

SOUTHERN

*Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family*



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# A Simple Idea

Of the more than 230,000 church members in the Southern Union, I wonder how many were influenced to join the Church through reading some kind of literature—an evangelistic handbill, a beautiful tract, a small book, or maybe a lead card in a doctor's office? I'd be willing to guess there are thousands. Every once in awhile I hear about some of these individuals, and I am always thrilled.

I met a couple in Florida who had an interesting experience. Actually, she delivers mail for the US Postal Service. She was dutifully placing brochures in the mailboxes. Hundreds of them. She became curious and read the advertisement inviting people to attend the Bill and Sunshine Waters evangelistic meeting. She and her husband started attending, and today they are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was just a little piece of literature, but powerful in its mission.

A woman from the Collegedale area shared recently how she remembers, when she was 24 years old, reading the story of creation about God for the very first time. She knew nothing about the Bible. Where did she read the creation story? While she was waiting for her doctor's appointment. She picked up the first volume of the *Bible Story* set by Arthur Maxwell. Those books have been around for decades, and they still present the major beliefs of Scripture taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In fact, throughout the Southern Union territory, there are more than 50,000 sample copies of this first volume in waiting rooms and offices.

Well, the woman sent in a lead card requesting someone to come show her the books. When the literature evangelist came to the door, she changed her mind and refused to see him. But through a series of events, she did purchase the books later, and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In fact, she is now a pastor's wife working as a Bible worker. Praise the Lord. Just a little lead card, just a little book.

So, we are joining with members in the North American Division, and designating April 7-14, 2007, a week to share literature. It's called "SEVEN in SEVEN in '07." The idea is a simple one—that every Seventh-day Adventist member would share seven pieces of literature in seven days, beginning April 7. Churches may want to choose certain kinds of literature. Members may choose literature that will be meaningful. Please contact your local Adventist Book Center for ideas. I believe this special week in April, is the time for thousands of us to become literature evangelists. Thank you for sharing a piece of literature about Jesus. You'll be glad you did.



**Gordon Retzer**  
*Southern Union  
President*

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Cover Caption: *Clarence and Reatha Ekvall, Florida Conference members who attend the Markham Woods church in Longwood, reflect on their volunteer work with Adventist Heritage Ministry.*

# Revisited

## ON YESTERDAY'S JOURNEYS



Left: Reatha and Clarence Ekvall with their children at the first place home in White near Gorham, Maine, in 1924 with her family.

BY REATHA EKVALL

I'll never forget the fall of 1992 when my husband, Clarence, and I took a round-trip driving vacation from our home in St. Helena, California, to the East Coast. We enjoyed sites along the way, colorful leaves of autumn, and revisiting places that had shaped our lives as children.

While sight-seeing in New England, someone suggested we stop at the Miller Farm. We knew of William Miller's prominence in the birth of our Church, yet we had never been to his home near Whitehall, New York.

When we arrived, the volunteer caretakers were packing up and closing down the farm for the winter months. An and Alice Voorheis greeted us warmly and gave us an informative tour of the Farm, Miller

Chapel and Pension Rock where the Miller had waited for Jesus' expected return on December 22, 1844.

Afterward, our trip direction turned toward getting better acquainted. I spoke of growing up in a pastor-evangelist's home that included moves to Brooklyn, New York, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Alice responded that she had also grown in Brooklyn.

She then looked closely at me and asked, "Are you Reatha Vanders?" When I responded affirmatively, she exclaimed, "I'm Alice Smith. We graduated from eighth grade together at the Washington Avenue Church School. Your dad baptized me when I was 12."

Hugs and laughter followed as our friendship, separated by 53 years, was rekindled. A common love for Adventist Church



Right: The Ekvalls met their 11-year-old niece, Alice and Alice Voorheis (left), at volunteering work there at the Miller Farm in 2002. Reatha's sister, Jean Smith (right), joined them for the day when they

history had brought us together again. Before leaving the Miller Farm that day, Clarence and I promised Arl and Alice to return one day and volunteer with them.

As the miles slipped behind us on our trip home, my mind wandered to a family vacation in the late 1930s when my dad decided to retrace the footsteps of Adventist pioneers. Roots in our family history were deeply influenced by the writings of Ellen White. Listening to bedtime stories of how Grandpa Venden read himself into the Church through *The Great Controversy*, I gained an appreciation for our Adventist heritage. This was definitely something that Daniel and Nellie Venden wanted to pass along to all three of their daughters.

So, off we went down dusty roads to places such as the Washington, New Hampshire, church; Ellen White's birthplace near Gorham, Maine; and Battle Creek, Michigan, to see the very house where Mrs. White penned *The Great Controversy*. After marrying Clarence, I learned that his grandfather also joined the Adventist Church by reading *The Great Controversy* in his Wisconsin farmhouse, not many miles from where my grandfather lived.

When we served as a missionary doctor and nurse in the Far East, this common heritage bond took us to Ellen White's Sunnyside home in Australia. Later, it contributed to many enjoyable Sabbath afternoon stops at Sister White's Elmshaven home near St. Helena Hospital where Clarence worked for 27 years.

As my husband neared retirement, we thought about the promise we had made seven years earlier to volunteer with Arl and Alice. During this span of time, we enjoyed receiving the *Adventist Heritage Ministry Bulletin* edited by Alice. Stories of evangelistic opportunities at the William Miller Farm, the Hiram Edson Barn near Port Gibson, New York, and Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek caught our imaginations. We

determined to dedicate our golden years to this wonderful ministry.

Alice, of course, was thrilled to learn that our volunteering days were ready to begin, and she scheduled us for a two-week stint in the summer of 1999 at Historic Adventist Village. Our stays over the past eight years have lasted anywhere from one week to five months. The first four visits each came at the end of a long trip from St. Helena, and the last four originated from Apopka, Florida, after we moved to the southeast to be near our daughter, Bonnie Quigley, and her family.

What a joyful experience each visit has been, especially as we conduct tours and talk about *The Great Controversy*, knowing that our families came into the Adventist Church through the message of this book.

What a privilege it is to meet Village guests and blend our conversations of old houses and pioneer people with Bible truths. We are inspired to work there year after year because of the spiritual emphasis in the program.

During the week, Clarence focuses on handyman tasks, while I give tours. The opportunity to fix things and keep them running is very satisfying to Clarence. There is a never-ending list of projects waiting to be done at the Village. I enjoy the tours because I love to pass along the Bible stories, present truth, and Good News of the Gospel to our visitors, many of whom are not Adventists.

As we consider the commitment of the pioneers, I think of the sermon my dad used to preach, "How Much Do I Owe to These Who Have Gone Before?" I believe we owe everything to their dedication because where would our Church be today if it weren't for them?

Clearly, I see God's handiwork as He led the early pioneers, step by step, into their understanding of Scripture. Truly, their lives are a source of inspiration that keeps me focused on Christ and our mission to preach the Gospel to the ends of the Earth, so Jesus can come again to take us home.

**"I love to pass along the Bible stories, present truth, and the Good News of the Gospel to our visitors."**

# FROM VISION to Victory

ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRY  
CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Adventist Heritage Ministry (AHM) is celebrating 25 years of its unique evangelism outreach that helps people remember—or learn—how God led in establishing the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Heritage Weekend events across North America take church members and guests down memory lane "in the footsteps of Adventist pioneers." The Heritage Weekend anniversary celebration scheduled in the Southern Union is February 23-24 at the Forest Lake church in Apopka, Florida.

Through restored or replicated properties and stories of the pioneers, AHM strengthens the confidence of Adventists, draws interest from non-members to the history and beliefs of this Church, and develops a spirit of commitment and consecration to fulfill the Churches' mission.

The William Miller Home and Farm near Whitehall, New York; the Hiram Edson Barn and Farm near Port Gibson, New York; Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan; and the recently purchased Joseph Bates Home in Fairhaven, Massachusetts; are powerful centers for evangelism supported by private donations and volunteers who handle the operations and upkeep.

For more information about Heritage Weekend events, call AHM President Tom Neslund at 949-581-5513 or visit [www.adventistheritage.org](http://www.adventistheritage.org)

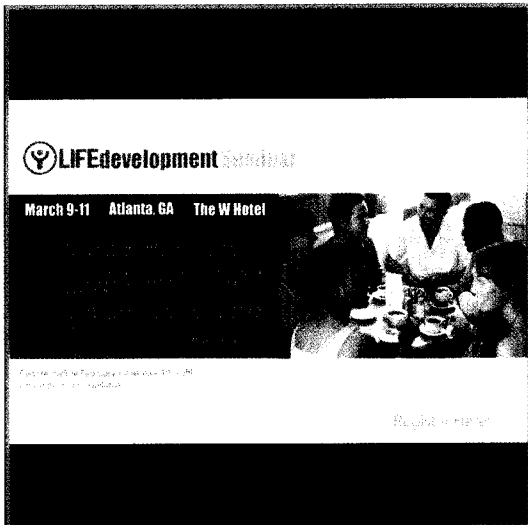


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# Georgia-Cumberland Conference Initiates New Ministry to Postmoderns

BY SARAH K. ASAFTEI

American culture, once predominantly Christian, is rapidly transforming into a pluralistic society which now practices a variety of Christian and non-Christian beliefs. Only 38 percent of Americans attend church weekly, and each new generation seems to drift further away.



We call this unchurched generation "postmoderns." The emerging culture is filled with people who believe in spirituality, but not religion. They are free-thinkers, open-minded, and highly relational. They love community and friendships. And, they do not typically respond well to traditional public evangelism.

So what should we do? How do we reach these people? We do what Jesus did, of course. Love them, meet their needs, teach new ideas, share your personal story.

Western European culture has been postmodern for years. So the

Trans-European Division created LIFEdevelopment, a seven-level discipleship track teaching lay members how to connect, make friends, and share the Gospel.

LIFEdevelopment is about building relationships and telling your personal story. It

is about effective Bible study and sharing life values from scripture. It is about leading your friends to baptism and church membership.

Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) believes ministry

to postmoderns is important in North America, and has become the first Conference in the North American Division to embrace the LIFEdevelopment model. GCC will host the next LIFEdevelopment training conference in March, 2007. Find out how you can

participate at [www.lifedevelopment.us](http://www.lifedevelopment.us), or contact Bill Levin, director of global evangelism and church planting for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, at [wflevin@gccsda.com](mailto:wflevin@gccsda.com).



*LIFEdevelopment groups meet across Europe to study the scriptures and make friends. Georgia-Cumberland is currently developing a network of LIFEgroups in North America as well.*

## SURF — Now Open to Depositors

The Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF) board has voted to open SURF to all members of the Southern Union constituency currently residing in the Southern Union territory effective immediately. Based on approved state caps, the Union can grow the fund by at least \$40,000,000, in addition to the \$154,000,000 currently in the fund.

The current interest rates are four and a half percent for depositors and six and a half percent for loans to churches and institutions. These rates are very attractive to churches and institutions who need to borrow funds, and to depositors who have as its main goal the mission

of church growth in the Southern Union.

The SURF board realizes that CDs and other investments currently have the potential for higher returns to depositors due to a more positive investment market. As a result, some of the depositors that came in to SURF four and five years ago when SURF rates were higher than CDs have now withdrawn its funds for higher rates elsewhere, thus creating a need to reopen SURF.

This provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the Southern Union who are interested in investing in the mission of the eight conferences and educational institutions in the Southern Union.

SURF is open to all members of the Southern Union through its eight local conferences. SURF is currently taking demand note applications, and will continue to offer investment opportunities until the \$40,000,000 goal has been reached.

The purpose and goal of SURF has always been to provide low cost loans to churches and institutions in the Southern Union, as well as to provide a reasonable rate of return to depositors who are willing to invest long-term to fund church growth in the Southern Union.

SURF is considered a 90-day demand note. This means that withdrawals from the fund could

take up to 90 days to be fulfilled. However, most requests for withdrawal are handled within the same week the request is made. SURF funds must be loaned to churches and institutions, or re-invested to achieve a rate of return equal or greater than the interest rate paid to depositors in order to be viable. For large withdrawals it may require selling some investments, and SURF needs a reasonable time frame to accomplish the sale.

For more information about the Southern Union Revolving Fund, please contact your local conference treasury department.

—BY TOM KAPUSTA

## Protect What Matters Most — Your Family



Take advantage of the opportunity to have Planned Giving & Trust Services assist you with your estate plan this year. Your family is counting on you.

With a thoughtful estate plan you can...

- **Make Provision for Children**  
Be certain your children are financially looked after in a sensible and flexible way.
- **Appoint Guardians**  
Relatives or close friends may be appointed as guardians of your children to ensure they are properly looked after.
- **Protect Dependents**  
Make provision for your spouse or any other individual who might be living with or might be dependent on you.
- **Make Gifts and Legacies**  
Of money, appreciated assets or items, these gifts and legacies may be left to relatives, friends, and charities.

Call your local conference now and schedule an appointment.

Carolina: Randy Terry, 704-596-3200  
Florida: Jose LeGrand, 407-644-5000  
Georgia-Cumberland: Mitch Hazekamp, 706-629-7951  
Gulf States: Tui Pittman, 334-272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee: Lin Powell, 615-859-1391  
South Atlantic: Lawrence Hamilton, 404-792-0535  
South Central: Michael Harpe, 615-226-6500  
Southeastern: Herman Davis, 352-735-3142



## Charlotte Sharon Church Hosts Live Nativity



RON QUICK

O holy night, the stars were brightly shining as the wise men approached the newly born Savior on that long ago evening in Bethlehem. And on the nights of December 16 and 17, the Charlotte Sharon church portrayed its version of that original Christmas during its first ever live nativity.

Guests were able to drive through and view the different scenes. There were Mary and Joseph

and their newborn being greeted by three kings from the East. And from above, an angel appeared before the shepherds as they went about their duties. There were even live animals for the children to pet and enjoy.

One hundred cars came through the live nativity each night, and every guest received a copy of "Who are the Seventh-day Adventists." They were also

offered cider and cookies to enjoy while they gazed at the Christmas scenes.

This special event was planned with community outreach in mind.

"Each person who drives through this nativity is one more person who has been to our church," said one member.

"All they have to do is remember how to come back again. And it's up to us to jog their memory!"

—BY BECKY CARPENTER



## Asheville-Pisgah Church School Burns Note

Although October 14, 2006, was a brisk day in the mountains of Asheville, N.C., the constituents of Asheville-Pisgah Church School were not discouraged from gathering for its second annual tent service on the school grounds.

Last year's service was a grand opening celebration for the newly renovated school. This year, the group celebrated with a note burning ceremony. By God's grace and a uni-

fied community effort, the \$1.3 million project has gone from a dream to a debt-free reality in a matter of five years.

Future plans for the school include a new cafeteria and kitchen, a gymnasium, and an early childhood development center. The building committee hopes to begin work on the next phase by the summer of 2007.

—BY JANESTA WALKER





## Charlotte Sharon's Inner-City Outreach



RON QUICK

Several years ago, Joe Leone was sitting in a hotel room in downtown Charlotte listening to a woman share stories from the Bible. A drug addict at the time, he listened to Ellie Green share the love of her Savior, and it touched

his heart. He made the decision to give his life to Christ.

Leone (pictured above, center) has since been spending time sharing his faith with others in the inner-city. This past Christmas holiday he teamed up

with Green and one of her pastors, Ted Huskins (pictured below, right), of the Charlotte Sharon church, to bring toys to inner-city children.

The location was the Mega Food Baazar, a Hispanic multi-purpose store, which includes a grocery, cafe, and even an auto body shop. Donations of money and toys were given by Charlotte Sharon church members, and advertisements were distributed around town to invite underprivileged children. While there, the children could also enjoy having their face painted and sample hot food provided by Mega Food Baazar.

As the presents were handed out by Nate Fortunato, Ted Huskins, pastor, prayed with the parents and invited them to church for a live nativity later. It is hoped that these families will not forget the care they received this holiday season from Joe Leone and his new church family.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER



## Literature Distributed to Parade Onlookers

"Wise Men Still Seek Him" was the theme for this year's entry into the annual Monroe, N.C., Christmas parade. Onlookers could see Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus as they entertained their guests: the three kings from the Orient and three men from today's modern world.

Where else can you go to get an audience with 10,000 people eager to receive literature about your beliefs? More than 2,000 booklets consisting of the first few chapters of *The Desire of Ages* were handed out by members of the Monroe church to parade goers. The children loved receiving gifts such as

*My Little Friend* booklets. Sometimes running to keep up, church members had to be quick to distribute the books and not be left behind by the float.

Although the Monroe church did not win Best Christian Float as they had



BECKY CARPENTER

in year's past, it was most definitely a winner in the witnessing category. Comments were heard as viewers caught a glimpse of the meaning of the

float. "Now that's really cool," they said.

Teaching you about the love of Christ and His plan to save you from your sins? Yes, that is really cool.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

## Florida Churches are Tailgating for Jesus



PAM ADAMS

*Raised tailgates signal that supper is being served to the homeless in Orlando, Fla., by Tailgaters for Jesus.*



PHOTOS: LEE BENNETT



George (right), who enjoys the Sabbath suppers provided by Tailgaters for Jesus, has lived on the streets since 1992. "George is like a papa to many of the other homeless and is an advocate for them," says Pam Adams (left). "I try to be there for them just like the Tailgaters are here for me," George responds. "These people are God's loving hands. They meet our needs, and the Bible says God blesses people who care for the least of these."

Dennis is a homeless man with a heart condition who lives in Orlando, Fla. Each Sabbath afternoon he rejoices at the sight of parked cars with raised tailgates, knowing that a

Tailgaters for Jesus and ACTS (Active Christian Team Services) provided breakfast to more than 600 homeless at Inaugural Project Homeless Connect, sponsored by the city of Orlando.

group of members from several central Florida Adventist churches have come with a hot meal.

Soon, casseroles, salads, vegetables, fruit, fresh bread, desserts, and bottled water are ready for the 100-plus homeless who consider the spread nothing less than a curbside banquet.

Asked why he walks so far with health problems to this place each week, Dennis responded, "You only have to come once, and you will know why."

The group of tailgate volunteers are led into service each week by Ron and Pam Adams from the Apopka church, and Diane Kelly from Umatilla. "The homeless come for the 'loaves and fishes,'" says Pam. "However, our desire is to give them the 'bread of life' and a drink of the 'living water.'"

For Dennis and his street mates, the two hours with the tailgaters each week are filled with smiles and hugs, a listening ear,

and prayers. "I couldn't believe that you hugged me when I was so dirty," responded one young man.

Practical first aid is offered to the homeless on a regular basis, clothing is made available, and new socks are given out twice a month. A small Bible and reading material are included in the dozens of new backpacks given away that are treasured by recipients who carry in them every earthly possession.

Those who serve rely on the grace of Jesus to teach them how to be more than just another feeding line to those who are down and out. This small missionary band provides hot, home-made meals prepared at their own expense, while they reach out with hands of love to bring comfort and relief to those living on the streets.

Foremost, it is their desire to represent a loving Savior who lived and died for lost and homeless souls.

—BY MARTIN BUTLER

## Children's Ministries Sees Creative Approaches

Creative approaches to children's ministries in Florida Conference are making Sabbath schools, fall festivals, children's church, and vacation Bible schools more fun and spiritually focused than ever.

### Naples Church—

A definite investment is being made in children through the 401 (Kids) Plan. Here, Michelle Crombie and her children's ministries staff hosted the Bible Heroes Unmasked™ Fall Festival, where children dressed up in costumes from Bible times.

The fall curriculum for children's church showed children how to develop a friendship with Jesus. The December children's church feature was Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The children enjoyed visiting the census taker and tasting a variety of breads in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread."

### Fort Myers Church—

Members also hosted a Bible Heroes Unmasked™ Fall Festival family event attended by 275 guests.

A highlight of the festival, coordinated by Susan Whitsett, children's ministries director and her team, was the involvement of one church member's entire family. New Adventists Billie Kay Hollenback and fiancé Michael Roush built Mystery Cave: the Tomb of Jesus, along with her parents, Richard and Donna Hollenback.

Today, Billie and Mike are married, and Billie's



*Naples church member Johanne Benoit captivated her young audience with the scent of frankincense and myrrh in Bethlehem Village created for children's church.*



*Bean bags substituted for stones as Sofia Bonilla tried to bring down Goliath (Frank Kane) at Fort Myers' Fall Festival.*



*Walker Memorial church member Myrna Wright told the children about the process of painting wall murals in the Apopka church's Sabbath school classrooms.*

son, Jerome, is baptized. Billie's parents are attending Bible studies with church elders Roger and Jean Heald in Billie and Mike's home.

### Apopka Church—

Rosa Gomez dreamed that five empty walls in the children's departments could become colorful murals to teach Bible stories.

Remembering that Myrna Wright, a former assistant for Florida Confer-

ence children's ministries, had painted a beautiful mural at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Fla., Rosa asked her to consider the project. Only hours before the women met, a church member handed Rosa an envelope and said, "I want to give a donation. It isn't much, but I hope it helps."

With the envelope unopened, the meeting began to discuss appropriate mural possibilities to

fit the various age groups. Because Myrna loves children's ministries, she offered to paint all five murals for the "great price" of \$200 each.

"When I opened the envelope, there was a donation for \$1,000," says Rosa. "God works in mysterious ways. Now, we have beautiful murals in all the classrooms because He touched two giving hearts."

—BY RHODA BURRILL

## Church Planters Reconnect with God

"We're so busy all the time," said Bill Levin, Conference church planting coordinator. "So many things divide our attention, and we lose our focus."

To help ease the stress for church planters from the metro-Atlanta area, Levin invited them to Cohutta Springs for a weekend retreat. "The idea of this is

to reconnect and to spend some purposeful, meaningful time with God by going through exercises that will help people to strengthen their walk with Him," he said.

The weekend was centered around taking time to slow down and spend time refocusing on God. It included activities such as

prayer, a discussion about the essence of the Sabbath, and how to avoid all the distractions; as well as a segment called "detachment," where attendees could focus on letting go of their unhealthy activities and replacing them with healthy activities.

Scott Harmon came all the way from Dutton, Ala., to attend the retreat. He leads the Community Life Fellowship church plant, is working on a construction project for the church, is working on completing a master's degree, and has a full-time job. He said that this retreat was the first time in 20 years that he was able to "silence" himself enough to really listen to God.

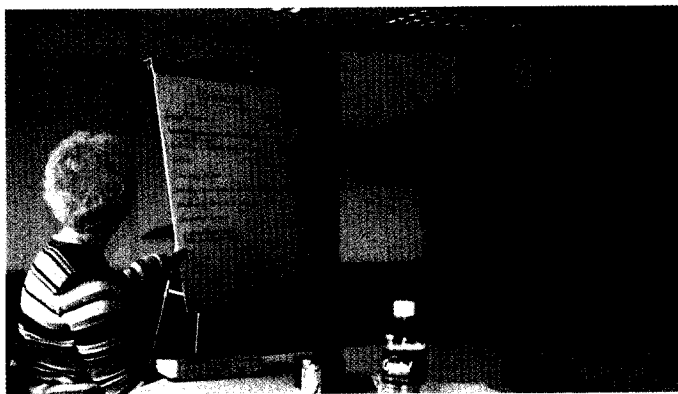
"The thing that I find is that as we get busy, we start trusting more in ourselves and less in God," he said.

"We need to be asking God all the questions and making sure that He's the one influencing our lives rather than us being the dictator of everything we do."

Levin hoped the weekend would help the local leaders reconnect and show that they are appreciated. "They can have a weekend away to rekindle that spark with God, take a breath, and just be able to come back with renewed energy that they didn't have before."

There are currently 10 church plants in the metro-Atlanta area, and the Conference is looking for more people to help with this effort. If you would like to learn more about it, email Bill Levin at [wflevin@gccsda.com](mailto:wflevin@gccsda.com)

—BY REBECCA BROOKS



Bill Levin, Conference church planting coordinator, leads a discussion about healthy and unhealthy Sabbath practices, such as being too busy to hear God speak.

## Teen Leaders Trained at Discovery Weekend

One hundred young people and sponsors could be found traipsing through the woods at Cohutta Springs on the weekend of December 1-3, 2006. They were participating in the Conference's Teen Leadership Training Discovery Weekend. Teen leadership training events are geared for young people in grades nine to 12, who are training to become leaders in the Pathfinder program.

During the weekend, the teens were split into small groups and given coordinates for an activity sta-

tion to find using a Global Positioning System. After finding the station, they had to use their skills to complete a task such as building

a fire, pitching a tarp, or performing first aid.

Once the task was completed, they were given the next set of coordinates.



Pathfinders learned leadership skills in the hills of Cohutta Springs.

Marc Charlotin of Douglasville, Ga., shared his experience from the weekend saying, "It's basically activities that we learn how to work together, and how to plan as a group," he said. "It helps us grow as leaders, both spiritually and out in the world."

He explained that in a situation where a Pathfinder's skills would be useful, "You know how to do it well so you can step up to that position and take it head-on."

—BY REBECCA BROOKS

## Southern Tidings Inspires Service

It all started with an ad in the *Southern Tidings* for an Adventist physician to go to the Montezuma/Oglethorpe community in south Georgia. According to Mickey Rabuka, interim CEO



*The Richards moved to south Georgia after bearing of an ad in the Southern Tidings asking for an Adventist physician to go there.*

of the Flint River Hospital in Montezuma, the area is "medically underserved" and needs more physicians.

Christopher Richards' father, Clyde, saw the *Southern Tidings* ad and placed his son in touch with the Flint River Hospital.

In October, 2006, Christopher Richards, M.D., and his family moved to Montezuma, where he began his medical practice with Richard Chase, M.D., a well-known and respected Adventist physician.

"We thank God for our Adventist upbringing and Adventist educational experiences, which have adequately prepared us to serve this rural community and those with whom we come in contact," shared

Richards.

Rabuka is glad the ad in the *Southern Tidings* brought another Adventist physician to the area.

"I am delighted that we were able to attract Dr. Richards to Montezuma, where he serves in a medically underserved area, and also build support and recognition for the local Seventh-day Adventist church," stated Rabuka.

Richards and his wife, Vanda, have three young sons: Cameron, Jalani, and Jabari. Vanda is a registered nurse trained in midwifery. The family enjoys outdoor life, which includes hiking, walking, outdoor sports, church and youth activities, singing, and meeting people.

—BY CLYDE RICHARDS

## Nicoras Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary



*Muriel and William Nicora*

William and Murie Nicora of Greeneville, Tenn., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on November 25, 2006. William was born in New York City; Muriel is the former Muriel Daves, born in Morganton, N.C.

They were married in Kingston, N.Y., on November 25, 1936. William retired from Takoma Adventist Hospital, where he was head of purchasing, and shipping and receiving. Muriel retired from the dietary department at Takoma Adventist Hospital.

Their three children and their spouses are: Jeanne and Mike Odell of Greeneville, Tenn.; Betty and Jan Staaberg of Burbank, Calif.; and Robert and Gail Nicora of Santa Ana, Calif. The Nicoras have eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## McDonald Road Hosts CHIP

The McDonald Road, Tenn., church had the privilege of hosting the first CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) session sponsored by the Conference during the months of September and October, 2006.

While the CHIP program has been held in churches throughout the Conference, the program held at the McDonald Road church was the first of a unique Conference-sponsored CHIP outreach in the Chattanooga area.

CHIP is an intensive 30-day lifestyle

education program, which offers before-and-after blood glucose, cholesterol and triglyceride tests, cooking demonstrations, food samples, guided grocery shopping trips, and scientifically-backed lectures supporting healthful lifestyle choices (regular exercise, a



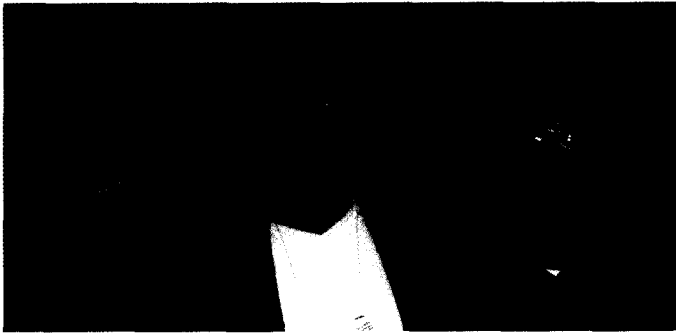
*Twenty people attended the seminars during the four-week CHIP series.*

total vegetarian diet, as well as emotional and spiritual health) that will allow participants to build a foundation for a healthier, happier way of living.

McDonald Road's CHIP participants certainly found exciting results as they put CHIP principles into practice. During the course of the four-week series, attendees lost as much as 10 to 26 pounds. One diabetic participant experienced a drastic cut in high blood glucose levels, from well into the 180s to below 100.

—BY MELISSA TURNER

## Literature Evangelists Throw Out Life Preservers



Tim Barker (left), and Bob Eads (right), stand with Dan Shannon, their district publishing director. All recently attended the Southern Union Literature Evangelists' Convention at Stone Mountain, Ga.

Though many of the places along the Mississippi Gulf Coast still look like a bomb hit the area, Tim Barker, who works there as a literature evangelist, is not discouraged.

Barker's face lights up as he tells of a woman he visited not too long ago. When he received a card requesting information on the *Bible Story and Reference Library* from someone in Picayune, Miss., Barker knew what to expect.

More than a year after Hurricane Katrina struck, Picayune was still a town of FEMA trailers and blue tarpaulins on roofs. Ashley wanted the books, but was still waiting for a large insur-

ance settlement.

Barker had heard stories like hers many times, so thinking that he'd never hear from her again, he reluctantly made out a contract for the books, gave Ashley his address, and prayed with her. When the prayer was over, Ashley asked, "Do you think suicide is a sin?" At first he thought she was asking because of a relative who had recently died, but the look on her face told a different story. Offering a silent prayer for wisdom, Barker encouraged her and gave her a copy of *Steps to Christ*. "I'd be too afraid to do it anyway," Ashley assured him.

Barker and his wife put Ashley on their prayer list, and he determined that he would visit with her the next time he was in the area.

A few days later he received a note in the mail. The note read, "Thank you for encouraging and praying with me when I was going through a tough time." Ashley had signed the note and enclosed a money order for enough to pay for all the books.

"The Earth is a sinking ship, and literature evangelists are throwing out life preservers," Barker explains.

A little more than two years ago, Barker, who was raised a Seventh-day Adventist, rededicated his life to God. He felt a desire to do something more for the Lord. Several weeks earlier, a literature evangelist who attends the same church as Barker does, gave him a pamphlet about the literature work. One day as Barker was praying, asking God to lead him to know what to do with his life, the pamphlet fell out of his Bible. "You've got to be kidding, Lord," Barker

thought. "The last thing I wanted to do was sell books," Barker says. But, the Lord kept impressing him, and in October, 2005, he began his literature evangelist ministry.

In 2006, Barker placed more than \$68,000 worth of books in the homes of the people in his area.

Bob Eads is a literature evangelist who has worked in the Pensacola, Fla., area for two and a half years. Eads specializes in selling the *Foods that Heal* set of books and always tries to include *The Desire of Ages*.

Eads' greatest joy comes when he has the opportunity to pray with his customers. He also enjoys giving his customers the *Final Days* book and DVD set. Last year, he gave more than 250 of these to his customers. "The literature evangelism ministry is the most rewarding thing I've ever done. Everyday I get to introduce someone to Jesus," explains Eads. Last year, he left \$57,000 worth of books in the homes of the people in the Pensacola area.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## New Church Group Forms in Foley

A new Hispanic church group started in Foley, Ala. The group was formed six months ago when several Hispanic members from the Blue Angel and University Parkway churches decided to begin work in the Foley area because of the large

Hispanic population.

The members meet in a rented building on the outskirts of town. They formed several small Bible study groups in their homes, and invited their friends and neighbors to the studies. After a few meetings, the

guests attending the small group meetings are invited to church.

"The members of the Foley church are investing many hours to missionary work," explains Tui Pitman, Conference Hispanic coordinator. "I witnessed

results of this investment a few weeks ago as members followed Johnny Castro, pastor, to the beach where two new members united their lives with Christ through baptism."

—BY TUI PITMAN

## Women's Ministries Hosts Autumn Renewal



*Eye exams were a part of the free health screening.*

Two women's ministries Autumn Renewals during the first weekends of November, 2006, brought the Conference's women and their friends to Camp Alamisco for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

The women listened

intently as Penny Estes Wheeler, the guest speaker for both weekends, led them in a series of worship talks. Wheeler is a book editor for the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

A special feature on each weekend was a free health fair which was conducted by a medical ministries team from the Birmingham First church.

The purpose of the fair was to give the women tools with which to take possession of their health.

The team of nurses and a physician offered eye exams; chair massages; and blood sugar, cholesterol, blood pressure, and hearing screenings. Health seminars were also given on a variety of subjects.

A special invitation and welcome was given to women from the Hispanic churches in the Conference. Jessica Nazerenus, a member of the women's ministries council, was in charge of the translation.

Janice Shipbaugh, women's ministries director, and the women's ministries

council spent many hours preparing for the retreat. "Our prayer is that everything we plan will build up the women's spirit so that they will return to their families visibly renewed with optimism and grace," explains Shipbaugh.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



*The women brought their friends to Camp Alamisco for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship.*

## Dothan Church Honors Senior Members on Grandparent's Day

Pathfinders and other members of the Dothan, Ala., church hosted a sit-down dinner honoring the oldest members of its church.

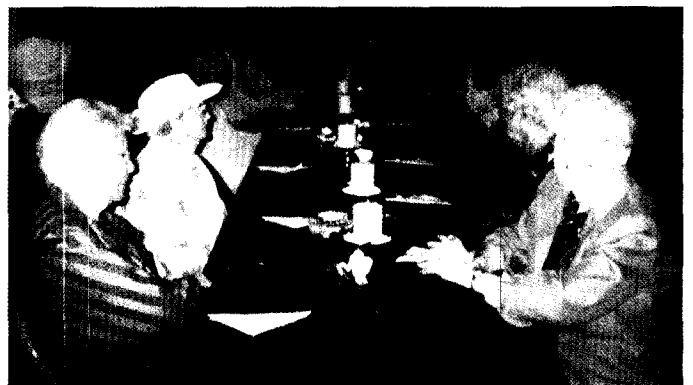
A beautifully decorated room with candles and flowers on the tables greeted the record number of guests who attended. The program, which included music, special readings, and tributes, was presented by the adult members while the Pathfinders served the meal.

An honors table was

reserved for guests who were 75 years of age or older. The oldest woman was Murriel Peterson who is 100 years old, and the oldest man was E.B. Smith who is 97. Twelve senior members were honored.

The honored guests shared memories, testimonies of faith, trust, love, and belief in God and Jesus Christ who brought them through various experiences.

Eric Bates, pastor, challenged each person to let these members be an



*An honors table was reserved for guests who were 75 years of age or older.*

example of how we all can become an inspiration to others. The program was

organized by Brenda Jones.

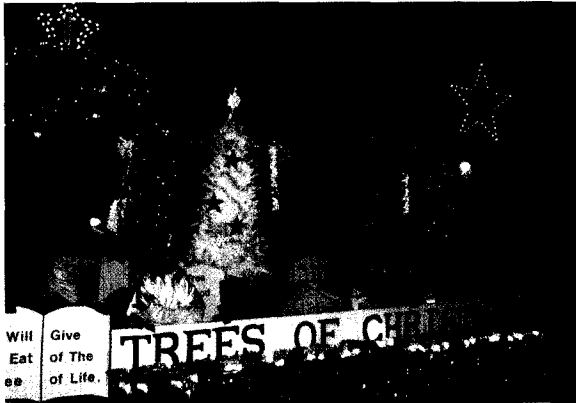
—BY PATRICIA THOMAS

## Columbia Presents Trees of Christmas

More than 20 members of the Columbia, Ky., church participated in the annual Adair County Christmas parade. Braving 30-degree weather, the members walked or rode the two-mile parade route with their float named "Trees of Christmas." More than 75 other organizations from throughout Adair and adjacent counties participated in this year's parade.

The theme of the

parade was "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." In keeping with the theme,



the church float had three sections depicting past, present, and future events in the salvation story—the

manger, a white Christmas tree with the ornaments of love, faith, kindness, mercy, and Heaven's tree of life. Riding on the float were seven children and one adult dressed like Joseph, Mary, and various children of the world.

The work of building the float was accomplished

in a large metal building adjacent to the church property.

One church member

contributed an 8' x 16' trailer for the float. Other church members supplied the trees, lights, water fountain, and other float supplies. A generator was mounted on the tongue of the trailer to supply electricity for the lights and the fountain. Members passed out balloons and pencils with the words "Jesus Loves You" during the length of the parade route. This was the third time the church has had a float in the Adair County Christmas parade.

—BY CAROL THOMAS

## Pathfinders Conduct Annual Food Drive



The South Louisville Pathfinder Club has been collecting food and clothing for those in need since the club was organized 46 years ago.

They distributed flyers to neighboring homes on October 25, 2006. The flyers, attached to a large paper bag, informed that the Pathfinders would be collecting food and clothing on Sunday afternoon, October 29.

In response, the Path-

finders collected more than 1,685 food items and donations of \$62 in cash. They also received 686 items of clothing.

The food and cash donations were used for Thanksgiving and holiday baskets, which the church prepared for the less fortunate in the area. The South Louisville church community ministries will distribute clothing as needed.

—BY ELSIE HIGGINBOTHAM

## A Faithful Witness

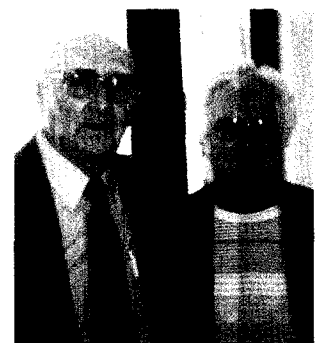
Frances Vinson's spiritual journey began in the Baptist and Methodist churches. The journey continued when she began taking Bible studies from a former Adventist missionary. She was eager to know more about the Sabbath, which she knew to be Saturday from reading the Ten Commandments as a child.

Vinson was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist, along with two of her friends in 1947, in a creek near Lockport, Ky.

After becoming an Adventist, Vinson became an effective witness for Jesus. She worked as a literature evangelist for a while. She remembers selling a book to her brother, Stanley Smith, who became an Adventist in the early 1960s. In 1979 her mother became an Adventist.

Several years ago, with the help of Vinson and many others, an Adventist church was established in Shelby County, Ky. At 82, she is still an active member of the Shelbyville church.

—BY DARWIN FOLEY



Frances Vinson with her brother, Stanley Smith



## Got Hope? — Appalachian Outreach

For the last 17 years, Appalachian Outreach has been an integral part of the program at Madison Academy.

During the years, other schools have joined with Madison Academy in the annual outreach. Last fall, 95 students and adult staff from four Adventist academies, converged on eastern Kentucky to accomplish several projects. Alan Craig, director of maintenance at Madison Academy, coordinates Appalachian Outreach and arranges for the projects.

Students built two decks on a home for children born with Down's syndrome. The home, owned and operated by Ron and Joan Krider, who have a daughter of their own with Down's syndrome, had been built, but needed a deck on the front and back.

One deck was to be 12' x 78' and nine feet above ground; the other deck was to be 10' x 32'. Craig feared that the materials alone would cost more than what was raised for a single project. The very next week, a check arrived in the mail for \$11,111.11, from a donor in Indiana who heard about Appalachian Outreach. It was enough to cover the cost of the materials.

The group also cleaned and made



Alan Craig (center) with Jerry and Sandy Tucker (seated)

repairs to the home of a widow. When they were finished, the woman pulled a Kleenex box from under her bed which contained money. She poured the money into a brown paper bag explaining that it was "tithe" money she had been saving. She wanted the students to use it to help someone else.

Housing and feeding a group this large presents a logistical challenge. Several years ago, one of the projects benefited the Galilean Home, operated by Jerry and Sandy Tucker, near Liberty, Ky. Since then, Appalachian Outreach has been invited to use their gymnasium, which is equipped with a commercial-type kitchen and showers. The Galilean Home operates a medical



ward with 19 full-time patients, an orphanage, a school, a food pantry for the community, and cares for children of women in prison.

Every year, there are miracles. A couple who came with the group from the state of Washington, were so impressed with the Galilean Home, they told Craig they wanted to give \$10,000 to the home and \$25,000 for future Appalachian Outreach projects. When the check arrived, instead of \$10,000, it was for \$100,000.

When asked, "Why do you do this?" Craig immediately responds, "For the kids. I want them to know that being a Christian is fun."

"When we go to a home to help someone, I thank them for allow-

ing me to bring teenagers in," says Craig. While the projects benefit the people, Craig will tell you that the real beneficiaries are the students who experience the joy of service to others by developing and using the skills God gave them. It gives the students a different perspective on life. "It took me a few years to figure that out. The first few years I just wanted to get things done."

The theme of last fall's project was "Got Hope?" It is the students' way of bringing hope to others. "Our intention is not necessarily to make Adventists out of the people we help," says Craig, "but we do know that lives have been touched, and there are people today who are Adventists because of Appalachian Outreach."

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN



One of the decks built by the Appalachian Outreach group



The widow's house before...

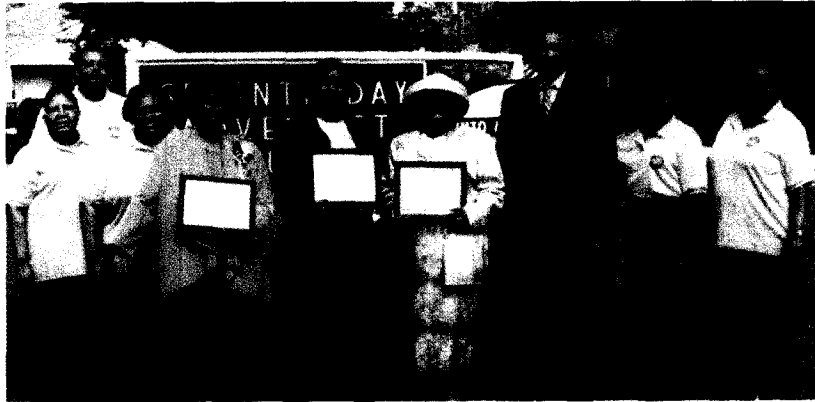


...and after

## Zion Temple Honors Community Volunteers

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) of the Zion Temple church in Greenwood, S.C., held a recognition program on Sabbath, September 23, 2006.

Five individuals, three from the community and two church members, were recognized for many years of voluntary services rendered in the Greenwood community. Edith Childs, Arlene Morgan, Lula Felts, Madeline Adams,



*Earline Watts (left), community services assistant secretary/treasurer; Alex Chappell, clerical assistant; Pam Anderson, community services leader; Lula Felts, award recipient; Arlene Morgan, award recipient; Edith Childs, award recipient; Patrick Carter, pastor; Annie Gilchrist, assistant community services leader; and Nancy Light, secretary/treasurer.*

and Robert Williams, were recognized. The volunteers are well known, loved, and appreciated in the Green-

wood community.

They were awarded certificates, key chains, and community services information pages, which contains information about the services of ACS. The volunteers continue to serve others as often as possible.

ACS serves the community by operating a clothes closet, food pantry, and provide services wherever and whenever they can.

—BY ARLENE MORGAN

## Philadelphia Conducts First Youth Week of Prayer

The youth of the Philadelphia church in Council, N.C., made history as they presented the first youth week of prayer in October, 2006. The young people, ranging from age 12-25, designed the program, picked the sermon topics, and attended every night, including Sabbath. The theme was "Jesus, the Lord of All of My Life."

The youth also presented all the music, served as deacons, ushers, and elders during the divine worship service.

The speakers for the event were Adrienne Hardin, 14; Carrielle Simmons, 11; Shianne Webb, 14; Egbunike Richardson, 12; Jarrod Webb, 16; Belmont Jackson, 15; and Sharonda Chancy, 25. Belmont Jackson and Jarrod Webb

served as youth deacons, Terrence Burney and Joshua McMillan assisted as ushers, and nine-year-old Tori Simmons presented the children's story.

Each speaker was assigned an elder as a mentor to assist with the preparation the sermons. The Sabbath before the week of prayer, a consecration service was held for the youth speakers. The program format each night consisted of a 30-minute service followed



*Week of prayer youth speakers and their mentors*

by a 30-minute interactive youth health fair presented by the health ministries leaders. A fun and interactive AYS program, presented by Yolonda Hardin, was a fitting conclusion. The service concluded with a prayer of conse-

cration for the youth and children.

The Philadelphia church members, invited guests, and Everton Ennis, pastor, supported the nightly meetings.

—BY VONZELL CHANCEY

## Music: An Art and a Craft

Music plays an important role in the design of the worship service. To help promote this the music ministries department at the Maranatha church in Atlanta, Ga., held symposiums in October and November, 2006, approaching music from the concept, "It all begins with God." Del Patrick, Maranatha's minister of music, organized the workshops, which focused on creating harmony and precision.

During the first session in October, Patrick explained the basic concepts of the ministry and the importance of every participant grasping what is expected of them as a

member of a team—a team that always aspires to conform to God's principles and character.

Sue Mitchell-Hampton of the Love Divine Christian Center facilitated the second session in November. An accomplished musician and teacher of music theory, she spoke about diplomacy and professionalism when building the ministry.

Mitchell-Hampton stated how Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs flow from lives where God's Word dwells in lives controlled by the Holy Spirit. She shared numerous techniques and strategies based on Biblical guidelines.



Sue Mitchell-Hampton (left), presenter; and Del Patrick, organizer, at Maranatha's recent symposiums

The coined expression "we're in this together" captured the intent of the sessions. Those in attendance achieved a renewed purpose for being part of a

ministry with a true purpose—a purpose to deliver a message of praise and worship proclaiming God's name and attributes.

—BY GWEN CLAYTON

## Small Church Exhibits a Big Heart



Myrtle Grove church members volunteer in the community services center.

Recently, WWAY, a local Wilmington, N. C., television station featured a story about a "small church with a big heart," the Myrtle Grove church.

In 2003, the church's community services department sought to provide vital help to families in the Wilmington area who were unemployed, and to those who were in need.

In an outreach

effort, the church desired to launch a food pantry. After months of hard work and dedication, the dream of a pantry became a reality.

The pantry's service to the community has grown over the past three years, from 38 to 219 clients, which includes residents of Solomon Towers, a local public housing complex. One resident said, "It makes us feel like we're important, that we mean something to somebody."

Once a month volunteers from the Myrtle Grove church, collect and bag commodities from a local food bank and

distribute them to approximately 84 residents living in the towers. The pantry also provides services that include health and lifestyle improvement classes. According to Pearlie Peterson, the church's community services program leader, "This program has been a long-time dream come true."

—BY MARK WADE

## District Conducts Adventurer and Pathfinder Day

From Naples to Homestead, North Miami Beach to Carol City, Little Haiti to Little Havana, hundreds of Eager Beavers, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Master Guide candidates assembled for district five's annual Adventurer and Pathfinder Day.



*Eager Beavers, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Master Guide candidates participate in the honors day program.*

For one year they prepared for the event, which was held at Jerusalem church on October 14, 2006.

The participants read, researched, completed assignments, attended camps, and honor day programs. Finally they would be invested in their respective AYS/Pathfinder classes.

The investiture ceremony began with the Master Guide candidates who had been working in the district since January.

These leaders were not only active in their own clubs,

but they also devoted time to mastering the Pathfinder curriculum in the 2006 Master Guide class.

The class was facilitated by Master Guides James Crider and Jason King.

Crider and King proudly presented the candidates to the district five coordinator Emmanuel Cesar.

Cesar then proceeded to present them to Ivan Sankey, Conference Pathfinder Federation president.

Once the candidates made the passage to Mas-



*Master Guide candidates receive the Master Guide regalia during the investiture ceremony.*

ter Guides, they joined the other Master Guides in pinning the young people who were invested as Friends, Companions, Explorers, Rangers, Voyagers, and Guides.

—BY EMMANUEL CESAR

## Conference Teachers Achieve Certification

For the first time in the 25-year history of the Conference, every teacher possesses North American Division teacher certification.

The 100 percent certification was one of the primary goals of Elisa Young, Conference education superintendent, when she was appointed to the post in 2004.

To that end, Young developed the Oakwood-Southeastern Teacher Institute.

The Institute, a partnership between the Conference education department and the Oakwood College department of education, bring teachers and an Oak-

wood professor together for a two-week in-service every summer.

Since the implementation of the Institute in 2005, more than 60 teachers from the Southeastern and Florida conferences have participated in the program, which is conducted by Frances Bliss, Ph.D., professor of education.

Course offerings are determined by the examination of every teacher's transcript.

Prior to the implementation of the Institute, teachers seeking certification courses hoped that either Oakwood College, Southern Adventist University, or another institution would offer

the course(s) they needed.

The program has made it convenient for teachers to achieve and maintain denominational certification.

The North American Division office of educa-

tion establishes certification requirements for elementary and secondary education personnel. NAD offers two types of certification, basic and professional.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



*Frances Bliss (right), Ph.D., examines Tiffany McNeally's class project during the Oakwood-Southeastern Teacher Institute.*

## Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Education



Lillie Wishop (center) with Delores Smith, principal; and Malcolm White, pastor

The Elim church and school, located in St. Petersburg, Fla., recognized

one of its oldest students, Lillie Wishop, who was among the first graduates, on November 4, 2006. She is part of the history of Elim Junior Academy.

Wishop recalls the wonderful days she spent attending the church school.

Bible, reading, and math were her favorite subjects. She says, "Bible was my favorite subject out of them all. If it had not been for the Word of God, I would not be here today."

"Ninety-plus years of life is no small task or feat, but a gift from God," said Renee Flowers, city council vice chair, who bestowed on Wishop a gift and the key to the city.

Malcolm White, pastor, and Delores Smith, principal, presented Wishop with a plaque acknowledging a legacy of the school, which was founded in 1931, and located at 2101 9th Avenue South. It was initially housed in the church for grades one to 10.

In 1954, a new school building was erected adjacent to the church. The

school thrived for more than 30 years at this location until 1964, when it was demolished by fire.

New property was purchased at 801 6th Avenue South. The school returned to the annex of the church.

Then in the fall of 1988, a new building was constructed, and the junior academy opened its doors in the new complex.

Elim continues to provide quality Christian education in the community, and has done so for the past 75 years.

—BY RENEE WHITE

## Christian Short Film Takes Center Stage

"I wanted to create a short film that would change the way young people live their lives today," stated Desmond Hunt, who attends the Mt. Sinai church in Orlando, Fla.

Hunt, with the assistance of his wife, Brenda, produced the short Christian film *Obedience*. *Obedience* takes a look at the consequences of the decisions young people make today.

It is the first in a series of short films that he plans to produce entitled "It's My Decision." Hunt hopes that the series will foster a much needed dialog between the youth and adults.

Hunt and his wife began a video ministry in New York when the couple began delivering videos of church services to the sick and shut-

in members of the Linden church.

Hunt, a professional videographer since 1991, felt impressed to broaden the scope of the video ministry to include the production of short Christian films after attending TechMin, a Southeastern technology ministry conference, where he was introduced to the SONscreen film festival.

The SONscreen film festival ([www.sonscreen.info](http://www.sonscreen.info)) is a North American Division initiative produced by Stacia Dulan.

Hunt states, "I give God all the praise for our ministry in video through the years. I also thank God for a good and supportive wife. Brenda has assisted me in many areas and is always ready to pick up a camera and shoot

at a moment's notice."

According to the Barna Group, (a market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans, and the intersection of faith and culture), more Americans satisfy their spiritual needs by consuming religious-based media content (146,000,000) than attend church (142,000,000) on a weekly bases.

There have been a number of religious/Christian themed films produced, which includes, *The Passion*, *A Bethlehem Story*, *Woman Thou Art Loosed*, and the popular *Left Behind* series.

Despite the fact that these films are not based on Adventist doctrines, an increasing number of Adventist youth are watching them in



Desmond Hunt

their homes.

Hunt hopes that his films will supplant those films, and envisions that his short films will be viewed in small group settings and AYS programs throughout the Conference.

Hunt plans to produce at least two short films per year. You can view a trailer of *Obedience* at [www.sec-sda.org](http://www.sec-sda.org)

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

# Living the Victorious Life

BY SHIRLEY IHEANACHO

the... Harris, PhD, a... powerful... "We are not Grasshoppers." She encouraged the women to get out of their comfort zones and reach out in ministry to children and youth everywhere.

Each day began with early morning intensive prayer sessions, coordinated by Angela Nicholas, petitioning God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

Friday encompassed enriching and educational seminars: "What's Your Body Saying to You?" "The Power of a Praying Woman," "Creative Parenting in the 21st Century," "Married Life—God's Way," "Victory

*Shirley Scott (left), Cynthia Prime, Sabbath speaker, and Laura Smith, women's ministries director for the Southern Union, follow along during scripture reading.*

on the Battlefield," "Living a Victorious Life," "Getting Older—Staying Young," "Becoming Debt Free," and many more.

Friday evening vespers set the stage for the communion service as Sharon Carney from Louisville, Kentucky, shared a soul-searching devotional, which focused on the

character... Christ's dis... we as Chris... those chara... conclusion o... of red paper... to attendees... anything tha... them from b... meet Jesus.

... the papers were placed... It was sobering... as the cross became covered with red paper... representing the blood of Jesus that flowed from the side of Calvary for our sins.

The highlight of the weekend was the communion service officiated by elder Cheryl Galley, Ph.D., psychology professor and head elder at Oakwood College, and Shirley Scott, women's ministries director at South Central Conference. The ballroom was transformed into an upper room experience. An old rugged cross, draped with a purple cloth and a crown of thorns, which emanated sparkling lights took center stage. Behind the head table was a large picture of Jesus standing with outstretched hands,



*Participants were recognized for their labor of love*

beckoning everyone to come to Him and find rest. The banquet tables were covered with white cloth and emblems of Christ's broken body. Scott admonished the women to be lights for Jesus—the Light of the world.

coordinator for the retreat. Everyone was blessed by the music rendered by the choir, praise team, and soloists. The retreat choir prepared our hearts for divine worship as they sang, "We are not Ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the

Power of Salvation." "Destined to Win" was the title of the worship message by Cynthia Prime. She emphasized that "Winning is possible only in the presence of potential loss. Victory is possible only when defeat is an alternative. There is nothing to lose if there is nothing to gain."

day evening recreation coordinated by Sonia Paul was a time for fun, fellowship, laughter, and special recognitions. On Sunday morning the ballroom was again filled to capacity as Cynthia Prime presented the closing message. She warned us that we are under 24-hour surveillance by Satan, and our only shield of protection is prayer.

The retreat was a mountaintop experience that will not be forgotten. Lives were transformed, broken hearts mended, hurting souls healed, spirits revived, faith renewed, and hope restored. The women departed inspired, motivated, empowered, and filled with the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life, and to spread the good news of Christ's soon return.

*Shirley Iheanacho is an administrative assistant to the provost at Oakwood College*



*Janice Johnson-Broune (left), first lady of South Central Conference, and Shirley Scott, women's ministries director at South Central, partner in prayer*

After the ordinance of humility, elders Galley and Scott took their place at the head table and served the emblems representing Christ's body. The presence of the Lord was evident. Communion service ended with the women standing together with lighted candles as they recommitted their lives to Jesus, to be used in His service as His lights in the world.

The Kentucky and Tennessee area coordinators presented an inspiring Sabbath school program. Cynthia Palmer served as music

Shirley Iheanacho's Sabbath vesper thought

reminded us that whatever trials or difficulty we may be experiencing, God has promised to be with us; He will bring us through victoriously. Nothing is too hard for Him. Music filled the banquet hall as Edna Dailey's rich voice was heard in concert. Not only were the attendees blessed by her singing, but also the hotel staffers were seen absorbing the moment.

The western style Satur-



*Activities were provided for the teenagers in attendance*

## Greenwood Church Opens New Fellowship Hall

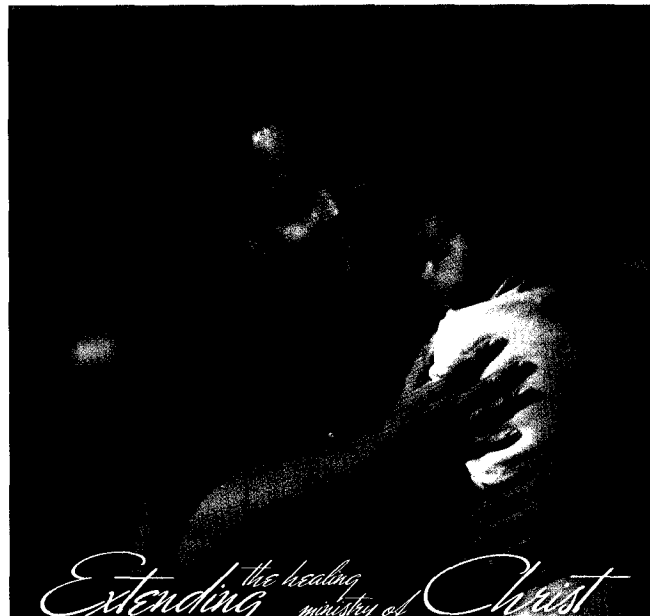


*Willie Lewis, pastor; Henrietta Mason, local elder; and members of the Emmanuel church cut the ribbon on the brand new fellowship hall addition.*

The Emmanuel church in Greenwood, Fla., celebrated its grand opening of a brand new fellowship hall addition to the church on November 11, 2006.

Willie Lewis, retired former president of Allegheny West Conference and interim pastor, led the congregation in the dedication service. The service celebrated his farewell, as well as the culmination of this project. The ribbon cutting ceremony followed the dedication, and a Sabbath meal was served.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE



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March 23	7 <sup>30</sup>	Message - Dr. Bill Kilgore
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March 24	11 <sup>00</sup>	Worship - Dr. Bill Kilgore
	12 <sup>30</sup>	Lunch - Haystacks for everyone
	2 <sup>30</sup>	Old-fashioned Sing-spiration
	5 <sup>30</sup>	Corn Roast/Watermelon Bust
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Do you have friends or family in Florida who have left the Church? Send their contact information to [cowboyorlando07@aol.com](mailto:cowboyorlando07@aol.com) and they will receive a personal invitation to Cowboy Camp Meeting.

If you are able to join us for the weekend, please invite someone to accompany you who is no longer attending church. Then, e-mail us with the number in your party so we'll know how to plan. RV parking is available (no hookups).

## Chaplain Position Filled

Brennon Kirstein, '94, has been named Southern Adventist University's new chaplain.

As a student working in campus ministries under Southern's previous chaplain, Ken Rogers, Kirstein developed a passion for helping students foster the gifts God gave them.

"Working with stu-

dents in how they can use the skills they're learning to bless others—that's exciting to me," says Kirstein. "Ken was a very significant role model, and I want to do the same for others."

After receiving his undergraduate degree and serving as assistant chaplain and campus ministries director, Kirstein attended

seminary and later became a youth pastor in Georgia, and associate pastor for college-age students and young adults in Florida.

When Kirstein was Southern's assistant chaplain, he realized what he wanted to do. "Ever since I left, it's been my dream to come back."

—BY ANH PHAM



*New chaplain, Brennon Kirstein, comes to Southern from Florida.*

## Personal Care Drive Exceeds Goal

Residents of Southern Adventist University's Talge Hall organized a drive to raise money for a worthy cause this winter.

The men collected personal care items such as tooth-



*Talge Hall residents collected personal care items for underprivileged families this winter.*

paste, deodorant, and razors to donate to the Samaritan Center, a non-profit organization in Ooltewah, Tenn. The men had a goal of collecting 4,000 items.

"When everything was counted, we had 4,506 items that would

help families in need throughout our community," says John Sager, associate dean of men. "We are thankful for our students who were willing to get behind this worthy cause, and for the opportunity we had to give back."

—BY JAIME MYERS

## Students Have a "Late Nighter"

Southern Adventist University students burned the midnight oil during a McKee Library "late nighter" on December 3.

The library extended its hours, allowing professors, Writing Center tutors, and library staffers to assist students until 1:00 a.m. in preparation for final exams. The library also provided hot chocolate and hot apple cider for those who were studying.

"It was nice," says Annie Bellefleur, junior nursing major. "It gave me an opportunity to study at the library for my finals."

"Many students told us how much they appreciated the extra time we afforded them," says Genevieve Cottrell, director of libraries at Southern.

The library saw a total of 1,276 students during the night. Writing Center tutors were booked until the library closed.

"It was just amazing to see how happy the students were about it," says Frank Di Memmo, media librarian.

A second "late nighter" is scheduled again for April 15.

—BY NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON



*Southern's library continues to expand its services to students, including computer carrels installed last fall.*

## Florida Hospital Fish Memorial Fights Hunger with Food Donation

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial donated 1,891 pounds of non-perishable food to the Community Life Center, located in Deltona, Fla., to help fight hunger during the holidays. This is the fifth year Florida Hospital Fish Memorial has teamed with the Community Life Center to help local families.

The partnership began six years ago during a monthly ministerial meeting held at the hospital. During that meeting, Community Life Center director and founder Phyl-

lis Gregory had an opportunity to share with the group information about the center's Christmas food drive. The Florida Hospital Fish Memorial chaplain, Howard Fish, initiated the hospital's participation, and the materials management department has played a pivotal role in the coordination of the drive each year. The hospital food drive began as a few boxes within the hospital and has grown considerably each year.

"The Florida Hospital Fish Memorial food drive

is the second largest food donation for the last five years, after the local post office food drive," said Gregory.

Empty boxes were distributed throughout the facility in November and were filled with items contributed by employees, physicians, and visitors. The drive ended December 18, with a blessing of



the food in the hospital cafeteria.

The food donated this year by Florida Hospital Fish Memorial will serve 12 nutritious meals to 48 families.

## Children's Fair Promotes Healthy Lifestyle



*A Coble Elementary School student tests his grip strength.*

Gordon Hospital's Foundation and Flipper McDaniel and Associates recently partnered to launch local elementary school children into the "Good Health Galaxy," a health fair designed especially for children; more than 500 participated.

The fair included booths with interactive presentations, including smoking awareness, safety, nutri-

tion, and physical fitness. At the end of each "orbit" around the "galaxy," each child was given a t-shirt.

"This fair was awesome. I have heard so much positive feedback, from both students and teachers. The

smoking awareness booth really made an impact on them. Several children described how 'gross' the Smoking Susie demonstration was, and what the cigarette did to her lungs. They promised to never smoke after seeing the results," said Debbie Nein, R.N., Calhoun Elementary School health coordinator.

Smoking Susie is a demonstration doll that

actually smokes a cigarette with the smoke and by-products accumulating in a glass test tube. Once Susie has finished the cigarette, the demonstrator takes a cotton swab and swabs the tube, showing the children how much tar and chemical is collecting in someone's lungs after smoking just one cigarette.

With the epidemic of national childhood obesity, the fair coordinators made healthy snacks and exercise a major focus. The children created and sampled their own snack, and were tested on flexibility, grip strength, and balance.

"Our children are our future," said Judy Jackson,

Gordon Hospital director of development services and fair coordinator. "That's why the Foundation is passionate about supporting this event. Our goal was to teach them how to make healthier choices, and we hope the advice we gave made a difference in at least one child's life."



*Gordon Hospital employees demonstrate "Smoking Susie" to fifth graders at Calhoun Elementary School.*

# Southern Union Members Instrumental in Creating Medical Evangelism Network

BY REBECCA BARNHURST

Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) is a non-profit organization of Seventh-day Adventist physicians and dentists striving to make medical evangelism an integral part of their profession. Southern Union physician Naren James, M.D., from Stanford, Kentucky, is the president and one of the founders of AMEN. James states:

*"Over the past five years I have gone through a transition as I restudied the Gospels. I have been impressed by Jesus' ministry and personally convicted to emulate it in my personal and professional life. Instituting Christ's principles of medical evangelism not only helped my patients; in addition, I have been tremendously blessed. This led to further study, and one day during my personal devotion, I was impressed that I needed to share my experience with other physicians and create a network to encourage each other to make medical ministry the focus of our profession. I firmly believe that*

*physicians and dentists can make an incredible impact around the world if we truly begin to make medical evangelism the focus of our practices."*

In an effort to discuss the feasibility of creating such a network, a small group planned to meet at the home of John Chung, M.D., in Dawson, Georgia. However, the physicians began to tell their friends and colleagues about the vision of AMEN, and people became so excited that the group grew from a handful to more than 50, and the meeting was moved to Cohutta Springs in Candall, Georgia, to accommodate the growing crowd. As a result of this informal meeting, AMEN was officially organized in 2005. Since that time, AMEN has become a national organization with approximately 80 members.

In addition to participating in various mission projects, both overseas and here in the United States, AMEN has held two annual

conferences promoting medical evangelism. "The Right Arm: The Right Approach, Right Now" was the theme of last year's medical evangelism conference held in San Diego, California, September 21-23, 2006. More than 220 medical professionals and students dedicated to medical evangelism attended the conference. The conference focused on the integration of the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of patient care.

The four-day event featured inspirational speakers Don Williams, coordinator of Amazing Grace College of Evangelism; Ted Wilkins and Mark Finley, General Conference vice-presidents; as well as professional speakers: Lorayne Barlow, M.D.; Rodney Willey, D.D.S.; Naren James, M.D.; and Zeno Charles, M.D.

One of AMEN's goals is to mentor medical and dental students to be effective medical evangelists. Thirty medical and dental students



FRANCISCO E. RAMIREZ

*More than 200 physicians and dentists attended the 2006 medical evangelism conference in San Diego, California*

attended the conference to discover how to share Christ through their profession. Finley commented, "It was a thrill to see how many young medical professionals are anxious to share Christ through their profession. Their dedication inspired me."

"AMEN is an idea that was long overdue," wrote Jason Shives, LLU medical student, "With all the signs around us that God is coming back, now more than ever does the Gospel need to go to the world, and we need to be especially using the "Right Arm" of the Gospel." Another medical student, Dipika Pandit, wrote, "It was like being in a gold mine. I was surrounded by so many resources, God-fearing mentors, and opportunities that I as a medical student could use in the future. Most importantly, it changed my personal life to focus on my relationship with God. Thank you, AMEN."

Sharon Robberson, assistant director of ASI, wrote, "I was de-

lighted to attend the AMEN conference and see so many ASI members taking the motto of "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace" with such devotion and enthusiasm. Listening to testimonies of the medical professionals and how God is using them to witness to others about health and spiritual healing, I can't wait to see what else they will accomplish as they have their sight set on the Master Physician using them to reach people for Him."

The AMEN organization began in 2004 with a small group of Seventh-day Adventist physicians and dentists committed to sharing Christ through their practice. In two years, its annual conference has grown to more than 200 medical professionals and students. AMEN is open to Adventist physicians/dentists and students who long for innovative ways to share the Gospel in a non-threatening way in their practices. One of AMEN's primary goals is to provide busy physicians and dentists

evangelistic opportunities and short-term mission service.

Manuel Alva, a gastroenterologist from Hinsdale and AMEN member, shared his enthusiasm for AMEN: "If you need inspiration and a breath of fresh air in your practice, or if you are in danger of burnout or cynicism, try the AMEN conference this year in Florida." This year's conference will be held August 31-September 2, 2007, at Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

AMEN's headquarters are located in the Southern Union in the Collegedale, Tennessee, area. For more information about AMEN, visit [www.amensda.org](http://www.amensda.org), call 423-826-4025, or contact us via mail at PO Box 1114, Collegedale, TN 37315.

*Rebecca Barnburst, RD, is the administrative director for AMEN*

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**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, an Adventist Health System 63-bed acute care facility** located in beautiful southeastern Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forrest, has various openings for mission-minded health care professionals. For current postings, visit [www.manchestermemorial.org](http://www.manchestermemorial.org) and click on Employment or contact the job line at 800-872-8616. Resumes and applications may be faxed to 606-599-2506. Contact Joe Skula, Human Resources Director at 606-598-4510; or [joe.skula@ahss.org](mailto:joe.skula@ahss.org) for further information. (2-5)

**CLAIMS DIRECTOR - Adventist Risk Management, Inc., Silver Spring, MD.** Manage department that adjudicates all Church property and casualty claims. Bachelor's degree in business-related field, JD, CPCU desirable. Minimum five years successful pertinent experience and supervisory/management skills required. Interested/Qualified SDA Church members Contact: Dorothy Redmon, HR director; [dredmon@adventistrisk.org](mailto:dredmon@adventistrisk.org) (2\*)

**OAKWOOD COLLEGE Department of Communication** seeks full-time faculty to teach classes in Electronic Media, Broadcasting, Communication Law, Nonfiction Writing, and

Production. Doctorate or ABD preferred. Send CV to Human Resources, Oakwood College, 7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896. (2)

**GORDON HOSPITAL - An Adventist Health Systems hospital, located in Calhoun, GA, is searching for nurses to work in ICU, PCU, Home Health, or Med/Surg.** Full-time and part-time positions are available. Located an hour in between Chattanooga, TN, and Atlanta, GA; we are an ideal place to work! To find out more information on our job opportunities you may contact Jeni Hasselbrack, Employment Recruiter at [jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org](mailto:jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org) or by going to our website at [www.gordonhospital.com](http://www.gordonhospital.com). (2)

**SEEKING DIRECTOR for NEW CHILDCARE FACILITY.** West Plains, Missouri. Join a team with a GOD-sized vision. 417-372-1875; [cwiles@townsq.com](mailto:cwiles@townsq.com) (2,3)

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**TRUE SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC performed by four Filipinos.** The Mindanao Melody Boys (MMB) is an Adventist quartet doing church concerts in the Philippines, for two years now. MMB is the first ever "southern" gospel-style quartet native to the Philippines. MMB songs are being played on some Christian radio stations such as KKGM in Dallas. Their music will inspire you! For their latest CD project "Jesus Died for Me," send \$12.00 (S&H included) to Whelma Villaester, public relations manager of MMB: 1918 E. Grauwlyer, Irving, TX 75061. Email: [usaphilfellow@yahoo.com](mailto:usaphilfellow@yahoo.com), call 972-870-5019, x216 - evenings/weekends. (2\*)

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Ronald Becker, OD  
Sandy Carman, OD

### World Church: New Site for Adventist Lawyers ...

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's headquarters has launched a Web site to connect Adventist lawyers. The new site, [www.adventistlawyer.org](http://www.adventistlawyer.org), will make it easier for church members to find Adventist lawyers in different parts of the world and allow the Church to easily share pertinent legal updates with the Adventist legal community, says OGC General Counsel Bob Kyte. The OGC used to list the names of all the Adventist lawyers in a book, but Kyte says "the day it was printed it was out of date."

The site now has the names and areas of practice for about 1,000 Adventist lawyers all over the world, but Kyte anticipates much more to come because lawyers can now submit their information anytime. The Web site will also have articles, news releases, case updates, and a roster for law students to register included on the site. [ANN Staff]

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**FREE MISSION AVIATION STORIES!!!** Contact Adventist World Aviation for a free quarterly newsletter. Write Adventist World Aviation, Box 251, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; or E-mail: [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org), or register online: [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org) (2-6)

**FREE BOOKS** by the authors Ellen G. White loved and quoted (both history and gospel): Bunyan, Flavel, W. Jones, D'Aubigne, etc. Call 941-429-6070. (2)

**VACATION on KAUAI, HAWAII, "The Garden Island."** Kahili Adventist School operates a scenic mountain park with 1-4 room cabins, sleeping 2-6 persons. All have kitchens complete with pans, utensils, dishes, etc. See pictures and rates at [kahilipark.org](http://kahilipark.org). Reservations: 808-742-9921. (2-12)

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**2007 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR.** June 14-28, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, and France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax 269-471-5172, email: [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com) (2\*)

**OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS.** Russian River cruise

from St. Petersburg to Moscow, June 20-July 5, pre-cruise options Helsinki, June 10-15, Baltics June 14-21. Japan Tour, October 14-November 2, will include Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Japan Alps, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. Contact Merlene Ogden, 269-471-3781; or [ogden@andrews.edu](mailto:ogden@andrews.edu); or Judy Zimmerman, 269-471-7004; or [zim41634@aol.com](mailto:zim41634@aol.com) (2\*)

**WANTED SPRING BREAK VOLUNTEERS to the Amazon jungles of Peru.** We are building a Crisis Center and holding free medical clinics. Spanish and medical experience not necessary. All individuals or groups needed. Please contact Paul Opp at [u4peru@aol.com](mailto:u4peru@aol.com), Sandi at 208-459-8522 or [www.peopleofperu.org](http://www.peopleofperu.org) (2\*)

**EXCLUSIVELY FOR HOME SCHOOLERS.** You are personally invited to preview Union College in Lincoln, Neb., during Home School Sneak Peak, April 26-29. It's a FREE way (call for details) for you to experience Union's unique spirit. Call 800-228-4600; or Email: [gofar@ucollege.edu](mailto:gofar@ucollege.edu); or visit us on the web at [www.ucollege.edu](http://www.ucollege.edu) (2,3)

**DO YOU LOVE HORSES?** Andrews University Agriculture Department is seeking people with horse experience to provide advice and information for the new program we are developing in Equine Science. Please contact Dr. Katherine Koudele at: [koudelej@andrews.edu](mailto:koudelej@andrews.edu) or 800-287-8502. (2\*)

**ADVENTIST COUPLES NEARING RETIREMENT.** Have you desired to participate in ministry while living on a rural farm near Collegedale, TN? Let's talk. Contact Mr. D.N. Lewis, 259 Killian Road, Old Fort, TN 37362; 423-338-2755. Please circulate this ad to your friends up north. (2\*)

**2007 WORKSHOP on NATURAL REMEDIES and HYDROTHERAPY.** Andrews University Seminary offers this popular workshop from August 5 to 10. Info and pre-registration: Fran McMullen, 269-471-3541, [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu), workshop website: [www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/](http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/) (2)

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Session

Notice is hereby given that the 30th regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Cumberland Academy Gymnasium, Calhoun, GA. The purpose of this session is to receive reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2006, elect officers, departmental directors, and the Conference Executive Committee, revise or amend the constitution and bylaws, and to transact any such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

**Edward E. Wright, President**  
Steven L. Haley, Secretary

### Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. Notice is hereby given that the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Cumberland Academy Gymnasium, Calhoun, GA. The purpose of this session is to transact such business as may properly come before the meeting and to revise or amend the constitution and bylaws. Delegates to the 30th regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the legal session of the Georgia-Cumberland Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. and the Cumberland Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

**Edward E. Wright, President**  
Kevin K. Cosetello, Association Board Chair/Vice President/Treasurer  
Gerald M. Hazekamp, Secretary

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Submit resume to Susan Olinger, Dunlap Medical Center, P.O. Box 1777, Dunlap, TN 37327. Call 423-949-2171 during the day or 423-315-3700 in the evening for more details.

# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Romance at the Ranch**  
– Feb. 11-13. Nosoca.

**Carolina Hispanic Marriage Retreat** – Feb. 16-18. Nosoca.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online—**  
*floridaconference.com/calendar*  
**Estate Services Clinics and Seminars**

Feb. 24. New Smyrna.

**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**

March 10. Tallahassee.

March 11. Perry, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

March 17. Port Charlotte.

March 18. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

**Adventist Heritage Ministries 25th Anniversary**—Feb. 23, 24. Various central Florida locations. Details: 407-889-5031; or *www.adventistheritage.org*

**North Florida Camp Meeting**—March 2-4. Camp Kulaqua. Details: 386-454-1351; or *sdaretreats@campkulaqua.com*

**Ambassador Church Consecration Service and Dedication**—March 3. Details: 954-730-0607; or *www.ambassadorsda.org*

**Vacation Bible School Workshops**—Details: 407-644-5000 x136; or *rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com*

March 3. Pine Lake Retreat.

March 24. Miami Temple Church.

**Retired Church and Health Workers' Retreat**—March 9-11. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: 407-331-3249; or *rhshepard@netzero.net*

**Men's Ministries Convention**—March 9-11. Camp Kulaqua. Details: *groups@campkulaqua.com*; or 386-454-1351.

**Prayer Summit**—March 16-18. Camp Kulaqua.

Registration: 386-454-1351.

Details: *pastorclearwater@yahoo.com*

**Maranatha Volunteer International Sabbath**—March 24. Winter Springs church.

Speaker: Dick Duerksen. Details: *office@wssdachurch.com* or 407-327-1190.

**Hispanic Vacation Bible School, Children's, and Family Ministries Directors' Retreat**—April 6-8. Camp Kulaqua. Details: 407-644-5000 x138

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online—**  
*www.gccsda.com*

**AAA Day** – Feb. 15.

**High School Retreat** – Feb. 16-18. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

**Atlanta Pre-session Meeting** – Feb. 17.

**Pathfinder Bible Bowl** - Feb. 17. Knoxville, Tenn.

**Disaster Response Training Seminars (STEP 1 and 2)** – Feb. 17, 18. Peachtree City, GA.

**Discover Prophecy Seminar** – Feb. 17-March 17. Athens, GA.

**Pathfinder Bible Bowl** – Feb. 18. Macon, GA.

**GCC Children's Ministries Convention** – Feb. 23-25.

**Knoxville Pre-session Meeting** – Feb. 24.

**Kings Heralds Quartet in Concert**

April 21. Atlanta Metropolitan (morning).

April 21. Atlanta Belvedere (evening).

## Gulf States

**Elders' Training Session #1**—Feb. 16-18. Camp Alamisco.

**Executive Meeting**—Feb. 20. Conference Office.

**Education Mission Trip**—March 2-7.

**Pastoral Planning**—March 5-9. Conference Office.

**Women's Leadership Certification (Level III)**—March 9-11. Camp Alamisco.

**Bass Memorial Academy Days**—March 18-19.

**Bass Memorial Academy Alumni Weekend**—March 23-25.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board**  
March 13. May 15.

**Conference Executive Committee**

March 13. May 15.

**Highland and Madison Academy Boards**

March 22. May 10.

**Prayer Conference** – Feb. 16-18. Indian Creek Camp.

**Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting** – March 2, 3. Prestonsburg, KY.

**West Tennessee Festival of Faith** – March 10. Advent Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN.

**Music Festival** – March 15-17. Highland Academy.

**Quadrennial Session** – April 29. Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN.

## Southern Adventist University

**Parents Weekend** – Feb. 16-18.

**Orchestra Concerto Concert** – Feb. 18.

**PreView Southern** – Feb. 19.

**Organ Concert: August Humer** – Feb. 27.

**Spring Break** – March 2-11.

## Announcements

**Florida's 16th Annual Lake Union Academies Alumni Reunion** – March 3, 9:30 a.m., at Forest Lake Academy. Alumni and friends of all Lake Union academies are invited to attend. A potluck will follow. Please bring your own plates and utensils. Details: contact the alumni directors at the Lake Union academies.

**Thunderbird Adventist Academy and Arizona Academy 86th Annual Alumni Weekend** – April 6-8. Honor classes: 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and all Arizona Academy alumni. Details: *alumni@thunderbirdacademy.org* or 480-948-3300, x204; or *www.thunderbirdacademy.org*

**Columbia Union College Alumni Weekend** – April 13-

15. D.C. and campus tours, concerts, banquets, and great memories. Honor classes: 1997, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947, and 1937. Reserve your place: *alumni@cuc.edu* or 301-891-4133.

**Atholton Church 50th Anniversary Celebration** – April 27-29. Columbia, MD. Details: 410-997-8093; or *www.atholton.org*

**La Mesa Adventist Community Church 50th Anniversary** – May 5. La Mesa, CA. A full orchestra and choir presentation, "I Can Only Imagine." Details: 619 461-5703 for service and free seating information; reservations are required.

**"Ye Olde CLA Alumni Reunion"** – June 7-10. Cedar Lake Academy alumni welcome schoolmates of 1957 and earlier, on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1937, 1947, and 1957. Details: GLAA Alumni Office 989-427-5181, or *www.GLAA.net*

**Adelphian Academy Homecoming Weekend** – June 8, 9. Honor classes: 1957, 1967, and 1982. Speaker: Randy Roberts. Details: *www.adelphianacademy.com*; or Clarence Brummett at 909-796-8593.

**Stonecave Homecoming 2007** July 11-15. Chattanooga, TN. If you attended Stonecave Academy of Dunlap, TN; Stoneybrook Academy, Castle Valley Academy, or Beautiful Valley Academy, please join us this summer for the Reunion of the millennium. Details: 863-385-1856, *stonecaveacademy@earthlink.net* or *www.beautifulstoneycavecastleassoc.org*

## Sunset

	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

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Miguel Verzas



Jennifer LaMountain

For information and to register for this or other VisionBuilders locations, call **1-800-429-5700** or go online: [www.vop.com/visionbuilders](http://www.vop.com/visionbuilders)

## TIDINGS

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