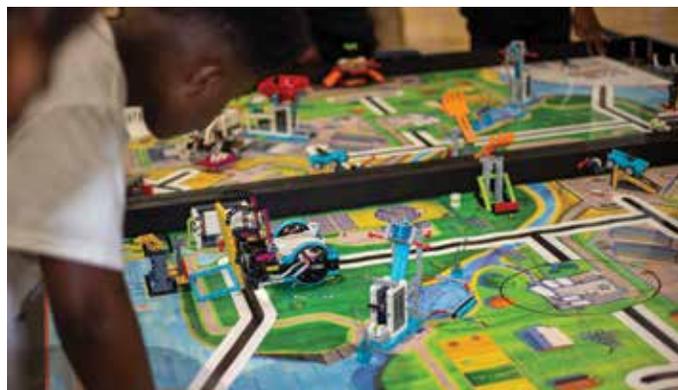
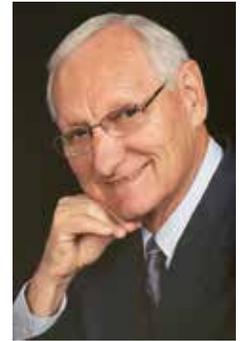


PHOTO BY: MEL WADE



BECK, ROBERT (BOB) G., 93, born Aug. 16, 1929, in Hillrose, CO, died Nov. 15, 2022, at Winter Haven, FL. He was a member of Winter Haven Church. He grew up working on his family farm and attended the local German Congregational Church. He was active in the church youth program and invited his friend, Wanda. They began to share biblical reasons for their unique beliefs. After studying the Seventh-day Sabbath, there was no other logical choice for Bob, and he became a Sabbath-keeping Christian. He joined Wanda at Union College in Lincoln, NE, and they were married in May of 1950. He received a master's degree from Andrews University. Bob's ministry of more than 50 years began in small churches in Nebraska, and then as youth pastor in Lynwood, CA, pastor in Texas, and pastor in Kansas and at Enterprise Academy. He next served Carolina Conference as pastor at Mt. Pisgah Academy and Fletcher Academy. Recognizing God-given talents and commitment, Carolina Conference asked him to serve in various departmental positions until Florida Conference called him and Wanda to Winter Haven in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Wanda; two sons: Tom (Jeri) and Barry; two grandsons; nephews; nieces; and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents: Adam and Lydia Beck; brother, Leslie; and sister, Doreen. The evidence of God's great faithfulness was always the theme of Bob's life. A memorial service was conducted by Pastors Walter Maier and Frank Gonzalez at the Winter Haven Church.

KOVALSKI, GERALD N., 83, born Nov. 13, 1939, in Perth Amboy, NJ, died April 29, 2023. Gerald was the second child of John and Margaret Kovalski. He and his five siblings grew up living in Maine and Florida. When he became a teenager, he attended Forest Lake Academy working to pay the tuition for both him and his oldest sister Amy. Following academy graduation, he attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) where he met Sandra Collier. They were married and for the next 61 years their life of service in the Seventh-day Adventist church took them around the globe. His titles included preacher, missionary, teacher, principal, youth director, communication director, conference educational superintendent, Southern Union vice president of education, North American Division vice president for education, and assistant to the president/philanthropy officer for Southern Adventist University. In each life role, he is remembered for his caring focus of touching individual lives, especially his three children and seven grandchildren who loved him dearly. The time he spent playing with them, attending their concerts, sport games, graduations, and the many conversations and guidance he provided as they grew older, are forever treasured. His life of service, dedication to God, and love for family was his greatest gift and legacy.



ANDERSON, JACK L., 90, born Sept. 22, 1931, in Foster City, CA, died Sept. 18, 2022, in New Port Richey, FL. He met his wife at New Port Richey Church where he was a member for 12 years. He was a retired veteran of the United States Air Force where he served for 26 years. He is survived by his wife of eight years, Maria Dja-cy; and her daughter, Tatiana Liven-good; his five children: Michel Ander-son, Vickie Silvia, Gail Ebner, Eddie Hosmer, and Michael Hosmer; one brother, Ronald Anderson; 10 grand-children; and nine great-grandchil-dren. He was predeceased by his parents: Earle and Minnie Anderson; his eldest son, Craig Anderson; and late wife of 37 years, Elaine Hosmer. The service was conducted by Pas-

tor Jonathan Peinado in Oldsmar, FL. Interment was at National Veterans Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

DENTON, LESTER A., 85, born Aug. 1, 1937, Lake of the Woods, MN, died March 24, 2023, Mt. Dora, FL. He was a life-long Adventist and most recently a member of the Mt. Dora, FL, Church. He was drafted as a medic in 1961 and served at the Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. He worked at International Paper Company as a logger, heavy equipment opera-tor, and woods foreman. He helped restore Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, MI, and was a volunteer fireman and EMT. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Martha "Jan" Den-ton; one son, Randy Denton of Delco,

NC; three daughters: Kaye Gillis of Wilmington, NC, Patti (Juan Carlos) Gomez of Apopka, FL, and Carmen (Brooks) Langley of McLeansville, NC; one sister, Doris Wagner of St. Joseph, MI; 13 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Colleen Wagner Denton. Interment was at Lake Waccamaw, NC.

ENGLE, PH.D., ADOLPH JAMES "JIM," 93, of Ooltewah, TN, born Oct. 13, 1929, in Erie, PA, died Oct. 24, 2022. Engle earned his Doctor of Philosophy in chemistry from the University of Maryland, went on to run the lab at McKee Bakery, and re-tired from running the lab at Eureka Foundry. He later taught at Southern

Adventist University for several years. He enjoyed camping, hiking, history, and was always inventing. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, June; sons: Steven and Jeffery; daughter, Darlene Allison; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Engle was preceded in death by his parents: Adolph John Engle and Margaret Vigress Engle; brother, Richard; and sister, Jean Roberts. He is interred at the Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, TN.

GANG, ELSIE MAY, 81, born Sept. 12, 1941, in Takoma Park, MD, to Carl and Ruth Anderson (Elsie was their only child), died Feb. 2, 2023, after complications from a fall. Carl was in west Pennsylvania at the time of her birth, working as the tent master for evangelistic meetings. He got to see his baby daughter six months after her birth. For most of her early years, Elsie May lived in South Lancaster, MA, attended Browning Memorial Elementary School, and graduated from South Lancaster Academy. She enrolled in the nursing program in Glendale, CA. At the same time, Eddie Gang was studying dentistry at Loma Linda, CA. After meeting, Eddie visited her in Glendale every weekend. They married on Aug. 16, 1964, in the Portland, Maine, Adventist Church. That same year, Elsie May graduated from the Glendale Nursing School, and worked for two years with the heart team at Loma Linda University. When Eddie graduated in 1966 from dentistry, they moved to Alameda, CA, where he was stationed at the USS Coast Guard base, serving in the US Public Health Service. They joined the East Oakland, CA, Church, which gave them a baby shower for their soon to be born son, Jeffrey Allen, who currently serves as associate professor of religion at Loma Linda University. The greater part of Ed and Elsie May's life together was lived at Cedar Ledge Farm in New Jersey, where Ed practiced dentistry, and where their daughter Carla Lynn was born. Elsie May was actively involved in running cooking schools, sharing hospitality, leading Pathfinders, and serving as head deaconess for 30

years at the church they joined. Ed and Elsie May became grandparents to Madison, currently finishing her program in speech pathology; Braden, a second-year student at Southern Adventist University preparing for nursing; and McKenna, a senior at Redlands Academy, CA. In 2004, Carla, their daughter, had a fatal cerebral hemorrhage. In 2010 Ed retired from his dental practice, and in 2016 they moved to Hendersonville, NC, and became members of the Fletcher Church. A few days before Elsie May passed away, she and Ed prayed and talked together about the rich and rewarding life God gave them together. She faced her last days without fear, knowing she would be welcomed into her heavenly home Jesus has gone to prepare. Elsie is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ed; and their son, Jeff, married to Gina; and three grandchildren: Madison, Braden, and McKenna.

REDMOND, AUDREY L., 86, born Feb. 17, 1937, Owosso, MI, died May 2, 2023, Lakeland, FL. She was a member of the Lakeland Church. Audrey was a factory worker in her younger years. She babysat and loved having kids around her. She loved to travel with her husband while he was in the Navy. Her favorite country was Germany where they lived for three years. Audrey loved crafts and was an avid crocheter until failing eyesight. Oma's smile will be missed by all who loved her. She is survived by her "adopted" children: Ken and Rosellen Brown; and grandchildren: Austin and Britani Brown of Hendersonville, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents: Bernard and Marjorie Minor; her husband of 48 years, Master Chief David Matthew Redmond; and daughter, Kimberly Ann Reisbig. Interment was at the National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL, to await the Lord's return.

RICHARDS, ALTHIEA, 51, born in Falmouth, Jamaica, May 25, 1971, died March 27, 2023. She was a member at New Hope Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She occupied many roles, including church administration, and

youth ministries with special emphasis on Pathfinders. Althiea is survived by her husband, Sherwyn; sons: Tarek and Terence; daughter, Aleson; mother, Claudia; brother, Royston; and grandson, Aiden. She will be missed immensely.

ROBERTS, JEANETTA, 87, born Dec. 22, 1935, in Lakeland, FL, died March 4, 2023, in Homosassa, FL. She was a member of the Homosassa Church. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Robert DeWaldo Roberts; one daughter, Brenda; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A service was conducted by Pastor William Earnhardt.

WOLF, ELWOOD C., 75, born June 1948, in Baltimore, MD, died Feb. 2023, in Homosassa, FL. He was a member of the Homosassa Church for 20 years and was retired. He is survived by his son, John Wolf, of Baltimore, MD.

Six ways to get news about your Southern Union Family.



Visit SouthernTidings.com to subscribe to the Southern Tidings Magazine

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ADVERTISING

(1) Have your pastor or local church elder write "Approved" and his signature on the sheet of paper containing the advertisement, (2) write your name and address on the same sheet, (3) specify how many times the ad is to run, (4) send the approved ad to your conference office 6 weeks in advance of the publication date and (5) don't forget to enclose payment in full for each month the ad is to run. Make checks payable to SOUTHERN UNION.

RATES: Southern Union: \$40 for 20 words or less, including address. \$45 for anything longer than 20 words up to 45 words. \$1.30 per word beyond 45. Accepted as space is available. Ads may run in successive months as space permits.

Southern Tidings makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertising, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns, or for typographical errors.

PROPERTY AVAILABLE

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

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

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

CONFERENCE OWNED INDEPENDENT LIVING Community near Orlando, Florida. SDA Church on the property. AdventHealth medical care, shopping, beaches very close. The sunshine is free and plentiful. Start your new life with us!! 407-452-4243 Nancy (Admin), Katty (PR). [C]

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

DON'T JUST RETIRE.... Live with purpose at Fletcher Park Inn. An Independent Living Retirement Community, located on the campus of Fletcher Academy near Hendersonville, North Carolina. Join our family, take part in the many opportunities for staying active, volunteering, making new friends and living with

a purpose. Call to find out more about our apartment and villa homes 828-209-6930 ask for our marketing department or visit www.fletcherparkinn.com. [C]

KY LAND FOR SALE: Surveyed into 5 different lots. Each lot is 3± acres. Griffin community. Low gentle slope. Mtn. views. Close to Little South Fork River and Daniel Boone National Forest. City water, electric & garbage pick up available. If you like peace and quiet and having a garden, this land is perfect for you. [7-8]

FOR SALE in rural area of Tryon NC: Two homes on one acre, both 4 Br/2 Ba and handicap accessible. Income producing property, one home is an active 5 star rating Vrbo/Airbnb with bookings. Three raised garden beds. Call 828-817-3825. [7-8]

COUNTRY RETREAT within a mile of SDA church. And on the site of first SDA church in area. Brick home on 24 acres. Over 2,000 sq. feet, full basement, attached garage, workshops. 780 Griggs Chapel Rd., Cedar Grove, TN 38321. 901-412-4651 [7]

MCDONALD, TN - 10 min to SAU Exquisite farmhouse estate built in 2017 offering 3600 sf finished and 1700 sf unfinished basement with 21 acres of beautiful rolling land. Features a 3 stall barn, 2 acres fenced area, and lots of 4 wheeler trails. Truly a magnificent setting. \$1.65 million. Dixonteam.com - Wendy Dixon - Keller Williams Realty. Call 423-702-2000 for more info and link to listing. [7]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FLETCHER ACADEMY IS HIRING! Serve with Purpose in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Join "a growing community of believers operating Adventist schools, ministries, and businesses in harmony to educate youth to have a transforming influence on the world as disciples of Christ." View current openings at www.fletcheracademy.org/career. [C]

WE ARE LOOKING FOR Certified Teachers to join us at an online school, Sycamore Academy (Grades K - 12th). Work part-time from home teaching/tutoring "live" in a

Zoom environment. If interested, please call us at 817-645-0895. [7]

IN SEARCH OF Adventist operated group home for mentally challenged adult female. Call 229-588-0974 and leave a message. [7]

UNION COLLEGE is accepting applications for International Rescue and Relief Expedition Coordinator/Faculty. This individual will work on campus during the fall semester and plan the semester abroad as well as help out in various classes or initiatives. Coordinator will lead out in the spring semester abroad accompanying students and coordinating class instructions, planning, and logistics. See job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. [7]

FREE APARTMENT RENT in a country setting, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath on one acre near Uchee Pines Institute in Seale, AL. Must oversee complete care of two disabled ladies who have no physical limitations or health issues and live in their own home nearby. \$3000 monthly must have a verifiable church affiliation. More details 334-855-0733 [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Salaried positions— Marketing & University Relations Director, Online Campus Teaching Technology Specialist, Academic Administration DHSI (Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions) Project Manager, Academic Administration Community Outreach Coordinator, Academic Administration Retention and Resilience Coordinator. [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Hourly positions— Deli Associate, The Garden Eatery Assistant Manager, S.A.L.T. Outreach Coordinator for School of Religion, Office Manager for School of Education and Psychology, McKee Library Circulation Manager, CK2 Eatery PM Shift Supervisor, Alarm Technician, Electrician Master Technician. [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of Counseling for School of Education/Psychology. A doctoral degree in counselor education from a CACREP-accredited program is required. Doctoral degrees in clinical or counseling psychology from APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit ww.southern.edu/jobs [7]

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 undergrad-

uate 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 [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time program director to launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The ideal candidate will be proficient in managing the CAPTE accreditation process, new program development, and teaching graduate physical therapy courses as well as clinical practice. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to mentoring advisees, nurturing student learning both in and out of the classroom, and disciplining students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the School of Religion. The position would involve assisting in the Institute of Archaeology, including with its publications. Applicants should have a PhD (or have made significant progress in a PhD program) in the areas of archaeology and biblical studies and should be prepared to teach courses in archaeology, biblical studies, and biblical Hebrew. For a full job description please visit www.southern.edu/jobs [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Engineer teaching faculty member for Physics and Engineering Department in the areas of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in mechanical, electrical, or computer engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher education teaching experience and/or relevant industry experience preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs [7]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, NE is accepting applications for Computer Science and Mathematics Professor. The individual in this role will teach upper division programming classes and lower division math classes. A PhD in Computer Science or Mathematics is preferred, Master's required. Please direct inquiries to Bruce Forbes at Bruce.Forbes@ucollege.edu or apply online at ucollege.edu/employment. [7]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving + Storage has a national account with the General Confer-

ence for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! Call Marcy Dan-te' at 800-766-1902; or visits us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist. [C]

TEACH SERVICES HELPING AUTHORS: Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Visit www.TEACHServices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation or call 800-367-1844. Shop for NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS at www.TEACHServices.com or at your local ABC. [C]

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

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER Residential Program. Suffering with a physical or mental health issue? Come away and receive healing from the Great Physician, regaining your health through natural remedies. Join our residential programs, and learn principles of healthful living by calling 706-820-1493 or visit wildwoodhealth.com [7-12]

SDA MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR - Cara Soto, M.A. Need a confidential place to share your struggles? I provide Christ-centered therapy. In-network provider for Aetna and BC/BS. Serving all of Florida through telehealth. To make an appointment with me, call 331-246-0930 or email me at Cara@finishwellgroup.com [7-10]

COME TO MACEDONIA! Praying for missionary minded families interested in church planting and reviving work in beautiful Northern Adirondacks and Saint Lawrence Valley in upstate NY. Great country living and affordable property. For more information, please contact Steve (518) 651-0674 or Pastor Raymond (315) 406-6701. [7-9]

FREE DIGITAL CARDS LifeTalk Radio has many beautiful free digital sharing cards for all occasions. Let others know: "God Loves You." Encourage friends and neighbors by sending a hopeful message or Bible promise via email or text. Just visit: LifeTalk.net/eCards [7]

LOOKING FOR A DEPENDABLE Honda/Toyota/Mazda sedan or small SUV, 8k-13k value. Please text 828-577-5723 pictures, VIN, your name, church, and the contact info of your pastor/head elder for reference. [7]

CD DUPLICATORS available. Limited quantity. Must be able to pick up at Southern Union Conference Office. Call 770-408-1800, ext. 128 for more info. [7]

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



Are Your Investments Secure?

If you are concerned about economic security in the future, consider a Legacy IRA. You can now rollover a traditional IRA into a Charitable Gift Annuity. Completely avoid immediate taxation on an IRA withdrawal and make a gift that pays you income for life. Any remaining funds may be designated to the charity of your choice. Visit southern.edu/LegacyIRA or call your local university or conference office and ask about funding a Charitable Gift Annuity with your required minimum distribution.

- ▶ If you are interested in a living trust to support the work God has placed on your heart, please contact our planned giving office.



Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Miriam W. Battles (256) 726-7508

South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University

Kimberly Bobenhausen (423)-236-2832



SUSDAGift.org

CHURCH SIGNS CONNECT YOU WITH THE COMMUNITY

How easy it is to find you and know they have arrived at the right place?

Inadequate signage causes missed opportunities. Focus on the mission, while we assist you getting a new sign.

Your church sign represents the church body. It is the first structure associated with your church that most people will see, a powerful evangelistic tool!

Our sign engineer will help you selecting the sign that meets your needs. We have two main types of signs and several options on Monumental designs.

Visit our website to learn more about the ordering process, sign types, and customize options.

SouthernUnion.com/signs

Highway Directional Signs
Assist to locate your church

Monumental Signs
Identify your church



FLORIDA

Singles' Mission Trip - Aug. 7-11. Dominican Republic.

Free Savvy Retirement Series via ZOOM
 Aug. 29 - Full and Detailed Medicare Workshop, Part I;
 Sept. 5 - Full and Detailed Medicare Workshop, Part II;
 Oct. 24 - Managing/lowering your retirement tax bills.
 Register: planned.giving@floridaconference.com

Family Camp - Sept. 1-4. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.

National Camps for Blind Children - Sept. 17-22. www.blind-camps.org.

Camp Kulaqua's 70th Anniversary - Oct. 13-15. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.

Young at Heart (50+ retreat) - Nov. 6-9. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Teen Summer Camp - July 9-16. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Family Camp - July 18-23. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Hispanic Camp Meeting - Aug. 4-6. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

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/lowering your retirement tax bills - Aug. 29. Zoom.

Young Adult L.I.F.E Retreat - Sept. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SmartStart Begins - July 24. New students at Southern can earn three credit hours for free during the summer (a savings of more than \$2,300). To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION
 - Aug. 24-27. Orlando, FL.

SUNSET

	JUL 7	JUL 14	JUL 21	JUL 28	AUG 4	AUG 11
ATLANTA, GA	8:53	8:51	8:47	8:43	8:37	8:30
CHARLESTON, SC	8:32	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:17	8:10
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:41	8:38	8:35	8:30	8:24	8:17
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:58	8:56	8:53	8:48	8:42	8:34
HUNTSVILLE, AL	8:04	8:02	7:58	7:53	7:47	7:40
JACKSON, MS	8:12	8:10	8:07	8:03	7:57	7:51
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:10	9:08	9:03	8:58	8:51	8:43
MEMPHIS, TN	8:18	8:16	8:12	8:08	8:01	7:54
MIAMI, FL	8:17	8:16	8:13	8:10	8:06	8:01
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:57	7:55	7:51	7:47	7:42	7:35
NASHVILLE, TN	8:08	8:06	8:02	7:57	7:51	7:43
ORLANDO, FL	8:28	8:26	8:24	8:20	8:15	8:09
TAMPA, FL	8:31	8:29	8:27	8:23	8:18	8:13
WILMINGTON, NC	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:18	8:12	8:05

STUDENTS GET CLOSER TO JESUS AT ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

Research shows that students who attend an Adventist university are 7x more likely to form a deep relationship with Jesus* than their peers at public universities.

At Southern Adventist University, we're committed to providing quality education in a Christ-centered environment.

Come see for yourself what makes Southern special! Whether you schedule an in-person or virtual visit, you'll get a guided tour, time with academic faculty, and an admissions consultation while having the chance to ask any questions you want. We can't wait to meet you!

southern.edu/visit



*See research data at southern.edu/100reasons.



Collegedale, TN