

TIDINGS



Southern



JANUARY 2024

**SUPREME COURT
BOOSTS WORKPLACE
RELIGIOUS RIGHTS**

A
TRANSFORMATIVE
EXPERIENCE

PATMOS CHAPEL
CELEBRATES
70 YEARS OF
MINISTRY

NURTURING
HEARTS AND
MAKING AN
IMPACT

THE IMPORTANCE
OF IDENTITY
IN INCLUSIVE
HEALTHCARE

Returning Home



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

“I will set off and go to my Father,” Luke 15:18.

The young man stands by the pigsty, letting the pods fall slowly back to the snuffling swine. All the tracks out from the pigpen carry the sign, “No Through Road.” Except one. It means gulping down his pride, making the long trek back, apologies, an uncertain future.

He practices his speech and says goodbye to the kind Gentile farmer who kept him alive when his Jewish countrymen offered no help. He makes the final turn onto the home plantation. Suddenly he sees a distant figure running toward him. It is his father. He tries to read the expression on his father’s face and sinks to his knees. But, before he can kneel, his father catches him up and kisses him.

Words tumble out — the well-rehearsed speech, “Father, I have sinned, against God and against you; I am no longer fit to be called your son,” Luke 15:18, 19 NEB. But, the father cuts him short. He never gets to say, “Treat me as one of your paid servants.” The son’s intentions mean nothing in this situation. Instead, the father declares this: Bring the best robe. Put a ring on his finger. Bind sandals on his feet. Make a feast.

What he could not earn or reclaim, the father gives to him. In the story, the father bestows more on the prodigal than he had before he packed his bags and left home.

Thus, Jesus shows God’s intentions toward the repenting sinner. Our plans have no real value. Instead, in Jesus Christ, He gives us what we can never earn.

Can you imagine that middle-aged man racing down the path, dignity forgotten, sandals clacking, robe flying? Thus, God shows us the eagerness with which He seeks and welcomes the lost.

The record states that there by the hogs the son “came to his senses.” To know how sorry your circumstances and how desirable even a small corner of the Father’s house is, is to decide to return home. To say, “I will set off and go to my Father” is to return home.

Are we not all, this day, prodigals asked to decide to return home? Every day even the most holy of us wastes the inheritance of faith and sins against the Father. Only as we know ourselves as we truly are, and come each day for the embrace of love and the Father’s gifts, can we be His obeying children. For such reunions, love spreads its feast.

God has always had care for His people. Christ taught His disciples that the amount of divine attention given to any object is proportionate to the rank assigned to it in the creation of God. The value of man and the estimate God places upon him is revealed in the cross of Calvary.

Finally, my favorite book, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 206, states: “If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love.” -RCS ①

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features

4
SUPREME COURT BOOSTS
WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS
RIGHTS

8
A GATHERING OF GOD'S
MESSENGERS: SOCIETY OF
ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS
2023 CONVENTION

12
A TRANSFORMATIVE
EXPERIENCE

14
PATMOS CHAPEL CELEBRATES
70 YEARS OF MINISTRY

17
NURTURING HEARTS AND
MAKING AN IMPACT

18
THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTITY
IN INCLUSIVE CARE

news

20 CAROLINA
22 FLORIDA
24 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
26 GULF STATES
30 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
32 SOUTH ATLANTIC
34 SOUTHEASTERN
35 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

36 OBITUARIES
42 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
46 EVENTS CALENDAR/
SUNSET SCHEDULE

january 2024



SUPREME COURT BOOSTS WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Workplace religious accommodation received a hopeful boost this past summer from the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Groff vs. Dejoy*, a case in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church played a significant role to maintain religious liberties.

Gerald Groff, a Sunday-keeping Christian, started working for the United States Postal Service (USPS) in 2012 as a rural mail carrier. Shortly after that, Amazon contracted with the USPS to deliver packages seven days a week,

and the post office where Groff worked quickly became an Amazon package hub for the area. After informing the USPS that he needed to be off on Sunday for religious observance, the agency eventually moved him to a smaller facility to accommodate his request for time off.

Unfortunately, even though the USPS worked the problem out and accommodated Groff for a few years, this accommodation did not stand the test of time. Changing contractual issues with the labor union began to present

themselves — even in the smaller postal facility he had been assigned to for his accommodation. By 2017, Groff was facing problems again with Sunday package deliveries, this time because the labor union that he was under had established an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the post office on the ways a carrier could get Sunday off. There were only two ways to get Sunday off, and religious accommodation was not part of those exceptions.

By 2019, Groff had undergone so much “progressive discipline” that he decided he had no other choice but to resign. In the complaint brought to the court, Groff contends that he could have been accommodated without “undue hardship on the conduct of the business.” These are key words every Adventist will face when confronted with a religious accommodation problem. The term “undue hardship” can be frustrating to deal with simply because the term has been very broadly defined since its inception into the world of workplace accommodation. For the last 50 years,

We believe our brief was impactful on this case. From our earliest days as a Church, we have sought peaceful ways to strengthen and defend religious liberty.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SERVICES

- **Workplace religious accommodation assistance**
- **Assistance with standardized Sabbath Testing (SAT, ACT, PRAXIS, etc)**
- **Immigration and naturalization**
- **Non-combatant standing**
- **Unemployment benefits (when fired for religious reasons)**
- **Miscellaneous public affairs issues relating to the Church and its teachings**

Our record has stood long and strong. And, while we may not be the biggest name out there defending religious freedom today, we are one of the oldest and most consistent organizations doing such work.

the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Department throughout the North American Division has advocated for better definitions of workplace accommodation rules, losing to big business and pro-business courts in favor of employers who have a very low threshold when meeting definitions like “undue hardship.” Groff’s case, just like many of the cases we work on for Church

members, was decided by a lower court that found the USPS had met the very low threshold of “undue hardship” when another employee complained about the accommodation stating that it conflicted with his contractual rights. The absurd ease with which an employer can meet the “undue hardship” standard might mean that your right to get Sabbath off is dependent on the goodwill of your

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING: SABBATH, JANUARY 13, 2024

fellow workers rather than the goodwill of your employer in some cases. Although, to be fair, the EEOC Guidelines on accommodation specifically mention this scenario is not a reason to reject a reasonable accommodation to those in need of such.

The Supreme Court's concern in this case took up the issue of a clearer definition of what "undue hardship" means for employers who have been asked to accommodate a religious belief. The court was concerned that the hardship should factor in more than "de minimis cost" (the minimal or least amount of cost). In other words, employers cannot use the excuse that they have incurred an "undue hardship" by having to incur "the least amount of cost" to the company in making an accommodation. The court believes the expectation should be that the company would incur a "significant cost," thus actually creating true hardship on the operations of the company.

Despite these hopeful new standards the court has directed employers to implement, Groff's case has not been resolved. The Supreme Court returned it to the lower courts to make a determination based on its decision regarding the terminology used in defining what constituted a hardship.

It is important to know the role the Adventist Church played in this case and in countless others about which you will never even know. The Church's amicus brief (a report of expertise or insight offered by a party not directly involved) in this case was one of the first cited in the court's opinion. We believe our brief was impactful on this case.

From our earliest days as a Church, we have sought peaceful ways to strengthen and defend religious liberty — from our earliest success in 1864, when we appealed to the governor of Michigan to be recognized as opposing the bearing of arms, to our defense and hard work in the 1970s and 1980s

in getting legislation passed to protect Church members' jobs when faced with opposition to labor union membership, and even in the quiet but diligent way we helped hundreds of members opposed to vaccines for their personal religious beliefs. Our record has stood long and strong. And, while we may not be the biggest name out there defending religious freedom today, we are one of the oldest and most consistent organizations doing such work.

As Seventh-day Adventist members, you should be proud to join in this effort. You and I, and many others, are partners in this work. This is not because we seek fame or fortune, for those things will fade away when Jesus returns. We are partners together in this cause because we value religious freedom as a precious gift from God. 🕊

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

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING: SABBATH, JANUARY 13, 2024

LIVE WEBINAR:

Religious Accommodation in the Workplace

Have you ever been faced with workplace religious accommodation issues? This could be anything from training issues to Sabbath scheduling problems, and even vaccine requirements. This live webinar reviews the EEOC Guidelines and will help to clarify some common misconceptions about the employment law that covers religious accommodation. Learn the basic "dos and don'ts" before you head into a crisis.

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Where: Zoom Session

Hosted by: Southern Union PARL Department



Presenter:
Kevin James



Zoom Link
passcode: freedom

The PARL Department does not recommend members resign from jobs over failure to accommodate issues. If you are faced with making a resignation decision in a religious accommodation issue at work, please reach out directly to your local conference or the Southern Union Religious Liberty Department before you make that final decision.

ELECTION YEAR PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS WITHIN CHURCHES

The year 2024 finds us in a presidential election cycle. Now is the perfect time to remind you that it is every member's duty to be cautious and protect the Church's tax-exempt status. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America has intentionally decided that our churches exist for the spiritual and not the political. We urge churches to continue to obey these rules.

- Under IRS code all 501(c)(3) organizations (churches) are prohibited in a very strict manner from participating either directly or indirectly with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate or elected public official. This includes any official running in local, state, or federal elections.
- Prohibition goes beyond candidate endorsement by the organization. Prohibition includes contributions to campaign funds, as well as public statements of position, either written or verbal.
- Allowing a candidate to use the Church's assets or property (facilities) is prohibited.
- Church leaders cannot make partisan statements in publications (including websites or social media connected with the local church office) or at functions.
- In an election year, always check the IRS rules for specific issues involving candidate appearances in your church for any reason. The IRS rules detail what is permissible and prohibited.

This is not an exhaustive list of prohibitions. The Adventist Church only has one tax exemption. We all share it; each local church, pastor, and member is connected. It is important to remember that when you violate any one of these rules, you risk jeopardizing the Adventist Church's tax-exempt status. If you have questions, you can always contact the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department or check the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

THE BEST ADVICE:

Concentrate on the spiritual realm rather than the political realm when at church.

Freedom
of
Religion

A GATHERING OF GOD'S MESSENGERS:

Society of Adventist Communicators 2023 Convention

BY NICOLE DOMINGUEZ

Many are to believe in Christ through the communication of truth by His servants. As they see the beauty of the Word of God, and as they see Jesus revealed in the lives of His children, they will praise Him with heart and soul and voice," Ellen G. White, "A New Commandment," *Signs of the Times*, December 9, 1903.

Communication has never been a one-and-done process. To reject the evolution of communication would be to place the method over the message, pledging loyalty to leaflets over the great commission. The North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church acknowledges communication is more than a method — a

sacred connection process designed to redirect our attention to Christ. This ethos was upheld at the 2023 Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) convention in Springfield, Massachusetts, where 248 people attended the three-day event in October, gathering to fulfill the convention's annual theme: "Purpose. Passion. Partnership."

After a morning in which some Church communication leaders attended meetings while other SAC attendees enjoyed pre-registered tours of a local radio station and television station, the convention began in earnest on Thursday afternoon. The general session began with Rachel Scribner and Courtney Herod welcoming con-

vention-goers through a prayerful and playful overview of what to expect in the days to come. The session then transitioned to "Ask the Experts" segments consisting of discussions on topics ranging from photography to podcasting to AI (artificial intelligence), allowing the audience to ask a panel of experts about the nuances of their field. For many, this segment offered an open dialogue concerning unfamiliar practices they might want to pursue within a personal ministry or their communication department.

The topics from the panel transitioned well to the 15 breakout sessions, where some of the same panelists could elaborate on their subject of expertise from



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Pictured are attendees from Oakwood University, Southern Adventist University, Carolina Conference, Gulf States Conference, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, South Central Conference, AdventHealth, and the Southern Union.



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Society of Adventist Communicators attendees take time for a group photo on Sabbath, October 21, 2023, at the Springfield, Massachusetts, convention.

PR and crisis communication to publishing, design, and AI. The latter topic was a pervasive presence throughout the event. AI represents an avenue into the unknown, with some viewing it as a potential threat to job security, and others who are adept with technology eager to explore unbridled opportunities for modernization and development. The convention provided a space for fears to be confronted, and education on how AI is helpful for communication. The panel on AI as well as breakout session “AI: Your New Superpower!” led by panelist Ernesto Hernandez, unpacked the basics of the tool. Hernandez explained that technologies such as AI are not designed to replace but to aid and expand, and just as the bloom of the Internet opened doors for greater ease and broader connection, engines like ChatGPT have the possibility of aiding your work with effortless quality.

The NAD advocates for such advancements by soft-launching certain programs and tech to help creatives and communicators. TechTalk, which has become a beloved portion of the convention, was led by its regular emcee and SAC past president, Bryant

Taylor, with Courtney Herod. During TechTalk, Bryant gave away a subscription to programs such as Adobe Firefly and Midjourney, as well as AirTags and personal soundboards. The giveaway allowed communicators to have access to tools previously unknown or unused, with a few students walking away with some of the prizes.

The SAC convention has always been a golden opportunity for students to network with future employers and become inspired for future projects. Student attendance hit a record high, with more than 50 students from Adventist colleges, universities, and two high schools. This number included several students on the NAD Productions Services media



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Pictured are Brenda Dickerson (left), Mid-America Union communication director and SAC president; Kimberly Maran, NAD communication director and SAC executive director; McKenna Cameron, Oakwood University student who received the Best Student Broadcast Project Award; and JaNeen Lendor, Lake Region Conference communication director.



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Brenda Dickerson (left), Mid-America Union communication director and SAC president; Roger Wade, South Central Conference communication director; Paola Mora Zepeda, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference media ministries director; Kimberly Maran, NAD communication director and SAC executive director; and JaNean Lendor, Lake Region Conference communication director, presented Wade and Zepeda with an honorable mention for their article, “A Marriage of Two Schools: the two conferences partner to jointly administer their schools in Memphis,” at SAC’s 2023 Annual convention.

crew, which helped run the audio/visual portion of the general sessions. For students such as Annaliese Jacobs, a senior at Union College, the 2023 convention isn’t their first time, and there is comfort in familiar faces. “This is my last year of college, and I would love to be able to work in the Church,” Jacobs admits. “By networking and meeting people here, I’m hoping to be able to connect with people who will be able to recommend [to] me job opportunities.”

Other students, such as third-year Southern student Hannah Johnson, entered the convention with fresh eyes and high hopes, “I’m hoping to learn and gain experience from SAC. This is my first year and I’m so excited to see what’s in store. I want to find some sense of direction for my future and how to get there.”

The NAD makes a conscious effort to tailor certain programs and networking opportunities toward university and college representatives, including an entire breakout session dedicated to student job seekers. “We strive to provide programming that will appeal first to our professional communication attendees, but also with an eye on what our student attendees can learn the most from that will

help in their future careers,” explained Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD communication director and SAC executive director. “And, we make sure that we have some presentations that are geared directly toward the student experience.”

All 15 breakouts were held in three

time blocks on Friday, with time in between for members to explore the exhibit hall, which housed booths from sponsors such as AdventHealth, Hope Channel, Sonscreen Film Festival, Adventist HealthCare, HerbSpice, Faith For Today, and a union/conference led job



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Brenda Dickerson (left), Mid-America Union communication director and SAC president; Kimberly Maran, NAD communication director and SAC executive director; and JaNean Lendor, Lake Region Conference communication director, stand with Ednor A. P. Davison (second from left), Atlantic Union communication director and *Gleaner* magazine editor, is awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for working 30 years.

opportunities booth. Each booth displayed its projects, products, and programs, and provided small trinkets for attendees to take.

The rest of the convention was punctuated by equal parts of work and worship. On Friday, a business meeting was hosted through lunch, where outgoing SAC board members were recognized for their service and incoming board members were voted in, allowing members to familiarize themselves with the new board. Erin Byrne, CEO of ThinkSisu, gave a keynote address where she encouraged curiosity in communicators, and offered guidance on crisis management by sharing foundations on how to control the narrative. For worship, vespers included a vibrant song service to open the Sabbath, and a presentation by the president and founder of Journey Films, Martin Doblmeier. The use of storytelling as a profound communication tool was the central thesis of Doblmeier's talk, referencing his recent film "SABBATH," as an example of educating the public through a creative lens.

Sabbath morning opened with the Atlantic Union's praise team, RCC, followed by marketing expert and domestic engineer Felecia Lee, who asked the audience

to sit in complete stillness for 60 seconds. Lee confronted the misconception that productivity was a sign of greater spiritual value, advocating the value of rest and realigning our relationship with work. Afterward, Lee was joined by her husband and business partner, Stephen, for a Q&A. For the main worship service, Amanda N. Hawley, pastor, explored Jeremiah's difficult message and how "He wasn't wrestling with whether God's message was true, he was wrestling with whether he wanted to continue as God's messenger." Her words addressed the conflict many writers, designers, and creatives experience when facing the struggle of communication within the Church.

The convention concluded on Saturday evening at the awards banquet where the Society of Adventist Communicators, after a presentation by author David Weiss, awarded nominees for their contributions to the field such as Best in Photojournalism, Best Long-Form Writing, Best Podcast, Best Design, and similar categories. SAC also offered the Reger Smith Cutting Edge Award, granted to those who were making waves in church communication, to Mitchell Kessler and Kaleb Eisele for their Oregon Conference podcast Bridges Over Walls. Irisene Douce, managing edi-

tor of the Southern Union *Southern Tidings* magazine, was recognized for 25 years of continuous service as SAC registrar. The final awards went to the corporate campaign "Living God's Love: The Story of Adventist Health" for the overall Award of Excellence; Annika Cambigue for student of the year; Kristina Penny Daley for the young professional award; and Ednor A. P. Davison, with the lifetime achievement award for her 30 years as communication director and *Gleaner* magazine editor for the Atlantic Union.

Brenda J. Dickerson, SAC president, shared, "Our SAC board worked especially hard this year to bring in high-quality presenters and also to provide ample time and space for people to network and share ideas and resources. I hope everyone who attended took away at least one thing of value that will positively impact their lives and their work in the coming year." 📌

Nicole Dominguez is a freelance writer for the North American Division.

Irisene Douce, managing editor for the *Southern Tidings*, contributed to this article.



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Communication professionals and students were among those who received an honorable mention in the Online Video category at the Society of Adventist Communicators Awards Banquet.

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

BY YOUNG ADULT LIFE

The Young Adult Life Tour was a transformative experience for young adults and leaders seeking guidance in their shared faith journey,” said Lindsay Syeh, Southeastern Conference pastor and young adult ministries director. “I learned that we don’t have to reinvent how we minister. We can start with a meal, mentorship ... an intergenerational connection.”

The third stop of the Young Adult LIFE Tour landed in the Southern Union Conference at Spring Meadows Church in central Florida. With more than 200 registrants and 1,000-plus in attendance, the weekend was filled with meaningful connections, inspiration, and relevant training on growing together.

“We were inspired, enriched, and empowered,” said Gregory Taylor, youth and young adult ministries director for the Southern Union. “The tour stop served as a catalyst for furthering the

conversations about young adult ministry in our Union ... to get the word out about these incredible emerging adults who have a passion and excitement about their faith.”

Friday evening began with a presentation by the Taylors giving focus to the importance of the “twenty-something years,” what psychologist Meg Jay, Ph.D., advocates as the “defining decade.”

Syeh resonated, “Young adults are experiencing many developmental milestones and life transitions during those years, and we are called to be empathetic, offering safe space for young adults to discover their identity and purpose ... To belong.”

Syeh also presented, challenging all generations to be conduits of care, comfort, and compassion, especially for young adults who have been hurt by the Church.

“Ministry with young adults begins with listening; empathy and compas-

sion must follow closely,” said Chandler Tarbox, Spring Meadows Church young adult pastor. “God is moving intentionally in and through young adults.”

Sabbath morning featured young adult ministries best practices, with Tarbox interviewing young adults and church leaders who offered practical insights. Interactive and experiential sessions, refreshments, and discussion breakouts, afforded attendees opportunity to engage the presenters and each other.

“The young adult energy and honesty was contagious,” shared Kim Taylor, Southern Union young adult ministries coordinator. “I have been challenged to be more intentional in reaching out and partnering with our young adults in ministry.”

Sabbath worship hosted nearly 1,100 in attendance from throughout the central Florida area, with guests from across the Southern Union and the



The third stop of the Young Adult LIFE Tour landed in the Southern Union Conference at Spring Meadows Church in central Florida. With more than 200 registrants and 1,000-plus in attendance. The weekend was filled with meaningful connections, inspiration, and relevant training on growing together. See youngadulthoodlife.com.



Tour presenters include Kim Taylor (left), Southern Union youth and young adult ministries coordinator; Lindsay Syeh, Southeastern Conference young adult ministries director; Gregory Taylor, Southern Union youth and young adult ministries director; and Chandler Tarbox, Spring Meadows Church young adult pastor.

North American Division. Steven Argue, Ph.D., author of *Young Adult Ministry NOW*, presented the sermon with all generations leading and participating in the worship experience.

“Dr. Argue is a creative communicator and captured my imagination,” affirmed Juan Rodriguez, Florida Conference

youth and young adult ministries director. “I was inspired to go deeper in how we empower and equip young adults.”

Spring Meadows Church hosted an exceptional luncheon with pastors and ministries directors from throughout the Southern Union serving guests.

“It was a privilege hosting the Southern Union Young Adult Life Tour at Spring Meadows Church,” shared Tarbox.

“I was so inspired at the Young Adult Life Tour in Spring Meadows,” said Kim Taylor, “I look forward to seeing where this takes us as the Southern Union and beyond.”

The afternoon featured a training intensive, “Young Adult Ministry NOW,” with Argue as well as sharing various ministry resources available through AdventSource. Argue, who serves as the applied research strategist for Fuller Youth Institute, offered findings from his book as well as tangible applications for local church leaders.

“I was unaware of the amount of research surrounding Church growth among different age groups, and the work with focus groups verifying the findings,” shared young adult Joshua

Blake, a church planter from North Carolina. “Knowing that my Church is actively listening to emerging generations and thinking about future generations is encouraging.”

“The presentations throughout the weekend served as a powerful catalyst to further empower our young adults,” shared Tarbox. “Recognizing and sharing where God is moving among my peers will elevate our young adult discipleship. It will require a commitment to implementing what we have learned, but it will be more than worth it.”

“I loved how young adults engaged the Young Adult Ministry NOW training, bringing their ideas, perspectives, and energy,” said Argue. “I was also inspired by the genuine interest ministry leaders expressed in wanting to learn from and about young adults. The Young Adult LIFE Tour is more than an experience. It’s a faithful first step for those who want to take young adults seriously.”

“The Young Adult LIFE Tour was an amazing experience,” said Rodriguez. “Interacting with leaders and emerging adults helped me grow and develop a better understanding how I can help churches foster a thriving young adult ministry.”

Wanting to be more than an instructional event, the Young Adult LIFE Tour intends to be experiential and interactive, seeking to hold tour stops in local Adventist churches across the NAD where vibrant young adult ministry is thriving and bringing vitality to the whole congregation. The new year brings the tour to Mid-American Union, January 26-27, 2024. Plans are being laid for tour stops in North Pacific Union, Canadian Union, and Lake Union as well. For more information go to youngadultlife.com 📍



Young Adult Ministry NOW author Steven Argue, Ph.D., conducted an interactive ministry training intensive in the afternoon for all the registrants for the Southern Union Young Adult LIFE Tour.

Young Adult LIFE is the North American Division's young adult discipleship framework giving focus to Leadership impact, Inter-generational relationships, Faith development, and Everyday compassion. See youngadultlife.com.

PATMOS CHAPEL CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY

BY CARLOS MEDLEY

“The Lord has brought us a mighty long way.”

That’s the testimony of members and friends of Patmos Chapel Church in Apopka, Florida, as they celebrated the church’s Platinum (70th) Anniversary on September 22, 2023. More than 650 members and friends crammed into the church building to worship and praise God for His guidance over seven decades, and to ponder God’s plan for Patmos’ future.

In his welcome, James R. Doggette, D.Min., Patmos Chapel’s senior pastor, reminded the congregation: “God has spared the church for 70 years and

gave it the ability to thrive. The Bible says, ‘The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years (Psalm 90:10 NKVJ).’ Now Patmos is going into its season of strength, 70 years.

“Pastor McClean and I are committed along with the church leadership to make sure that as we move into the next 70 years we continue to reach out to our community,” he said. “We’re not just a group that comes together to worship and disperse without making a difference.”

Doggette thanked those responsible for organizing the day, including Christian Taylor, chaplain and steering committee chair; Tiffany McIntyre, who organized

the Sabbath dinner; and Crystal Syrracos, worship leader and praise team director. Later in the program Taylor and Syrracos honored the praise team members for their contribution to the church’s worship experience. “They do an amazing job,” said Taylor. “Not only do they sing, but they deepen our walk with Christ.”

Jerry L. Demings, Orange County, Florida, mayor, offered his congratulations in a letter to the church. “I commend Patmos Chapel for building a community center that provides youth and families with numerous recreational activities, and educational opportunities that nourish mind and body,” wrote Demings. “As one of the largest food



PHOTO BY: CURTIS WALTERS

The Swoope Street property in Winter Park, Florida, was opened in 1981 and expanded in 2000. It housed the congregation until 2018.



PHOTO BY: CURTIS WALTERS

The Patmos Chapel children's choir sang to open the anniversary celebration.

distribution sites in the county, thank you for your continued food giveaways that have helped thousands of people who struggle to make ends meet. The food drives are a stabilizing force in the community and lift the quality of life for our residents.”

“As you celebrate this momentous occasion, I hope you reflect on the many accomplishments achieved and the years of dedicated service to the community. I pray that you and your ministry continue to grow and evolve as you enter the next chapter of faithful service.”

The morning speaker, David Franklin, pastor from Oakland, California, also affirmed the church for its achievements and praised Doggett for being an innovator willing to take risks to see the Kingdom of God built.

An Anointed Word

In his sermon, “Don’t Get Stuck,” Taylor told the story of Cori Dionne “Coco” Gauff, 19, who recently won the U.S. Open tennis tournament. Gauff became the first African American teenager to win the title since Serena Williams in 1999. She is ranked number

three in the world. Franklin explained that Gauff’s road to success wasn’t easy. She fell short in five major tournaments before winning the U.S. Open. She was thankful for the losses because they made the title more precious.

Franklin explained that Gauff’s experience offers valuable lessons for Christians. God often takes us through tough times before we can achieve our goals and desires. “There’s no testimony without a test,” he said. “Don’t get stuck in fear. Don’t get stuck in comfort zones. Don’t get stuck in past mistakes. Don’t get stuck in bitterness.”

He observed that often Christians settle into their comfort zones and don’t push forward to achieve the full measure of what God wants to give them. It may be a new job, growing your business, writing a book, more education, or starting a ministry. These goals come with trials and setbacks, but it’s imperative to keep trying, keep fighting, keep moving as we receive God’s blessing.

New Beginnings

Patmos Chapel’s 70-year history is one of embracing new beginnings.

The Adventist presence in Winter Park was born out of a tent meeting held by L. S. Follette in 1937. The newly baptized members met in member homes for 13 years. The group dispersed for a short time but reorganized around 1950. These members helped Horace M. Barker conduct a 15-week tent meeting that brought new baptisms in 1953. Other members from Orlando joined the established company.

Construction on the first church building started shortly after the evangelistic meetings. Barker suggested the name “Patmos Chapel,” a reference to the Greek island of Patmos, where the apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. The church was completed and dedicated in 1955 under the leadership of Calvin B. Rock.

Over the next 20 years, the church prospered. When fire destroyed the building in 1978, Oscar Paul, along with church members, searched for a larger property to build a 6,000-square-foot structure. Grand opening services for the Swoope Street facility were held on April 11, 1981. The building served the congregation for 18 years. As the church’s growth

accelerated in the 1990s, the need for a larger facility again became a major issue. The church enlarged its structure to 24,000-square-feet.

Construction began in October 1999. In 2000, the congregation vacated the property for nearly a year. After many setbacks, including a power outage, the newly renovated facility opened on September 28, 2000. During the early 2000s the church continued to grow. In 2011, Patmos Chapel received its first associate pastor, Byron S. Crockett. In 2015, Yvette Parham, the first female associate in the Southeastern Conference, was installed. Unfortunately, by 2017 mold was discovered in the Swoope Street building, and it was deemed uninhabitable.

Though several members chose to stay in Winter Park, the church moved to Apopka in 2019. Under the leadership of Doggette, the congregation purchased the Cooper Palms Sport Complex, a 107,000-square-foot facility

that features basketball and volleyball courts, baseball training facilities, a children's gymnasium, a restaurant, and classrooms.

The center was renamed Well Activity Center, a reference to the biblical story of the woman at the well (John 4). After worshiping in temporary venues, the assembly started drive-in worship services because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. That same year, the church also started a drive-in food giveaway that served hundreds of people. As the pandemic subsided, the church moved indoors, worshiping in the gymnasium. In March 2023, the church completed the renovation of a 9,200-square-foot sanctuary called "The Hub."

Patmos Chapel is one of the most unique Adventist churches in North America. "Positioned in the Well Activity Center, Patmos Chapel serves hundreds of people who flow through our doors every day," said Doggette. "This is not just a church building where people

come for church events. It's a place where people come for life events. This building is a magnet that brings people together of various ethnicities, of various social economic groups. Our mission is to mingle with them and meet needs — their physical needs, their temporal needs, their spiritual needs. We have evangelism 352 days a year."

God has truly brought Patmos "a mighty long way."

Much of the history was gleaned from a historical account authored by Robert Mike II for Patmos Chapel's Emerald (55th) Anniversary Celebration in 2008, and from patmoschapel.org. ①

Carlos Medley is a retired online editor for *Adventist Review*, who lives in Orlando, Florida. He serves as a community service liaison for Patmos Chapel Church.

Rebecca Smith coordinated the *Emerald Anniversary Celebration* and contributed to this article.



PHOTO BY: CURTIS WALTERS

James Doggette, D.Min., Patmos Chapel's senior pastor, gave a rousing welcome to the members and visitors.

NURTURING HEARTS AND MAKING AN IMPACT

BY NEIL HAWKINS

Adventist Christian Academy (ACA), nestled in New Port Richey, Florida, is a beacon of social emotional intelligence. At the heart of ACA's mission lies a commitment to outreach, an ethos deeply embedded in its core values. The school collaborates with various organizations to instill the spirit of community and service in its students, leaving a profound impact on all involved.

Janie Burnett, CEO of HPH Hospice, speaks passionately about ACA's partnership with her organization over the past four years. "The students at ACA have contributed to HPH's Bundles of Hope project for veterans, including essential items such as washcloths, flashlights, mittens, toiletries, and socks." ACA's involvement has reached approximately 1,500 veterans in need, making a lasting impact on those who served this country.

"ACA fosters a culture of service by engaging in an impressive 10-plus outreach projects each year," explains Tobi Pawson, ACA's grade 6-8 teaching principal. "The Bundles of Hope project — now in its second year — is not a one-off endeavor but a natural part of the monthly schedule, instilling the idea of service as a way of life."

Students like Dominic, seventh-grader, are enthusiastic contributors to the Bundles of Hope project. Dominic, whose parents are veterans themselves, understands the importance of thanking those who risk their lives for others. He takes pride in being able to brighten the lives of veterans.

Younger students like Evelyn, second-grader, find joy in rolling washcloths and including heartfelt messages in the care packages. For them it's a way to show appreciation and make a difference.

Mar, fourth-grader, believes these projects teach students kindness and the value of helping the community. To Mar, this is a school tradition to express gratitude to those who've served the country and made lives better.

In the years to come, ACA aims to strengthen its mission muscle, enabling students to take the lead in more robust projects that contribute to the community. ACA's commitment to outreach is a testament of dedication to nurturing academic excellence and shaping compassionate hearts for a brighter future. Through unwavering dedication to service and community impact, ACA sets a shining example for schools everywhere. 🌟

Neil Hawkins is Florida Conference digital content coordinator for schools.



PHOTO BY: NEIL HAWKINS

Evelyn (left) and Giovanni, both grade 2, and Joseph, grade 1, show their gratitude to veterans.



PHOTO BY: NEIL HAWKINS

Camille (left) and Mar, grade 4, and Jasmine, grade 5, present their bundled washcloths.

THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTITY IN INCLUSIVE CARE

BY AMA AKOTO-BOATENG

Since 1968, Americans have observed National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, by celebrating the vast histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

In honor of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme, "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America," six AdventHealth team members of Hispanic and/or Latino heritage shared how their personal experiences and diverse backgrounds contribute to creating a more inclusive care environment at AdventHealth.

"I know how important it is for someone to feel comfortable and understood."

Carlos Martinez, M.D., said he understands that being in an unfamiliar environment can come with a lot of adjustments, having moved from Puerto Rico to the U.S. with his Cuban parents at a young age. As an emergency physician at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth facilities in the Great Lakes Region, Martinez draws from his experience to provide culturally competent patient care.

"I know how important it is for someone to feel comfortable and understood," he said. "I want my patients to trust that I understand their cultural context, which is always crucial in the provision of whole-person care."

Family values have also influenced Martinez's work ethic and approach to



Carlos Martinez, M.D.

care. He attributes his career choice to his father's passion for education and medicine. "My father put himself through college," he said. "That really inspired me, and I want to be a great example to others like my father was to me."

"Giving back is an important value in my family."

Anya Wynn never met her grandmother, but believes her grandmother's legacy continues to persist in her family. In the 1960s, Wynn's grandmother, Aminta, moved from Honduras to New York, where she served Hispanic and Latino communities through her dress-making and upholstery business.

"I've heard stories of how Aminta treated her family and community with love," said Wynn. "She's inspired generations."

Wynn grew up in a Spanish-speaking family who shared a love for soccer and



Anya Wynn

supporting those in need. "My father used to send some of my toys to children in Honduras," she said. "Whenever we visited, I saw children happily playing with them – a humbling reminder of the power of giving."

Now, as a donor relations coordinator at AdventHealth West Florida Foundation, Wynn facilitates employee giving initiatives, which enables her to contribute to meeting the essential needs of team members.

"I'm proud of how my team serves with empathy and compassion."

Jessy Castillo leads a diverse team of 15 individuals as manager of interpreter services for the AdventHealth Central Florida Division – South Region. She said her team's impact on patients is a source of pride for her.

"Imagine how vulnerable a patient may feel when they speak a different



Jessy Castillo

language from that of their caregiver,” said Castillo. “It’s an honor to serve and contribute to providing whole-person care for diverse communities.”

Castillo is multilingual. As a Haitian native, she is fluent in Creole and French and recalls her childhood memories in Puerto Rico, where she learned to speak Spanish. She recounts the joy of continuing to experience new cultures through language, food, and music even after moving to the U.S. mainland.

“I’ve enjoyed a rich learning experience throughout my journey,” she said. “Watching my children grow their mixed-culture families has been a joy.”

“I enjoy learning and sharing knowledge with others.”

When Carlos Eduardo Quintero Acevedo moved from Colombia to the U.S., he bonded with an American family



Carlos Eduardo Quintero Acevedo

who helped him to adapt to the new culture. He said the experience enabled him to learn English while he taught them Spanish.

“I became a part of their family,” said Quintero Acevedo. “In a twist of fate, their daughter traveled to Colombia years later and is married to a local Colombian.”

Quintero Acevedo believes culture plays an essential role in the delivery of whole-person care. As senior manager of collaboration and audiovisual engineering for AdventHealth Information Technology (AIT), he translates his cultural and life experiences into designing and supporting inclusive IT solutions for everyone.

“Having this perspective helps me to serve others better,” he said.

“Being open to change has been an important aspect of my growth.”

Elizabeth Marin-Rodriguez recalls migrating from Mexico to the U.S. as a young adult, and finding her passion for ministry after attending a school mission trip.

Now a chaplain at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Kansas, Marin-Rodriguez believes her Mexican heritage enables her to connect with Spanish-speaking team members and patients on a deeper level. She is committed to using her experiences to help Spanish-speaking team members and patients feel heard, especially during challenging times.

“Language shouldn’t be a barrier in



Elizabeth Marin-Rodriguez

providing spiritual and other forms of care,” she said.

Marin-Rodriguez said she’s proud of Mexico’s global influence, especially through food. She always remembers her mother’s advice: “Wherever you go, don’t forget your roots.” That’s why her college graduation sash represented both the Mexican and American flags.

“It marked both a symbol of honor of where I’ve come from and of gratitude for where I am now,” she said.

“I’m passionate about ensuring that everyone feels valued.”

Soledad Lopez Romero is the first college graduate in her Mexican family. She credits her parents for making education a priority while she was growing up.

“My parents have contributed to who I am today,” said Romero, an ER consum-



Soledad Lopez Romero

er access supervisor at AdventHealth Redmond in Georgia. “I remember they used to peek through my school’s glass window to see if I knew how to raise my hand in class.”

Now, Romero honors her parents by helping them translate paperwork, and by assisting other Spanish-speaking patients at her facility. She believes having the right mindset is essential for progress. 📞

Ama Akoto-Boateng is a senior communications specialist at AdventHealth.

Summer Vespers Offering Surpasses Expectations to Benefit Zambia's Riverside Farms Institute

Quiet excitement enveloped the Upper Room as retirees from Fletcher Park Inn, an independent ministry, gathered for Vespers on the evening of Friday, August 18. Several weeks prior to the start of summer, Ed Bagwell, the Vespers leader, announced a special summer offering scheduled for this date. The purpose of this offering was to support educational initiatives managed by Alan and Pauline Knowles at the Riverside Farms Institute in Zambia, Africa.

As word spread about the summer offering, it was revealed that an anonymous donor had generously provided a \$5,000 matching challenge grant. This meant that every dollar contributed would be matched, effectively doubling the potential offering for Riverside Farms to a maximum of \$10,000.

The Knowleses have devoted 38 years of their lives to serving at the institute in



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Zambia. Their work encompasses elementary and adult education, agricultural instruction, tailoring, and even overseeing a substantial banana plantation. Pauline Knowles' particular focus lies in ensuring that the most vulnerable receive an education, including replacing worn-out clothing with clean, repaired school uniforms. Alan Knowles collaborates with student teams on projects such as constructing one-day churches, re-roofing existing ones, and drilling and repair-

ing wells. Their most recent achievement involved overseeing the construction of primary and secondary school buildings, accommodating nearly 500 students.

Alan and Pauline Knowles graced the Upper Room with their presence on August 18, 2023. After delivering heartfelt reports, the offering was collected and meticulously counted. With jubilation and gratitude, it was revealed that the total offering amounted to \$10,200. This inaugural summer Vespers offering left the retirees of Fletcher Park Inn profoundly thankful, recognizing the privilege of supporting God's work in Zambia, Africa, and echoing the scriptural sentiment, "For I was hungry, and you gave me meat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me." 🕊

BY SHARRYN MAHORNEY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Riverside School students

Journey of Faith, Community Outreach Engages Young Presenters, Results in Baptisms

In October, the Carolina Conference Children and Youth Ministries Department organized an evangelistic series within local Hispanic churches, featuring young presenters ranging from 4 to 14 years of age. This endeavor engaged a total of 30 congregations and involved 231 youthful preachers who shared the Word each evening.

Preparations for the “Lighting a Light in My Community” evangelistic campaign commenced several months in advance. Preachers, volunteers, parents, and guardians underwent comprehensive training, while children and young individuals undertook Bible studies in preparation for baptism.

Volunteers launched the campaign with great enthusiasm, drawing larger crowds each night, which included parents, family members, friends, and community youth. The youth assumed central roles, leading segments, guiding singing services, and presenting special musical performances. Enlightening interviews and inspiring video presentations added depth and enrichment to each evening’s proceedings.

At each gathering, attendees were



PHOTO BY: YUDITH FLORES

presented with gifts, which were meticulously coordinated by children and youth ministries. In larger congregations, multiple preachers were featured, whereas smaller ones hosted one preacher each night. Each preacher received a unique Child Preacher pin, a Bible, and a backpack.

The event reached its pinnacle with joyous baptisms and celebrations for Adventist Children’s Day. A total of 66 individuals, spanning children, young people, and adults, were baptized, serving as a testament to the un-

wavering commitment of children and youth ministries and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Children and Youth Ministries Department extends its gratitude to God and all those who supported this project. The mission remains resolute: “SAVING FOR ETERNITY.”

BY YUDITH FLORES, ASSISTANT
TO THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S
MINISTRY FOR SPANISH CHURCHES,
CAROLINA CONFERENCE



PHOTO BY: YUDITH FLORES



PHOTO BY: YUDITH FLORES

“Hope for the Family” Evangelistic Series Held in Miami

Norland Church in Miami, Fla., began a three-week series of evangelistic meetings on June 20, 2023, under the theme “Hope for the Family” and conducted by Raulford Baptiste, Ph.D., pastor/evangelist. The objective was “to enlighten and strengthen families within and without the church and ultimately to plunder the kingdom of darkness and populate the Kingdom of Heaven,” expressed one church elder.

Preparatory Work

Baptiste conducted a series of training sessions prior to the evangelistic series. The church was grouped into five teams, with each team assigned a particular area within the community to visit, share literature, and give invitations to the evangelistic meetings.

Weeks before and during the crusade, members visited the community. The weather in Miami was unpredictable, and on many afternoons there were thunderstorms during the preparation. However, the brethren braved the inclement weather to do God’s will, rain



To bring the entire program to a close, Norland Church had a picnic at the Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park with more than 100 members in attendance.

or shine. In spite of many shut doors and funny stares in the community, one of the most encouraging activities that took place every Sabbath was hearing the reports from various teams who were praying with numerous families and inviting them to the upcoming evangelistic meetings.

The Evangelistic Series

On Sabbath evening of June 20, there were many church members and visitors in attendance and many more online. Baptiste began the program with the topic “Miles Apart in the Same Home.” For the next three weeks, with the exception of Thursdays, Baptiste preached with great power and clarity. Three people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

Pentecost Revisited

The last Sabbath of the evangelistic series was July 8. Baptiste preached a

powerful sermon, “Bearing the Marks of Jesus.” One candidate declared his intention to be baptized. While in the baptistry, the pastor made an appeal. Four more persons came forward requesting baptism and were baptized.

As the final song was being sung and the congregation ushered out, there was an announcement that three more people wanted to be baptized. The pastor went back into the baptistry, and in obedience to God’s command, baptized the additional candidates.

The church family plan to continue to be active agents for the building up of God’s Kingdom. ❶



One of a total of 11 baptismal candidates from the “Hope for the Family” evangelistic campaign held in Miami, Fla., is baptized.

BY ALBERT TIMOTHY IS AN ELDER
AND COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR AT
NORLAND CHURCH.

Port Charlotte Church Recovers from Devastating Hurricane

Only 11 months after sustaining major damage from Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022, Port Charlotte Church's recovery was nearly complete. In celebration, a rededication service was held on August 26, 2023.

"Among the attendees were the dedicated professionals who played a pivotal role in the reconstruction process. Their presence highlighted the joined forces that it required to restore the church. The collaboration between local contractors, the local church, and the Conference made for a wonderful team throughout

the disaster recovery process," shared Ben Shurtliff, senior pastor.

Prayers were offered to consecrate not just the church, but also the school and community building on the campus. A professional photo of the congregation was taken to commemorate this special moment of the church's history.

The January 2023 *Southern Tidings* article, "Port Charlotte Praises God in the Eye of the Hurricane," told of the severe damage to the church caused by the hurricane. Members were portrayed worshipping outdoors 10 days later in

the shadow of the church building, and thanking the Lord for His watching care over the congregation.

Restoration of the campus now comes at a considerable cost, totaling \$3.25 million due to the extensive damage caused by the hurricane. God blessed in the timing and speed of mitigation efforts, as well as the reconstruction, and the church was made whole much faster than other structures in the area. 🕊

BY LAURA DANCEK



PHOTO BY: EMMANUEL ST. CLOUD

Port Charlotte Church members rededicated themselves and their church campus 11 months after a devastating hurricane hit the complex and did major damage.

CAD4HOPE Celebrates 40 Years

The auditorium at Collegedale Academy was filled with students, teachers, pastors, and parents on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Everyone stood and applauded Barbara Cadavero as she entered, marking a historic moment to celebrate a legacy that began 40 years ago with her late husband, Richard, and his love of community.

Richard Cadavero, “Cad,” as family and friends knew him, began teaching at Collegedale Academy in the early 1980s.

“He always wanted to do more than just be teaching in the classroom,” Barbara said. “He was immersed in this, and made sure his students knew how to help others.”

His drive for caring for others and serving his community sparked an idea for Cadavero. In the fall of 1983, he challenged his class to collect 5,000 canned food items to donate to a local nonprofit. Thus, Project 5,000 was born.

In its first year, the effort was so successful that Cadavero decided to make it an annual outreach. From year to year, he upped the challenge for students: Project 8,000, Project 11,000 ... and the donations from the community only grew. Cad went from collecting items in the classroom to spreading out across the school’s stage in the auditorium.



Richard Cadavero, known as “Cad,” was a Collegedale Academy Bible teacher who wanted to instill in his students the importance of serving others. In 1983 he started an annual food drive, and challenged his students to collect 5,000 canned food items.



Collegedale Academy students collect food from the community as part of the annual CAD4Hope food drive. In this 40th year of the drive, students collected more than 7.5 tons of food.

“As a student in the late 1980s, I recall it being a fun time for us getting out into our local community and collecting cans for the Samaritan Center,” said Franklin Farrow, now board chair at the Samaritan Center.

By 2003, Cadavero’s classroom challenge had spread to a school-wide mission, and students were bringing in more

than 40,000 canned goods. Parents, teachers, and pastors were drivers, taking students into local neighborhoods where they handed out empty paper grocery bags and fliers explaining the effort.

“The neat thing is that my two kids also attended Collegedale Academy, and I was able to drive them as a parent to the various neighborhoods to pick up donations,” noted Farrow.

Before Cadavero’s retirement in 2009, Tom Hayes, pastor, renamed the effort CAD4HOPE in honor of his colleague.

This year, CAD4HOPE celebrated 40 years of helping to bridge the gap for an entire community with food and hope.

“It’s just wonderful that [the drive] has gone on this long,” said Barbara Cadavero. “It’s so important for these students at a time in their lives when they’re learning and realizing how much they can help the community.”

Bringing in more than 7.5 tons of food this year, “the CAD4HOPE food drive is one of those win-win situations,” said Erin Barthle, associate executive director of the Samaritan Center. “It is an opportunity to see our young people living out Collegedale Academy’s mission to serve others and reflect Christ’s character.”

She continued to explain that it is through the students’ service and this legacy of an event that the Samaritan Center receives the majority of the food needed to serve the community for the following year.

“In the last 12 months, we’ve provided more than 40,000 food items to hungry families in our community,” she added. “We are beyond grateful to celebrate the 40th anniversary of CAD4HOPE and the Cadaveros’ love of people, and desire to instill the act of service in our students.”

Read an expanded version of this story at www.gccsda.com. ❶



BY BRANDI DIXON, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR AT THE SAMARITAN CENTER

Aunt's Witness Leads Niece to Love Jesus

Early in life, Amy Marsh* faced many struggles and regularly did not see that God was with her.

Like Marsh, her aunt, Lauren Barber, also didn't grow up an Adventist, but several years ago started taking Bible studies and was baptized by Dan Hall, part-time pastor of the Adventist church in Jasper, Tenn. Since Barber's baptism, anytime Marsh visited her aunt, she would go to church with her. One Sabbath during potluck, Hall, acting on a tip from Barber, asked Marsh if she would like Bible studies. Marsh said she would.

In a matter of days, Marsh received a visit from Hall, where he shared a set of It Is Written Bible studies. She soon started learning new things about the Bible. However, since she was traveling back and forth between her home in another city and her aunt's house in Jasper, it took several weeks to complete the lessons. At the close of the studies, Marsh requested baptism. When asked why, she exclaimed, "Because I love Jesus!"

After a series of unexpected delays, including a leaking baptistry, Marsh was baptized in the Tennessee River in the fall of 2023.

Many of the church members gathered on the banks of the river, along with relatives from Marsh's family.

Marsh and Barber are now both members of the Jasper Church. Marsh has joined the Pathfinder club and is looking forward to making friends with other youth in the church.

*Names changed. ①

BY DAN HALL

Stewardship and Trust Services Director Ray Hartwell Retires, Nicole Toledo Appointed New Director

After more than 43 years of ministry, Ray Hartwell, Georgia-Cumberland Conference stewardship and trust services director, retired at the end of 2023. He also served as association secretary.

Since 2017, Hartwell has led the Conference's Stewardship and Planned Giving and Trust Services ministries, making these among the best in the North American Division, said Kurt Allen, Conference treasurer. "The planned giving and trust services program is recognized as a flagship program where many individuals each year come to receive their certification internship."

Hartwell first worked in Georgia-

Cumberland as a student literature evangelist during the summer of 1976. Since then, he has served in many capacities in multiple conferences, including as pastor, ministerial director, and conference administrator.

As stewardship and trust services director, Hartwell has assisted churches in fundraising for capital campaigns, supported pastors in teaching stewardship, and assisted members with preparing their estate plans. "I am thankful for the generosity of God's people," said Hartwell. He also credits "the great team of workers in our Planned Giving and Trust Services Ministry/Department."

Nicole Toledo, one of the department's

field services representatives, has been chosen to become the new stewardship and trust services director.

Allen said that since she joined the Conference team, "As a bilingual female professional in the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department, [Toledo] has been able to minister to members in ways that we previously could not."

"I'm excited to be a small part of the work that God is doing in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in these last days, so that we can go home with our Lord very soon," said Toledo. ①

BY NATHAN ZINNER

Evangelism Conference Gives Pastors New Perspective, Digital Training



Leadership, if you don't give it away, dies with you," declared Roger Hernandez, ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union Conference. "So, we are here at EC3 helping pastors and church leaders to be able to mentor and be mentored."

EC3 is an annual evangelism conference that is organized and hosted by the Southern Union Conference. This year, the event took place November 5-7, 2023, at the Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The primary area of learning during the weekend for pastors and lay people was in evangelism, especially as it relates to the digital space. The scope of training included hands-on tech labs, preaching

labs, general sessions, and networking opportunities. Many of the sessions delved into strategies and techniques on how to use technology for mission.

According to Josue Murillo, ministerial director for the Gulf States Conference, EC3 is "essential for pastors to come and attend and get trained for their horizons to broaden, and for them to see different perspectives on things."

Murillo said the presenters at EC3 were inspiring, and they encouraged attendees to focus on people in their local churches to make a difference.

"I'm excited because our pastors are going back into their churches with this new perspective and this new emphasis that, as a matter of fact, we've been

pushing for a while in our Conference. So, this is perfect, and we're so excited to be part of it," said Murillo.

As Richie Halverson, director of church growth and revitalization for the Southern Union explained, EC3 is "the place where pastors and lay people are coached to maximize their impact and evangelism in the digital sphere." It also provides the opportunity to "network with other pastors to hear about their experiences and how God is blessing them in their areas."



BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Hispanic Youth Encouraged: “Don’t Give Up!”

Each year, youth from around the Gulf States Conference gather to fellowship and grow in faith at the FEJA (Federación de Jóvenes Adventistas, or Federation of Adventist Youth) gatherings.

The theme of this year’s FEJA event, held over the weekend of November 10-12, 2023, at Oakwood Latino Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala., was “Don’t Give Up!” This was tied together with the concept of the FEJA Champions League, allowing for comparisons of fútbol and life, and how lessons of perseverance, resilience, and faith can be learned from them.

Guest speaker Gustavo Squarzon, pastor for the Houston, Tex., Spanish Northwest Church, took attendees on a journey through the Bible, beginning with

the story of the calling of Simon Peter as described in Luke 5 to illustrate what it looks like to persevere. He illustrated how Jesus, as a carpenter, called his disciples, professional fishermen, to trust Him by doing something unconventional that went against the accepted norms of their day and experience. He then illustrated how Jesus called His disciples to a life of deeper meaning, not just to fish, but to engage in activities that would change the world for His glory.

In sharing this story, Squarzon challenged the young people present to experience Jesus for themselves, and to listen to God’s call to go beyond the conventions of this world to follow the same calling to change the world.

There were many opportunities over the weekend for attendees to respond to

the invitation of Jesus just as the disciples did, from Squarzon’s sermons to calls to prayer, spiritual talks, testimonies, and a Bible trivia game.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the special music provided by the worship team, along with the concert that was presented by the Primera Fe duo.

In addition to making new friends and meeting people from across the Conference, there were many other opportunities to have fun, especially on the field. The highlight of Sunday was the fútbol match between participating church soccer teams in the FEJA Champions League. 📺

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM



Teens Celebrate What God is Doing at EPIC Encounters

Because creating key memory events for teens is an important part of their spiritual development, each year the Gulf States Conference Youth Ministries Department hosts EPIC Encounters, a teen invitational at Camp Alamisco in Dadesville, Ala. According to Michel Rodriguez, Conference youth ministries director, EPIC Encounters is a place where teens get together to celebrate what God is doing in their lives.

More than 100 teens from across Gulf States, along with Southern Adventist University students from the ministry Engage Worship, spent the weekend of November 3-5, 2023, participating in worship services, nature adventures, and social activities with the aim of creating lasting memories and spiritual encounters with God.

In addition to the spiritual encounters, the chance to build strong friendships stood out for the teen attendees.

Eliana from Bay St. Louis, Miss., Church, highlighted her favorite moment, saying, “EPIC has been good to me because of the friends I have made and the friends that I meet here.”

Similarly, Sofia of Rainsville, Ala., Church, said, “My favorite thing about EPIC is you get to meet a lot of different people from other states, and you learn more about God. It’s fun when you come with your friends. I come with my friends every year.”

Because of the beautiful setting, the attendees were able to go on nature walks, hike, and canoe. The standout event was on Saturday evening at midnight, when attendees participated in the long-standing tradition of the Polar Plunge, where the campers jump in the lake at midnight.

Zack, senior finance major from the Engage Worship team at Southern, expressed that “Engage has been a bless-

ing. It has been my journey the whole time at Southern. I have been able to go to events like these — youth rallies all over the United States — [and] get to meet youth in high school. This is an important moment in your life. This is my second time at Engage. I still remember some kids. Being able to provide that worship ... we let them know that God loves them, and we love them, and we get to worship together. It’s just been a blessing.”

Samuel from Bay St. Louis, Miss., Church, said, “Alamisco is one of my happy places. Coming here has been really exciting, and the sermons, the music, and everything is building up to tonight where everything is going to wrap up, but hopefully we all bring home a special piece of what has happened here.”

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM



Week of Gratitude Opens Door for Spiritual Discussion



In celebration of the Thanksgiving season, the leadership team at Laurel, Miss., Church, decided to dedicate a week toward focusing the church's communications and outreach around gratitude. As a result, church members received positive feedback from their friends, family, and community members, and experienced the spiritual impact of their decision to maintain an attitude of gratitude.

Stacey Loper, a member of the church's leadership team, described the campaign as a combination of devotional and testimonial videos, as well as a series of social media posts and text messages. She shared that "I can truly say that there have been so many people who have been touched by the personal testimonies that have been shared, and the devotionals that have come out

every day. I've even received personal messages from people about how the Lord has touched them from some of the stories that have been shared."

The church community capped off the week of gratitude with a Fall Festival on November 12, 2023. Lucas Caina, Laurel's pastor, shared the importance of the event, saying, "Today we are celebrating the end of this week of gratitude we had here at Laurel Church. It was great because we had the opportunity to focus our hearts and minds on this very important subject about how to be grateful. Now, we are celebrating the great things our Lord is doing among us, and we are so thankful because our God is good. He loves us. He wants us."

Among those most impacted by the week was church member Warren

Blackwell, whose testimony was featured in one of the videos posted on the church's social media page. As a result, he said, "I had several people reach out to me. I have a friend of mine — met him years back — and he reached out and said, 'Your testimony was awesome to hear. I had no idea you had that kind of testimony.' His mom has been sick and has been going to hospice. The friend asked, 'If it's not too much, would you and your wife pray for us?'"

"It kind of opened the door to have that discussion. I've never had that discussion with him before. We're praying for him. That was a pretty neat experience to have that door open." 🙏

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Student Starts, Leads Bible Study Group at Madison Academy

For over a year now, Eden Levoy, a junior at Madison, Tenn., Academy, has been leading a weekly Bible study session with her fellow classmates. A project that started from her longing to make connections has grown into a thriving Bible study group, composed of eight girls of various class standings.

Like many freshmen, Levoy felt confused when she first started high school. She was longing to make new connections and wanted to find a safe space to share her questions and worries about life.

"I felt weird [during my freshman year] because I did not really know what I was supposed to be doing," said Levoy. "I remember wanting to have some of the older girls reach out to me, and to have a place where I could talk without judgment."

This longing inspired Levoy to start a Bible study group during the fall semester of 2022. Her journey began with guidance from Gail McKenzie, former Kentucky-Tennessee Conference women's



PHOTO BY: XANDER ORDINOLA

Students gather during their lunch break for a Bible study led by Eden Levoy. With the support of her school, Levoy converted an underutilized space into a warm and inviting study room.

ministries director, but as time progressed, she assumed sole responsibility for the project. With the support of her school, Levoy converted an underutilized space into a warm and inviting study room.

This semester, the Bible study group meets during their Monday lunch breaks. The group is currently studying the book,

Freedom Looks Good on You, which guides participants through Jesus' power to deliver people from various worldly chains such as shame, rejection, and comparison.

"I struggle with perfection," said Ashley Fulton, a junior at Madison. "So, when we talked about this topic in our Bible study it really helped me grow and trust God more. It was also good to know that there are other girls who are struggling, too. We are able to support each other, and now I know I am not alone in dealing with these issues."

Levoy says that when God puts a mission in your heart, He will see it through.

"If God is telling you to act then don't hesitate — just go for it," said Levoy. "This Bible study has helped me grow so much, and I hope it has also helped others get to know Jesus better. Once I graduate, I pray others will keep the Bible study going so that all students will have a place to share their struggles and experiences as teenagers." ❶



PHOTO BY: XANDER ORDINOLA

Eden Levoy leads her Bible study group in prayer. Levoy was inspired to start this Bible study group her junior year of high school as a way for students to connect and freely voice their questions about life.

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Ellen White's 196th Birthday Celebrated with Walk-Through Display

In a nostalgic celebration that transported visitors back in time, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference office hosted a walk-through display called “Visions of Nashville.” The display celebrated Ellen White’s 196th birthday and took place on November 19, 2023, at the Conference office.

The event was prepared by two Highland, Tenn., Church members, Albert Dittes and Kathy Ross. Dittes, the driving force behind the event, took care of the research and writing portion of the exhibit, while Ross, the other half of the dynamic duo, handled the copy editing and created the engaging walk-through display.

The event provided a captivating

exploration of Ellen White’s influence on Nashville, Tenn., with a focus on key institutions such as the Southern Publishing Association, Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, Madison College, and the Nashville First Church. Attendees were particularly captivated by the in-depth study of Ellen White’s fireball vision, which shed context on the Nashville dream.

Greta Tindall, who attends the James-town, Tenn., Church, expressed her enthusiasm for the event.

“My biggest takeaway was learning how all these [Church pioneers] were just like us,” said Tindall. “You read a little bit about their good points and bad points, and it shows you how they had

a day-to-day experience just like we do. It’s inspiring because, despite their flaws, they accomplished so many great things and were great servants of God.”

Dittes says he is happy attendees were inspired.

“Ellen White’s legacy in Nashville is a story that needed to be told,” said Dittes. “She said Nashville was a center of influence — and nowadays it’s kind of become a tourist mecca. So, this is all just a reminder that the Lord is calling us [to be an influence], and His work is very important.” ●

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Exhibit visitor reads about Ellen White’s fireballs vision. This walk-through display is a celebration of Ellen White’s 196th birthday, and focuses on her influence in the South and Nashville’s importance in spreading the three angels’ messages.



Albert Dittes shares with visitors a team photo of the Southern Publishing Association back in 1953. Other prominent institutions on display include Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, Madison College, and Nashville First Church.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Albert Dittes and Kathy Ross stand in front of the walk-through display. Members of the Highland, Tenn., Church, Dittes and Ross were the driving force behind the event. Dittes took care of the research and writing portion of the exhibit, while Ross handled the copy editing and designing aspects.

Smyrne French Church Sponsors “God’s Closet” Event

In an initiative that embodies the spirit of community, Smyrne French Church in Midland, N.C., has successfully established a chapter of God’s Closet ministry. Under the leadership of Jacky Georges, pastor, and Marie Noisette, director, the ministry aims to provide free children’s clothes to families in need.

The Midland chapter of God’s Closet was initiated in October 2022, and since then has garnered extensive support from

local organizations, schools, and families who have generously contributed to the cause.

At a recent event hosted by Smyrne French Church, an impressive turnout of 412 individuals highlighted the community’s commitment to supporting each other. During the event, 38 individuals expressed interest in participating in Bible study sessions, and 44 attendees requested someone to call and pray

with them. It became evident that God’s Closet serves not only as a resource for tangible needs, but also as a platform for fostering spiritual connections within the community. One of the defining moments of the event occurred when four local elders of Smyrne French Church knelt in the parking lot, offering prayers over the 412 admission cards.

As part of the outreach efforts, each family received three bags of clothes, ensuring that the practical needs of the children were met. The generosity displayed by Smyrne French Church and the local community demonstrated the power of collective action and the impact a unified community can have on those facing challenging circumstances.

Georges expressed his gratitude, stating, “God’s Closet is not just about providing clothes; it’s about opening doors to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that meeting the immediate needs of families creates opportunities for deeper connections and spiritual growth.”



The members of Smyrne French Church in Midland, N.C., came together to serve their community through the God’s Closet ministry.

New Hope Sponsors Blood Drive and Impactful Health Fair

Health is wealth,” echoed true at the New Hope Church in Ellenwood, Ga. The weekend-long, pre-COVID, annual blood drive and Community Health Fair hosted by New Hope Church each summer for several years, returned this past summer.

This year’s health emphasis weekend lived up to the expectations as both events launched as planned with the blood drive

on Sabbath afternoon, followed by the Community Health Fair on Sunday.

The blood drive, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, was well supported by church members and community members. The Red Cross phlebotomy team successfully collected 26 lifesaving units of blood. Each supporter left the event feeling a sense of satisfaction, and knowing their donation would make a dif-

ference in someone’s fight for life.

Sunday’s Health Fair was cohosted by New Hope and the Southside Medical Center, thanks to Melvin Preston, pastor of New Hope Church, who facilitated this alliance. The fair drew many patrons. The atmosphere was inviting as relaxing music played in the background. Snacks and refreshments were provided as attendees meandered around



Southside Medical Center provided its mobile unit to serve those who attended the Health Fair.

the fair tables and received services. The Southside Medical Center bus came fully equipped and staffed, ready to provide complete care for the whole family.

Available services included adult medicine, blood pressure, BMI and glucose screens, dental care, eye care, and women's health. Members of New Hope staffed booths and tables with educational brochures and handouts. A few other healthcare vendors like Peach Care and Medicaid were also on site. The New Hope Health Ministries team members provided on-the-spot teaching and resources on a wide array of health top-

ics including juicing for health, disease awareness, and mental health. At the same time, assortments of educational handouts and evangelistic booklets were free to all those who took advantage of the free event. The children who attended were treated to cool snacks and backpacks stuffed with supplies for school. A total of 47 individuals visited the Health Fair.

New Hope Church is looking forward to the next event as they minister to their community in taking Christ to the world. 📌

BY CHRISTINE MORGAN

Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses Retreat Empowers Church Leaders for Effective Ministry

In a gathering of spiritual leaders from across the conference, the annual South Atlantic Conference Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat unfolded over three transformative days in Orangeburg, S.C. With a focus on equipping church leaders with the tools for more effective ministry, the event attracted a record attendance of more than 400 persons.

Key presenters at the retreat included prominent figures in the field of church leadership and growth. Walter Castro, lay pastor coordinator, church planting, and Franco-Haitian supervisor for the Florida Conference, shared insights into nurturing new congregations. Emil Peeler, director of church growth and evangelism for Southeastern California Conference, brought his expertise in fostering spiritual growth within communities. Calvin Watkins Sr., vice president of the North American Division, addressed the leaders on broader strategies for advancing the mission of their churches.

The retreat offered an array of work-



Deaconesses who attended the Friday evening Communion service assisted the elders.

shops, each designed to address crucial aspects of leadership and ministry. Some of the topics covered included "The Importance of Evangelism," emphasizing the pivotal role of spreading the message of faith in community outreach. "Evangelism Through Technology" explored the modern tools and platforms available to enhance and expand the reach of congregations in the digital age. "How to Prepare Sermons" delved into the art of crafting powerful and impactful messages, ensuring that leaders can effectively communicate their message. "Making Your Church More Attract-

tive" encouraged leaders to consider ways to create welcoming and inclusive spaces, and fostering a sense of community among congregants. Additionally, "Basic Conflict Mediation Training" provided valuable skills for resolving disputes and promoting harmony within church communities.

The atmosphere at the retreat was one of collaboration, shared learning, and spiritual rejuvenation. Attendees expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with like-minded leaders, share experiences, and gain valuable insights to strengthen their church ministries.

As the event concluded, participants left Orangeburg inspired and equipped with new knowledge and tools to enhance their roles as spiritual leaders. The retreat once again proved to be a cornerstone for fostering growth, unity, and effective ministry within the Conference's diverse congregations. 📌

BY JAMES LAMB, PH.D.

ACS Team Members Meet Needs Through Food, Fellowship, Fitness

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) team at Mount Sinai Church in Orlando, Fla., is committed to helping others, and maintaining their own health. Under the leadership of Lesli Ahonkhai, Southeastern Conference Regional 2 coordinator, and Greta Spradley-Price, members come together to worship God, witness to the community, and for physical workout. This model of service represents a supportive community that exemplifies a unified body of Christ described in Acts 1, 2.

The ACS team puts God's work first. On Sundays and Mondays, they prepare and distribute boxes of food, provide clothing on an ongoing basis, and give away bicycles for residents in need. Russell Durham, owner of Rusty's Bicycle Recycle, Inc., provides the bikes to Mt. Sinai. He repairs used bikes and redistributes them to veterans, the unsheltered, and to individuals who need transportation.

Thousands of residents have benefited from these services. Outside of the community service work setting, the ACS team members socialize and support one another. On a regular basis, they come together for faith-building activities which range from having cookouts to bicycling. These social events foster unity and a special bond among the team members. The social events also offer an opportunity for the team to witness to their families and friends of other religious faiths by inviting them to the activities.

While preparing food boxes for distribution can count as a physical workout, several ACS members also ride bikes several times per week for enjoyment and exercise. The Adventist Bike Riders health initiative was started by Stanley Lewis, Arnott Barclay, and Arthur Battles. On a regular basis, cyclists Spradley-Price, Altamese Blake, Carlos Blake, Christopher Howard, Eleanor Towns,

and Yvonne Moye ride for fitness and recreation. Exercise is known to lower the risk of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and other lifestyle diseases. Through cycling, the ACS team lives and shares the health message.

The combination of worship, witnessing, and workout works. It allows the ACS team at Mt. Sinai Church, under the pastorate leadership of Derrick Moffett, Th.D., and Alexis Madrid, to reach more people and stay unified as the body of Christ.

ACS teams are encouraged to consider using a variety of methods to meet the physical, spiritual, and social needs of community residents and church members. ❶

BY JENNIFER SANKEY, PH.D.



Arnott Barclay (left), Yvonne Moye, Arthur Battles II, and Greta Price-Spradley pose with their bicycles.

Southern Adventist University Enactus Team Brings Global Spotlight to Social Entrepreneurship

The Enactus chapter at Southern Adventist University represented the United States on a global stage alongside the University of Texas (UT) at Austin at this year's 2023 Enactus World Cup. Leaders of the student organization traveled to the intercultural event in Utrecht, Netherlands, in late October 2023, to collaborate and showcase projects with other top teams.

The Southern and UT Austin chapters presented two Enactus U.S. projects, including Southern's premier project, Akuna Soap Industry. The soap business, based in Zambia, enables local women to support themselves and their families by selling high-quality, affordable soap. The team exhibited how the enterprise has not only helped secure employment for females, but has also invested \$250,000 in the regional economy by sourcing ingredients locally.

"Our team has been filled with inspiration and hope for the future following this event. We grew an even greater passion for our mission of social entrepreneurship and service to God," said Kate Savino, junior accounting major and Southern's chapter president. "I am extremely grateful for Southern's support of Enactus and our journey to the World Cup. It is through opportunities like this one that I have learned the importance of using my unique skills to serve Christ and His children."

Enactus is a non-profit movement spanning 33 countries dedicated to developing the planet's next generation of business leaders. The institution empowers students to use innovative entrepreneurship to aid communities in need through sustainable social and environmental projects.

Southern's chapter placed third in

the country at the Enactus U.S. National Exposition last spring, ranking in the elite 1% of more than 300 teams. The first-place U.S. university did not attend the World Cup, paving the way for students from Southern and UT Austin, who placed second at the exposition, to attend.

"What an enriching opportunity! Our students networked with people from around the world and worked closely with a superlative U.S. business school to share the presentation stage with No. 1 Enactus teams from all participating countries," said Michelle Doucoumes, associate professor in Southern's School of Business and Enactus faculty sponsor. "The judges commended their work. I believe the students represented our University amazingly." 📌

BY AMANDA BLAKE



PHOTO BY: MICHELLE DOUCOUMES

Brandon Reese (left), senior business administration major; Lauryn Daniels, senior business-public relations major; Abigail Cornelius, senior finance major; Katelyn Savino, junior accounting major; and Erick Baltodano, senior business administration major, traveled to Utrecht, Netherlands, for the Enactus World Cup.



PHOTO BY: MICHELLE DOUCOUMES

At the Enactus World Cup in Utrecht, Netherlands, Southern's student Enactus team presents the Akuna Soap Industry project, which enables women in Zambia to support themselves and their families.



LOWMAN, MARIAN E., 103, born March 5, 1920, in Baltimore, MD, to Frank and Rosa Thomas, died June 14, 2023, in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL.

Her childhood was spent in the shadows of Fort McHenry, the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner, in Locust Point, a German immigrant center. After several years living in Miami, the family relocated to Brooklyn, a suburb of Baltimore. It was there she met Walter Lowman who lived in the same neighborhood. Their friendship led to their marriage on June 11, 1937. In 1952, Walter, Marian, and their daughter, Pat, became members of the Adventist Church. In 1958, the family moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

After Walter's retirement in 1985, they moved to Florida Living Retirement Center in Apopka. Both were very active in the Florida Living Church. For many years, they volunteered at Florida Conference. They also enjoyed traveling, took several trips abroad, and enjoyed

many cruises together.

Marian continued to live at Florida Living Retirement Center after Walter passed to his rest on March 9, 2005. The two of them had rarely been apart during their nearly 68 years of marriage. In May 2019, she moved to Brookdale Assisted Living in Altamonte Springs, where she fell asleep in Jesus on June 14, 2023, now awaiting the great resurrection morning.

Marian is survived by her son, Marvin G. Lowman of Altamonte Springs; her daughter, Marian Patricia (Pat) Murphy of Baltimore, MD; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

PETTIBONE, PH.D., DENNIS, 82, born Aug. 6, 1941 in Takoma Park, MD, died Sept. 14, 2023. He was professor emeritus and former chair of Southern Adventist University's History Department.

Dennis, the oldest of four children, was born at Washington Sanitarium and Hospital (now Washington Adventist Hospital) in Takoma Park, MD.

He attended Newbury Park Academy in California, where he was editor of *The Newburian*, and La Sierra College. While working on his masters degree, he met and married Carol Jean Nelson. In 1979, he completed his doctorate. His dissertation was titled, "Caesar's Sabbath: The Sunday-Law Controversy in the United States."

During his career, Dennis taught school at every level from kindergarten through college, except for second grade. His dream, however, was to teach at Southern College, a dream that came true in 1988 when he began teaching in the History Department. His coffee-table book about the college's history, *Century of Challenge*, was published in time for Southern's 100th anniversary in 1992. He also contributed to the North American Division High School Bible curriculum and wrote numerous articles on Church history and the legacy of the reformation.

He retired from full-time teaching when his wife, Carol, passed away in 2011. He taught a few classes in his retirement and also served as an editor for the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

In 2019, he married Rebecca Aufderhar, and in 2022 they moved to a country home near Elfriede, AZ, in which he passed away to his rest on Sept. 14, 2023.

He is survived by his second wife, Rebecca; two daughters: Lori and Teresa; and his siblings: Don, Dale, and Darlene. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Carol; and parents: Marion and Ruth Pettibone.





PINZÓN, AMALIA JIMÉNEZ, 96, born May 25, 1927, in Manatí, Puerto Rico, died Sept. 28, 2023, Avon Park, FL. She was a member of Walker Memorial Church in Avon Park. The seventh child of parents, Francisco and Clementina Pinzón (Robles), Amalia lived in Puerto Rico until she was 18 years old, when she received an invitation from her brother to join him in Chicago. There she met Angel, and they were married in Nov. 1951.

Amalia worked tirelessly to support her young family while Angel completed a degree in anesthesia at Madison College in TN. They returned to Puerto Rico to fulfill a government scholarship obligation.

The family arrived in Avon Park in 1967, where Ángel and Amalia worked at Walker Memorial Hospital (AdventHealth Sebring). The family moved to Orlando, FL, in the late '70s where Amalia worked in Central Supply at Florida Hospital Altamonte (AdventHealth Altamonte) for 10 years. Amalia eventually returned to Avon Park to retire, quickly

reengaging with her many friends, family, and church community.

Amalia was vivacious and tenacious – a lover of life with a wonderful sense of humor. She loved her sons and grandchildren more than anything, and often would brag about her family to anyone who would listen. She was a consummate cook, ruthlessly competitive domino player, life of the party, and will be tremendously missed.

Amalia is survived by four sons: David (Carolyn), Gary (Darlyn), Ron (Lisa), and Bob (Julie); nine grandchildren: Laura, Christina (José), Ronnie (Courtney), Brooke (Rob), Colton, Jack, Jayce, Josh, and Emmie; and five great-grandchildren.

PLATT, EVELYN LOUISE, 100, born July 17, 1923, in Pittsfield, MA, to Arthur and Alice Platt as the oldest of three children. Evelyn died peacefully at the Carrazana home on Sept. 4, 2023, in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Center Church in Apopka.

Evelyn graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1940, and attended Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA. She took a secretarial position with the Northern New England Conference in Keene, NH, in 1943, and spent the next 45 years in service to several statewide church organizations in Ohio, New York, Indiana, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama. She also worked as a missionary on the island of Guam, at the Inter-American Division headquarters in Miami, FL, and at the church headquarters in Washington, DC.

She retired and moved to Zellwood, FL, in 1988. Then she relocated to the Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka in 2002.

Evelyn is survived by one nephew, Robert Schwab of Berrien Springs, MI; and one niece, Linda Schwab Lanoue of Shaftsbury, VT. Interment was in the Richmond Cemetery in Richmond, MA.



SWINSON, NORMA, 89, born March 26, 1934, in Umatilla, FL, died Sept. 11, 2023, in Zephyrhills, FL. She was a long-time member of the Tampa First Church, Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, and East Pasco Church in Zephyrhills, FL.

Norma attended Tampa Junior Academy and Forest Lake Academy, graduating in the class of 1951. That same year she married Morris Swinson in the Tampa First Church. They were active in the Tampa Church until the family moved to Orlando in 1969, where Morris was employed by the Florida Conference as a moving van driver. He died from a tragic illness in 1976. After the death of her husband, Norma served as girls' dean at Forest Lake Academy (FLA) from 1977-1981. She served as residence hall dean for Southern Adventist University (Orlando Campus) and AdventHealth University from 1981-1994. She then returned to assist in the registrar's office at FLA. Her many students throughout the years lovingly referred to her as "Mama Swin." She retired in 1999, and moved to Zephyrhills where she served as part-time church secretary. She spent six years in California from 2010 to 2016, where she was a member of La Sierra University Church. She then returned to Zephyrhills and was a resident at the AdventHealth Care Center.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in law, Deborah and Kevan Metcalfe; her son and daughter-in-law, James and Julie Swinson; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and her dear friend and caretaker, Margie Claypool.



WHITE, ANDITA, 97, born Feb. 1, 1926 in Pedro Plains, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, died March 8, 2023, in Miramar, FL. Andita was the fourth of eleven children born to David and Mahala Williams. She was a member of the North Orlando, FL, Church, for more than 30 years. Her family returned from Cuba to Jamaica in the 1920s, shortly before she was born.

In her early years, her paternal granduncle and his wife, Joseph (Joe) and Evelyn Williams, took a special interest in her. She lived with them for a time. They were active members of the Williamsfield Church in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, where they introduced her to Adventism, and got her involved in church activities at an early age. Her uncle Joe taught her Spanish, and later encouraged her to attend West Indies Training College (WITC), now Northern Caribbean University (NCU).

Inspired by her first teacher, she decided at an early age that she wanted to be a teacher.

Committed to her love of learning, she matriculated at WITC where she completed high school and the "Normal Course." While at WITC, she was the president of the Philmelodia Ladies Club, sang in the college choir, and served as an assistant matron of the cafeteria under the head matron known affectionately to many as "Aunt Glad." She graduated from WITC in December 1952. Following graduation, she taught at New Hope School and later at Kingsway High School in Kingston, Jamaica, until she left to further her education in the United States in 1958.

While at WITC, she met and fell in love with the late Frederick E. White of Hanover, Jamaica. They were married two years after graduation on December 22, 1954. They continued their studies at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA, where she completed a bachelor of arts in elementary education.

She later rejoined the staff at Kingsway High School where she taught English and Spanish. She served as principal at Kingsway from August 1974 through 1976. After relocating to Florida in 1976, she taught English as a second language (ESL) at the Seminole Community College in Altamonte Springs, FL, until she relocated to Detroit, MI, in 1978. While in Detroit, she served as an ESL teacher for the Detroit Public School System. Committed to furthering her education, while working full time, she pursued and later earned a master degree in education from Wayne State University in Detroit. She relocated to Chicago, IL, in 1980 where she served as an ESL teacher at the Walt Disney Magnet School until her retirement from the Chicago Public School System in June 1989.

The White's were married for more than 60 years before Pastor Fred E. White's death in April 2015. Over the course of 46 years, Andita served faithfully by her husband's side as he pastored and served in various field and administrative positions in the East Jamaica, Lake Region, and Southeastern conferences.

Three children were born to the White's union: Sharon, Ray, and Rochelle. They were later blessed with three grandchildren: Jhanae, Julian, and Jholie. She was a loving and caring wife, mother, and grandmother. Andita White was a woman of deep faith in God and a prayer warrior.

She leaves to cherish her memory her brother Raston ("Rocky") (Catherine); daughters: Sharon and Rochelle (Paul); grandchildren: Jhanae, Julian and Jholie Douglas; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends who take comfort in the blessed hope that, by God's grace, we will be reunited in the earth made new. She was preceded in death by her parents: David and Mahala Williams; her granduncle and grandaunt: Joseph and Evelyn Williams; six brothers: Basil, Vilde, O'Raldo, Elwardo, Altiman, and Ivor Williams; three sisters: Lin (Alice) Gordon, Carmen Spencer, and Balbena Long; her son, Ray White; and son-in-law, Samuel Hutchins. Andita died peacefully in her sleep, and now awaits the call of the Life-giver. The service was held at the North Orlando SDA Church, Orlando, FL, and was officiated by Pastors Olinto Groce, Roy R. Brown, and Gregory A. Carrol. Interment at Highland Memory Garden in Apopka, FL.

BELL, VIVIAN JEAN, 88, born Feb. 4, 1935, in Memphis, TN, died July 22, 2023, in Hendersonville, TN. She was a faithful member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. She worked many years as an operating room nurse at Madison Hospital and Tennessee Christian Hospital. She is survived her siblings: Paul Cates Jr., and Janice Towne; four children: David Bell, Troy Bell Jr., Steve (Minnie) Bell, and Angie (David) Kingsbury; seven grandchildren: Malory Warden, Will Hoover III, Marlana (Ian) Petersen, Troy Bell III, Bryce Bell, Kasey (Mariah) Kingsbury, and Jake (Marybeth) Kingsbury; and five great-grandchildren. She also left behind her loving dog, Bug. She was preceded in death by her husband, Troy Will Bell Sr., who was an employee at Southern Publishing Association, and parents: Paul W. Cate Sr. and Vivian A. Coleman.

DAY, CYTHIA "CINDY" ANNETTE, 66, of Cross Plains, born Sept. 16, 1957, in San Jose, CA, to the late Malcolm and Cecelia Sewell, died Oct. 22, 2023. She married Thomas (Tom) Day in London, KY, on Aug. 15, 1980. Cindy retired after 40 years as a registered nurse, and spent time in her garden, leading out at White House Church with the children and youth, and loving on her children and grandchildren. Cindy graduated from Southern Missionary College in 1978 with an ASN degree, and served as a student missionary to Japan from 1978 to 1979, and attended high school at Highland Academy in Portland, TN, class of 1976. She is survived by her devoted husband, Tom Day; daughter, Rachel (Scott) Day Hansen; and their children: Josiah, Rebecca, and Lincoln; daughter, Rose Mary (Bobby Jr.) Wint, FNP, and their

children: Nolan and Cooper; her older sisters: Sylvia (John) Sutton, and Yolonda (Carl) Riley, younger sister, and brother, Sonja Bell and Jim Sewell; Aunt Ver-na (Del) Demick; Aunt Alice Gerrans; and Uncle Wesley (Jacquie) Gerrans; many nieces and nephews: Christy Yech, John Sutton II, Lisa Sutton, Carla (Rod) Snow, Katrina (William) Crawford, Patrick (Erin) Riley, April Tonsberg, Carmen (Josh) Day, Cassandra Crausaz, Sarah (Kevin) Schmidt, James Day Jr., Craig Day, Sol Day, Kristina Day, Jonathan Harrison, Jennifer Scruggs, John Day, Lauren Spires; 19+ great-nephews; and 10+ great-nieces; cousins; and extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents: Malcolm and Cecelia Sewell; brother-in-law, James Day; and sister-in-law, Carol Harrison.

ELLIOTT, DR. MARVIN, 82, born in 1941 in Kentucky and grew up in Avon Park, FL, he fell asleep in Jesus on May 24, 2023, on his late wife Candy's birthday in Greeneville, TN. He is deeply missed and forever cherished by all who knew him. He was a beloved son, brother, uncle, husband, father, and grandfather. He was known for his generosity, humbleness, and sense of humor. He attended Forest Lake Academy (where he met Candy), Southern Missionary College, and graduated from Loma Linda University School in Dentistry in 1966. Marvin had a dental practice in Asheville, NC, for more than 50 years, and was well known as a "gentle" dentist. He was head deacon and elder at Mt. Pisgah Academy and Asheville North churches for many years. His greatest achievement may have been the dedicated care given to his wife Candy, following a debilitating

accident in 2006 until her passing in early 2020. Marvin is survived by his daughter, Michelle (Nelson); his son, Lee (Kirstin); granddaughters: Lauren and Kaeleigh; one sister, Helen Krall; one brother, Dr. Norman Elliott (Mary Lou); one brother-in-law, David Scott (Kathy), many nieces; and nephews.

FRANCIS, VERONICA, 95, born Nov. 18, 1928, in Siparia, Trinidad, died July 13, 2023, and was buried at Cushe Cemetery in Trinidad. She was a member of the Dunnellon, FL, Church. Mommy, as Veronica was known to many of the Dunnellon Church members, was dearly loved by those who knew her. It was with great excitement that they watched her get baptized on September 9, 2020. She said her greatest wish would be that all her family would follow her example and give their lives to the Lord and be baptized. She is survived by her eight children: Everline, Bernadine, Josephine, Bunny, Frank, Clemantine, Maggie, and Juliet; grandmother of Cathy-Ann, Sharon, Anslem, Melissa, Kimberly, Richard, Tammy, Nicolette, and 25 others; and great-grandmother of 55. She was the daughter of Maria and Domingo Vialva who proceeded her in death.

HOPPER MCOY, PEGGY IRENE, born Dec. 19, 1930, in Keene, TX. Peggy accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was 15 years old. She was one of the charter members of the Pulaski, TN, Church. She cofounded the Adventist Clothing Center currently located on Spring Street in Pulaski. During her leadership from 1976 thru 1994 they distributed more than 440,000 articles of clothing, helping more than 37,000 people. Peggy and her husband

Mitch had lived in 16 different locations. Of all the places they ever lived, she thought Giles County was their favorite and the prettiest. At her church, Peggy served as the treasurer and classroom teacher for many years. Until her death, Peggy always looked forward to the Lord's return and the resurrection of the righteous dead. She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and husband of 54 years, Calvin Hopper. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

KERR, MARGA LOUISE (MARTIN), 74, born Aug. 8, 1948, in Takoma Park, MD, died Nov. 4, 2022, at her home in McDonald, TN. She was the first of her parents' five children. She took great joy in playing the organ for church, being actively involved in children's ministries, including puppeteering, and especially playing her accordion as part of her clown ministry. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Elton; son, Randall Kerr; daughters: Ruthie Gray, Robyn Kerr, and Rachelle Huynh; and nine grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held Nov. 19, 2022, at the Chattanooga First Church, and is interred at Collegedale Memorial Park.

KLAVER, JOHN SHERMAN, 71, born Sept. 27, 1952, in Norfolk, VA, passed away on Oct. 22, 2023, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston Salem, NC. John's educational journey led him from Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia, where he completed high school, to Southern Adventist University, where he graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration and a minor in secondary education. For 25 years, John dedicated himself to serving as a nursing home

administrator and was a valued member of both the Tennessee and North Carolina healthcare associations. Throughout his life, John remained a steadfast member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, actively contributing as a Sabbath School teacher, deacon, and elder. John had a deep appreciation for music, which he shared by playing the guitar and singing at various church services, funerals, nursing homes, and the local homeless shelter. During the last several years of his life he became quite a storyteller, sharing stories and memories from his childhood and career. He is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years, Louise Klaver; four children: Wendy, Julie, John, and Destiny; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. John is preceded in death by his brother, Nick Klaver.

MARCHANT, BETTY JOY MILLS, 93, born Aug. 26, 1930, to the late Charles G. and Ina Davis Mills in Memphis, TN, died Oct. 23, 2023, in Memphis. Betty met her husband Jerry at a church youth activity in west Tennessee. She attended Highland Academy in Portland, TN, and graduated in 1948. She married Jerry in Memphis, on August 31, 1949, resulting in 74 years of happy marriage. Above all things, her love of God and her family were important. A lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she was a charter member of the Olive Branch Church and was a very active member until illness and infirmity kept her from attending. Immediately out of school, Betty began working at the new medical practice of Dr B.E. McLarty where they were soon joined by her brother Dr. George T. Mills. She remained there as office manager until she retired more

than 45 years later. Her ambition, dedication to excellence, faithfulness, and respectful treatment of all were integral to the success of the office. A Christian education for her children was imperative to her, so in spite of working full time and living 30 miles from the Adventist school, she made sure all four of her children attended the school for 10 years then graduated from boarding Adventist academies. Betty held many church offices over her lifetime and sung in the church choir. She was also energetic in her support of the school by chaperoning numerous field trips, holding the office of Home and School leader multiple times, and leading countless fundraisers. Betty was a devoted daughter, a loving wife and mother, and a delight to her grandchildren as well as her great-grandchildren. She was witty, smart, fun-loving, kind, and had been blessed with the gift of hospitality. Betty was an upstanding member of the community, friend to many, and a faithful servant of God. Betty was adored by her family which included her loving husband, Jerry Marchant Sr.; four children: Julie Marchant (Bruce) Smith, Barbara Marchant (Bill) Anderson, Jerry (Sherry) Marchant Jr., and J. David (Addie) Marchant; five grandchildren: William G. (Kim) Anderson Jr., Russell (Fareen) Anderson, Joshua (Katie) Anderson, Jerry (Stephanie) Marchant III, and Sam (Emily) Marchant Marchant; nine great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, a sister, a niece, and a son in law. She is now resting peacefully awaiting that day when she will see Jesus' return and will be united with her loved ones, once more fully restored in mind and body.

PEEL, RAE RETA, 83, born in the borough of Manhattan, NY, Jan. 28, 1940, to David Leopold Meyers and Marion Agnes (Silverstein) Meyers, died Sept. 22, 2023. She moved with her family to Atlanta, GA, before the age of 2. For high school, she attended Forest Lake Academy in Florida, and then Collegedale Academy in Collegedale, TN. It was at Collegedale Academy that she met James Peel, her recently deceased husband of 64 years, as she worked as an accompanist for his voice lessons. She graduated from Collegedale Academy in May 1958; the same year James graduated from Southern Missionary College. In August of that year, they were married. Her first career was as wife and United Methodist Church in Rossville, GA, until her death. Survivors include two sons: Gerald (Susan) Peel, and Michael (Lisa) Peel; one daughter, Cindy Peel (Jeff) Lemon; cousin, Kevin (Teresa) Costello; seven grandchildren: Christopher Peel, Michael David Peel, Matthew Peel, Heather Peel (David) Orvek, Shawn Lemon, Jordan Lemon, and Kiona Costello; and one greatgrandchild, Ivy Peel. A Celebration of Life service was held Sept. 30, 2023, at McDonald Road Church.

WILLIAMS, LUCYNTHIA (CINDY) MATHIESEN, born in Durham, NC, to Kenneth and Lucile Mathiesen; the last of a family of 6, died Sept. 17, 2023, in Columbia, SC. Lucynthia, affectionately known as "Cindy," spent her early years in the small town of Pittsboro, where her physician-father and nurse-mother built and operated a private hospital and clinic. She cherished her upbringing, surrounded by medical halls and numerous pets,

including her beloved cat, Taffy. Cindy also cultivated her musical talents, learning to play the piano, accordion, and flute. Church played a central role in the Mathiesen family's life, and Cindy was an active member of the Pittsboro Church. She participated in various church activities, recitations, and special music performances. Cindy's passion for education blossomed during her middle school years when her father helped establish a cooperative school among the Adventist churches in Chatham, Durham, and Wake counties. She enrolled in Triangle Junior Academy, where she formed lifelong friendships. In 1968, Cindy and Haskell, a young man she had met during a Camp Meeting, embarked on a 55-year journey together. Their love story began with a chance encounter in high school and blossomed into a lifelong partnership. They joined extracurricular activities, traveled together, and supported each other's educational pursuits. After graduating from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1974, Cindy pursued a nursing career, passing her State Board for Nursing in Tennessee. She and Haskell exchanged vows on May 20, 1973, in Pittsboro. In Michigan, during Haskell's seminary years, Cindy continued her nursing career and deepened her knowledge by attending various classes and seminars. Their lives changed forever on April 5, 1976, when Cindy received the joyful news of the birth of their daughter, April Joy. Later, their family grew to include Kirsten and Nathan. For 32 years, Cindy and Haskell served the Florida Conference, touching the lives of many in St. Petersburg, Leesburg, and Lake-

land. Cindy resumed her nursing career and earned her master of science degree in public health from Loma Linda University. She fulfilled her dream of becoming a certified diabetic educator and co-initiated East Pasco's Diabetes Center. Upon relocating to Apopka, FL, in 1999, Cindy practiced home health nursing briefly before joining Florida Hospital's Diabetes Education program, eventually serving as director in Celebration and Kissimmee hospitals. She continued her compassionate work at CaroMont Hospital in Gastonia and Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC, where she retired in Sept. 2020. Throughout her retirement, Cindy traveled with Haskell to his meetings and weekend preaching appointments. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, sharing their love and wisdom with colleagues before enjoying a special weekend at Mount Pisgah. She is survived by her husband, Haskell; her sister, Karen Mace; three children: April Williams, Kirsten Peterson, and Nathan Williams; three grandchildren: Gemma, Zach, and Zoe; numerous nephews; and nieces. Cindy now awaits the grand resurrection morning that Jesus promised, as she trusted Him to fulfill it because He is "the Resurrection and the Life." Until then, Haskell and her children await that glorious day with expectation.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified Seventh-day Adventists who may fill open roles in fulfilling our mission to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith, and Change the World. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs> [C]

NORTH TAMPA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY seeks substitute teachers for grades K-12th. Applicants must model Christ-like behavior, attitudes, and enjoy working with students. A background check will be required. Contact Smyrna Jackson, smyrna.jackson@northtampaca.com or 813-991-0801. [1-2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Required qualities include current RN adult health or ICU clinical experience, successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To apply, please visit our job board at sau.catsonline.com/careers. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the Department of Biology/Allied Health, beginning fall 2024. PhD in Biology who will teach upper and lower division courses and labs. Candidate should be committed to involvement with undergraduate students in the class-

room as well as guiding independent student research projects. Additionally, candidate should be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist believing the Biblical record of the creation of life on earth in six literal days. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. Candidate should have a PhD with a minimum of five years of successful full-time graduate teaching experience at the higher education level. Applicant will assume a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provide academic, administrative, and strategic direction to Graduate Studies, Online Campus, and the Adult Degree Completion (ADC) Program. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Engineer teaching faculty member for School of Engineering and Physics 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. [1]

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 www.southern.edu/jobs. [1]

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. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Salaried positions— DHSI Community Outreach Coordinator - Academic Administration (REOPENED). For more information go to: sau.catsonline.com/careers. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff

Hourly positions— Housekeeper - Student Housing, Housekeeping and Maintenance Supervisor, Carpentry Technician, Part Time Cashier - Village Market, S.A.L.T. Outreach Coordinator for School of Religion, Alarm Technician, Landscape Supervisor. For more information go to: sau.catsone.com/careers. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Religion seeks full-time faculty member to begin fall semester of 2024. Must be active member of Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and should have Ph.D. (or be near completion) in New Testament. Positive experience in pastoral ministry and teaching is helpful. Must demonstrate contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of Scripture, and deep passion for Adventist message and mission. Good people skills and ability to engage students in a positive, faith-building manner in the classroom are essential. To apply, please visit our job board at sau.catsone.com/careers. [1]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for a full-time, tenure-track PhD biochemistry faculty position for our ACS-approved program, starting July 2024. Duties: mentor undergraduate students to excellence in faith-reflective professionalism; teach biochemistry and chemistry courses and labs; champion undergraduate research; promote an all-inclusive, equitable learning environment. For more information email: chemistry@andrews.edu. [1]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY is looking for a full-time assistant/associate professor to teach and facilitate the public relations curriculum. The ideal candidate will have a PR background, be able to integrate industry trends into current classes, serve as the primary advisor for PR majors and minors, and advise the PRSSA student chapter. Master's degree required. Doctorate preferred. For a full job description and to apply, visit www.oakwood.edu/human-resources/ [1]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY is looking for a full-time assistant/associate professor to teach and coordinate the graphic design program and advise graphic design students. Applicants must have professional experience in the industry. University teaching experience preferred. Proficiency in Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator is required. Experience with and maintenance of MAC computers is desired. Master's degree required. For a full job description and to apply, visit www.oakwood.edu/human-resources/. [1]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY is looking for a full-time assistant/associate professor to teach photography and photojournalism in the BA and AS visual media programs and advise students. Applicants must have professional experience in photography with experience using Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. Experience with and maintenance of photography equipment and MAC computers is desired. Master's degree required. For a full job description and to apply, visit www.oakwood.edu/human-resources/. [1]

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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]

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ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS Alumni Weekend, Apr. 12-13 at Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor Classes- Graduating Years ending with 4's & 9's. For more information email: ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or visit ea-gpa-alumni.com. [1]

MEDICARE INSURANCE QUESTIONS? Get them answered by Grant Dorrough RPh, an agent licensed in North and South Carolina. He can present at group meetings or schedule in-person consultations or Zoom meetings. Call 704-251-7649 or email dorroughinsurance@yahoo.com. [1]

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SOUTHERN UNION/CONFERENCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES







THE BUTTERFLY LADY

Jeanine collected the eggs of the Monarch butterfly on milkweed and then fed its leaves to the larvae until it turned into a chrysalis and then into a butterfly. She had the timing of this process down to the details and gave many presentations at local schools sharing the wonders of God's creation and the love of nature.

She was committed to supporting her local church school which she had visited for many years and had her estate planning documents prepared by her local conference to put her desires on paper. May her legacy live on in the lives she has touched.

Call the Planned Giving and Trust Services office of your Conference or favorite University and ask them about how an IRA roll over works today.

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CAROLINA

Carolina Conference Music Festival - Feb. 29-March 1.

MPA Academy Days - March 22-24.

MPA Alumni Weekend - April 19-20.

FLORIDA

Florida Keys Camp Meeting - First Camp Meeting of the 2024 season - Feb. 2-4. Camp Sawyer, mile marker 34, on the Oceanside. Speaker: Mark Finley. Jennifer LaMountain, and the Family and Friends Septet will provide special music. For reservations, housing, or more information, please contact Lynn at 734-796-3733.

English Women's Retreat - Feb. 9-11. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.

Theme - Experiencing God in Our Brokenness. Speaker: DeeAnn Bragaw, NAD women's ministries director. www.kulaqua.com/2024-florida-conference-womens-retreat/

Spanish Women's Retreat - March 15-17. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.

Theme - Experiencias con Dios en el Quebranto. Speaker: Esmeralda Guzman, Southeastern Conference women's ministries director. www.kulaqua.com/retiro-de-mujeres-de-la-conferencia-de-florida-2024-sesion-en-espanol/

English Camp Meeting - April 19-21. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.

Spanish Camp Meeting - April 26-28. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Love & Logic Parent Training - Jan. 19, 20. Gem Theater, Calhoun, GA.

Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training - Jan. 19-21. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Communication Training - Jan. 21. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience: Regional Level - Jan. 27.

Oasis High School Retreat - Feb. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

"Surrender" Prayer Conference - Feb. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Adventurer Bible Experience: Regional Level - Feb. 3.

Children's Ministries Convention - Feb. 9-11. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Pathfinder Bible Experience: Conference Level - Feb. 17.

Pathfinder Teen Event - Feb. 23-25. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Regenerate Youth and Young Adult Festival - March 2. Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA.

Hispanic Women's Retreat - March 8-10.

Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Adventurer Family Fun Weekend - March 22-24. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

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

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Classes Begin - Jan. 8. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

American Spiritual Ensemble - Jan. 20. Southern welcomes the captivating voices of American Spiritual Ensemble in a virtual experience that incorporates text from Eileen Guenther's book *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals*. Enjoy powerful music and spoken words offering hope and reconciliation at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church on campus. Call 423-236-2814 for details about this free event.

Paintings Exhibit Opening - Jan. 25. The School of Visual Art and Design at Southern Adventist University announces a gallery exhibit featuring works from painters Heath Montgomery and Donald Keefe, also an associate professor. Opening at 6 p.m. in the John C. Williams Art Gallery of Brock Hall, the exhibit is free and open to the public through Feb. 23. For details, visit southern.edu/artgallery or call 423-236-2646.

Organ Recital: Nathan Laube - Jan. 28.

The School of Music will host Nathan Laube, one of the world's elite organ performers and pedagogues, at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church on campus. An organ faculty member at the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, Laube also serves as an international consultant in organ studies at the United Kingdom's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. To learn more, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

Concerto Concert - Feb. 4. The Southern Adventist University Concerto Competition begins at 4 p.m. and showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the University's full Symphony Orchestra. Held in Collegedale Church, and directed by Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, this School of Music event is free and open to the public. To learn more, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

Honors Choral Concert - Feb. 10. The School of Music will host the biennial Honors Choral Festival featuring vocal students from throughout the Southeast and points beyond. Under the direction of Carrie VanDenburg, the event concludes with a concert at 4 p.m. in Collegedale Church, that is open to the public and will be livestreamed. For details, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

SUNSET

	JAN 5	JAN 12	JAN 19	JAN 26	FEB 2	FEB 9
ATLANTA, GA	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:03	6:10	6:17
CHARLESTON, SC	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:47	5:54	6:00
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:26	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:53	6:00
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:43	5:49	5:56	6:03	6:10	6:17
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:24
JACKSON, MS	5:10	5:16	5:22	5:29	5:35	5:42
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:38	5:44	5:51	5:59	6:07	6:15
MEMPHIS, TN	5:03	5:09	5:16	5:23	5:30	5:37
MIAMI, FL	5:45	5:50	5:55	6:00	6:06	6:10
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:55	5:00	5:07	5:13	5:20	5:26
NASHVILLE, TN	4:47	4:54	5:00	5:08	5:15	5:22
ORLANDO, FL	5:44	5:49	5:55	6:00	6:06	6:12
TAMPA, FL	5:49	5:54	6:00	6:06	6:11	6:17
WILMINGTON, NC	5:17	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:50

Southern Adventist University

has resources just for **YOU!**

JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails

Free and highly rated, Southern's nearly 40 miles of on-campus hiking and biking trails are open to everyone. The trails are suitable for everything from a peaceful Sabbath walk to a muscle-toning endurance workout.

For more information and trail maps, visit southern.edu/trails.

Peace and War Exhibit

Southern's on-campus Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum features an exhibit with more than 80 artifacts unearthed by the students and employees from Southern and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem during the Fourth Expedition to Lachish in Israel (2013-2017). The historical findings help bring to life the Assyrian conquest of Judah and Jerusalem's deliverance.

For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

Scheduled Visit

The university welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern.

For more information, go online to southern.edu/visit.

JOIN US ONLINE

Southern's Symphony Orchestra and Various Ensembles, including Choral, Horn, Steel Band, and Wind

Opportunities abound to enjoy the musical talents on our campus through the School of Music. Visit southern.edu/musicevents to find details about scheduled performances, many of which are livestreamed. In addition, the university's weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

To view online, visit southern.edu/streaming.

WE'LL COME TO YOU

We have abundant resources representing numerous areas of expertise. Let Southern help whenever you have a need for guest speakers, workshops, and music programs at your church or school.

Visit southern.edu/resourceguide.



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