

SOUTHERN



TIDINGS

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



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Southern Union Elects New Treasurer



Tom Evans, Southern Union treasurer, has been elected treasurer of the North American Division and associate treasurer of the General Conference. He has been with the Southern Union for two years, and during that time he has been constantly meeting with various entities throughout the Southern Union. It is said of Tom Evans, "He loves to go to committees," and he has proved that statement to be true. He is interested in all aspects of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is anxious for funds to be used for expanding the mission.

While with the Southern Union, Tom married Shirley Chilson, who was at the time administrative assistant for the former NAD treasurer. We say "thank you" to the Evanses for your commitment and for your

contribution to ministry in the Southern Union.

The Southern Union Executive Committee unanimously voted to elect Randy Robinson as treasurer of the Southern Union on September 20, 2007. He comes from the Oregon Conference where he has been vice president for finance for the past 10 years. Prior to that he served as treasurer of the Illinois Conference and the Nevada-Utah Conference. He is a graduate of Pacific Union College, with a bachelor of business administration degree.

Denise, his wife, grew up in Asia, where her parents were missionaries. She has a degree in business administration and has worked in healthcare for 20 years. She is presently director of quality improvement and utilization for the second-largest physician organization in the U.S., serving more than 2,200 physicians. She also teaches children's Sabbath school and is church organist. The Robinsons have two sons: Jason, a sophomore, taking graphics design at Pacific Union College; and Brandon, a seventh-grader who also manages the lighting at the church for church services. Elder Robinson has served the local church as elder and adult Sabbath school class teacher. In 2000, the Robinsons conducted evangelistic meetings in India.

As we have become acquainted with Elder Robinson, it is very clear that his passion is for the Church to be focused on the great commission Jesus gave us—to teach, baptize, and make disciples. He is an astute businessman with the gift of financial management. He believes that the local church should be strong, and that we should do all we can to ensure that local church members can be engaged in the great commission.

It's a privilege to welcome the Robinson family to leadership in the Southern Union.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Cover Caption: Florida Pathfinders Alexander Colon from Orlando Spanish, Irvin Gomez from Winter Park Spanish, Kayla Pyecha from Winter Springs, and Dasha Quintana from Pompano Beach participated in the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee parade.



Called to Serve

BY ALLAN R. WILLIAMSON

"Called to Serve" was the theme of the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee, held at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, September 26-30, 2007. More than 5,600 were in attendance during the week, and on Sabbath that number topped 6,100 at the Camporee. This was the largest Union Pathfinder Camporee ever held in North America.

I want to thank the camporee planning committee, dedicated area coordinators, club directors, and staff for their tremendous help in supporting this camporee. The largest Pathfinder club at the camporee was Forest City Spanish, with 153 in attendance. The first Pathfinder club to register for the camporee was the Jackson, Mississippi, College Drive Trailblazers. Southern Union Pathfinders are now looking forward to attending the "Courage to Stand" camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, August 11-15, 2009.



More than 5,600 Pathfinders attended the 2007 Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee.

The Pathfinders kept busy each day earning honors at the Honor Midway, attending the Pin Trading School, and enjoying the Camp Kulaqua River Ranch Water Park with its wave pool, lazy river, and giant water slide.

The Pathfinder Museum, hosted by Pathfinder historians Dixie and Arnold Plata, was a very popular exhibit. There were a variety of skilled and



The snake brothers, Rus and Don Aldridge, teach curiously cautious Pathfinders about the Albino Boa Constrictor in the Camp Kulaqua Nature Center.



Mike Cauley (center), president, Florida Conference, became a Master Guide during the investiture service on Sabbath. Other participants were Eric Stillwell, Sarasota Pathfinder director; Tiffany Gedeon, Clearwater Eagles Pathfinder director; and Dave Jones, Florida Conference Master Guide director.

fun activities, including the Nature Center and the rodeo at Hope Arena. The Camp Kulaqua Zoo hosted more than 4,000 Pathfinders on Sabbath afternoon. On Thursday and Friday afternoon, drill and marching events and drum corps exhibitions were a highlight. It is amazing to watch the talents and skills of the Pathfinders as they perform. Teen Space was a program where teens could fellow-

ship and network together.

The Pathfinder song was sung at the beginning of each program, followed by a camporee song written by Smokey Mountain Music Man, Bill Young, entitled "Called to Serve." Pathfinders provided quality music during the meetings. Ben Roy, owner and director of *Quotes* (Ben Roy's Science Film); and Steve Varro, a Christian Illusionist, presented beautiful illustrations of God's creation and love.

Candid Camera, through pictures and music, captured the Pathfinders in action during the day. You can view all the pictures of the camporee at www.southernunioncamporee2007.info, the official Southern Union Camporee web site.

Inspirational speakers included José Rojas, Adventist Volunteer Ministries director for the North American Division; Gordon Retzer, president, Southern Union Conference; Tony Anobile, executive secretary for the Arizona Conference; James Black, youth ministries director for the North American Di-



Girls chase three young calves in a race to see if they can beat the boys penning the calves.

vision; Manny Cruz, associate youth ministries director for the North American Division; and Ken Rogers, vice president for student services at Walla Walla University. Each speaker challenged the Pathfinders to make a commitment to Jesus and be ready to serve. Hundreds of decisions for baptism were made and will be followed up by the club directors.

PathfinderRadio.com is an Internet ministry started by Ken Grant, which shares music, sermons, and stories. All the messages from the camporee speakers were broadcast live on PathfinderRadio.com (visit the web site for details).

Sabbath morning began with a



Bob Bird helps Kim Rodriguez of Winter Park, Florida, connect his model rocket as Beau Bird watches.



Jamichael Folson, general manager of PathfinderRadio.com, serves a customer who wants to purchase a Pathfinder Camporee souvenir.



A drill team from South Atlantic Conference marches blindfolded during the drill team competitions.



Genesis Son and Kimberly Nandoo of Apopka, Florida, visit the Pathfinder Museum.



Dale Tunnell, Sr., pastor of the Gainesville, Georgia, church, baptizes Rebekah Kuhlman, who was one of 18 Pathfinders baptized during the Camporee.

grand parade of all eight conferences as we gathered for morning worship. A Master Guide investiture, along with presentation of a Pathfinder Leadership Award and Pathfinders Instructors Award, was held during church service. James Black spoke about the miracle of feeding the 5,000 with the loaves and fishes of the young boy, which he compared to being a Pathfinder.

On Sabbath afternoon a baptism was held, and 23 Pathfinders dedicated their lives to Jesus and His Church.

Sabbath vespers was held during a campfire program. After an appeal to accept the invitation to be called to serve, Pathfinders joyfully accepted.

The program then transitioned

to "Called to Serve" for God and country. This was a special tribute to Desmond T. Doss, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman for his heroism in World War II. Les Rilea, civilian chaplain for the Southern Union, then presented a medallion coin to all the Pathfinder leaders who have served in the military. Medallions were also given to family members who had lost a family member while serving their country. Patriotic songs were highlighted by 17 minutes of fireworks. The program ended with a prayer of dedication to commit our lives to be "Called to Serve."

Allan R. Williamson is the director of youth and Pathfinder ministries for the Southern Union Conference.



Youth leaders gather during the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee for a group photo: Arnold Plata (front row, left), Dixie Plata, Eliezer Melendez, Allan Williamson, James Black, John Swafford, Kevin Costello, Tony Anobile, Bill Wood (back row, left), Ron Whitehead, Stephen Brooks, and Daryl Howard.

Evangelism Revs Up in Columbia



PHOTOS BY RON QUICK

[Above] John Earnhardt, pastor, stands with church member Al Landers and his granddaughter, Allie, next to Lander's restored 1965 Mustang convertible. [Left] Earnhardt and his wife, Crystal, ride in the Micro-Midget race car he built himself. The Earnhardt family used to build and race these tiny cars.



Columbia's second annual car show event organized by John Earnhardt, pastor, and his enthusiastic church members.

While area car owners and cyclists show off their classics, church members have an opportunity to show community folks the church and school. The Pathfinder club brought out their "chuck wagon" to provide vegetarian hot dogs and burgers. A certified chef made everyone a special

breakfast of omelets and pancakes. The proceeds went to the Columbia church school and Pathfinder club.

As people visited with one another or examined the unique cars and cycles, every 30 minutes there was a drawing for a large print Bible or Christian book.

Visitors also toured WBAJ, the popular Christian radio station located on the church grounds.

"This annual event brings folks to our church that would probably never come for anything else," states Earnhardt. "It just makes it easier for them to return when we have our evangelistic events."

—BY RON QUICK

On a beautiful September day, visitors flocked to the Columbia First church

to visit the classic motor cars and cycles that were on display. This was

burgers. A certified chef made everyone a special

Attendees Relax at Hispanic Women's Retreat

A special weekend was held on September 28-30, 2007, for Carolina's Hispanic women. More than 250 arrived at Nosoca Pines Ranch to enjoy the retreat. The presentations by Lupita Aragon, from the Southeastern California Conference, were very uplifting.

The Sabbath afternoon "Tea Party" demonstrated an outreach tool to attract new interests to study the Bible. Three of the 30 visitors requested Bible studies. Each woman wrote a letter to God and nailed it to the cross. Then they carried the

cross outside with tears in their eyes.

The evening brought a hat and scarf fashion show. The women made attractive and funny hats. Joyce from Greensboro won first place with her hat, "I won't starve." It was covered with all kinds of goodies—donuts, tea, cheese, and coins, just in case she ran out of food.

Nelly Alfonso from Raleigh commented, "This is one of the best women's retreats that we ever had."

—BY MARY ROMERO



Spartanburg Spanish Cuts Ribbon Ceremony



PHOTOS BY RON QUICK

Just over a year after positioning the first stone, the Spartanburg Spanish church held an inauguration ceremony in its new church building on Sabbath, September 8, 2007. Church leaders and members were excited to cut the ribbon on its new church home.

In the early 90s, the late pastor, Bert Elkins, saw the need to start a Hispanic group in the Spartanburg area. The Oñates, Chávez, and Laboy families were among the first people to gather to worship there. Later, David Dobias, pastor, also wished to support the Hispanic work, inviting

the group to meet in the Spartanburg Anglo church where he was pastoring.

When the Hispanic group grew to 40 people, they began worshipping in the Eddlemon Adventist School auditorium. A mission trip organized by the Spartanburg Anglo church to Simapan, Mexico, would influence some local Adventist families to migrate to the United States, adding to the group. A wave of members coming from Roanoke, N.C., also increased the numbers. In 2002, the group organized as a church under the leadership of Carlos Molina, pastor.

The Lord blessed a strong stewardship and fundraising program. Frank Montemat was elected as building committee leader. They found property at 3530 New Cut Road, close to Inman, S.C. The problem: it wasn't for sale. Finally, after much prayer, the Lord touched the hearts of the owners who sold the 12 acres of land for an incredibly low price.



Now, the more than 165 members belonging to the Spartanburg Spanish church are grateful to God for turning their dream into a reality.

—BY RON QUICK AND BECKY CARPENTER



Drum Corps Represents Church in Community

The All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Conquerors Drum Corps was named Florida State champion at the May 27, 2007, Pathfinder Red Zone during Florida camp meeting. This honored title became the door opener to numerous witnessing opportunities throughout the summer for the 19 drummers from St. Petersburg, Fla.

The springboard for ministry came when columnist Waveney Ann Moore wrote of their success in the *St. Petersburg Times*. An invitation to perform at the Bringe Music Center in St. Petersburg was accepted by Beryl Mitchell, Pathfinder director, after one of the Center's annual Saturday events was changed to Friday out of respect for the drum corps' observance of the Sabbath.



DARRELL EDWARDS

The State Champion All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Conquerors Drum Corps played their way into the hearts of audiences in the St. Petersburg, Fla., area this past summer.

As a result of this fancy sticking performance, the All Nations church group received a personal invitation from Muriel Whitman, Kenneth City mayor, to march in the city's 50th anniversary Fourth of July parade. For many, this exhibition of precision and

discipline was an introduction to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The crowd's enthusiastic cheers prompted expressions of thanks from the mayor to the pastor, Michael Reid, and his congregation, along with an invitation to march in next year's city parade.

The successful summer ministry, by God's favor and grace, ended when doors opened for the drum corps to play at the Westminster Retirement Community. The residents were awestruck at first sight of the pearl white drums as they braced for the earth-shaking sounds to follow. Even the few who covered their ears or gripped their seats cheered and praised the group at the performance's conclusion.

An impromptu question and answer forum followed where Darrell Edwards, associate Pathfinder director and drum corps director, provided an opportunity for the residents to learn about Pathfinders and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—BY MARK AND CAROL REID

School Receives Grant for Playground Equipment

James E. Sampson Memorial School in Ft. Pierce, Fla., recently received a \$50,000 grant to purchase new playground equipment.

Many hurdles were overcome in preparing the documentation for the grant. "There is much to tell of how God's direct intervention allowed this to come to pass," says Deborah Dahl, principal. "I just praise Him for His goodness to us." The school has been selected to apply for another grant during the present academic year.

School administrators chose the Orion product line manufactured by Play Mart. The Orion name prepared the way for students to learn about how the Holy City will descend from behind the middle star in Orion's belt. A plaque will be added to the equipment proclaiming God's glory and the significance of Orion.

—BY DEBORAH DAHL



PHOTOS: PRASHANTH PILLY

[Above] The student body anticipated becoming an active body on their new playground equipment. [Above, right] Robert Benton, mayor, officially opened the playground at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. [Right] Deborah Dahl, principal, and students rejoiced at receipt of the \$50,000 check.



CARLOS GARCIA

Little Hometown Soldiers Spread Goodwill

Little Hometown Soldiers, based out of the St. Petersburg, Fla., church, is a group of children who minister to children of military parents serving their country. "Brightening their day while you're away," is the message these ambassadors of goodwill proclaim wherever they go.

Often, a mission will take them to nearby MacDill Air Force Base where their ministry puts them face to face with families. They also perform at veterans' hospitals and nursing homes, and show appreciation to those who went into harm's way to preserve a safe environment in which children can grow.

Recently, Little Hometown Soldiers participated in the funeral of a young father who gave all for his country. They extended



Little Hometown Soldiers' activities may be followed at www.littlehometownsoldiers.org.

comfort and support to four grieving children and their mother. Words of encouragement from these youngsters constantly touch the lives of those who serve in distant lands and

their family members who remain at home.

A collage of heartfelt comments printed beneath colorful photos in their new book, *An Open Window*, include:

- "To all those who have suffered from the war, don't give up hope." —*Asbley, 11*
- "You are forever in our prayers." —*Camry, 10*
- "Thank you for defending our country." —*Amanda, 10*
- "Come home safe and sound." —*Kelvin, 5*

"At their early age, these children feel honored to learn the preciousness of sharing," says Elaine Hopkins, the group's founder and president. "They may not fully understand or agree to our presence in war, but they do know that God is still in control. We support our troops and their loved ones because, to God and these brave souls, we are grateful."

—BY ELAINE HOPKINS AND MARTIN BUTLER

Churches Report from Around the Conference...

Avon Park—More than 150 daughters joined their mothers in celebration at a brunch catered by the church's men. The Micheff sisters from Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) sang.

Fort Myers—Moonstarsun Roger joined his wife and children in the Adventist faith on July 21, 2007, when he was baptized by George Whitsett, pastor. For many years, Roger was a Baptist pastor in Haiti, and then a bishop responsible for 357 Baptist pastors and thousands of church members. He plans to turn the Baptist mission he started in Haiti into an Adventist mission.

Orange Cove—Charter member Walt Cornealy was honored for more than 30 years of service to the Lord. He and his late wife, Adeline, dedicated their lives to serving God through Bible studies, preaching, reaching out to the community, and making each member feel they were important to God and a vital asset to the Church.

Palm Coast—A multi-denominational audience of approximately 330 attended A Grand Variety Musical Program in the Flagler Auditorium to raise funds for the second phase of the church's building program. Soloists from the community

joined the list of performers which included two pieces by the church's sanctuary choir.

Sebring/Lake Placid/Wachula Spanish—A district meeting attended by members of these three churches met under the theme, "United for Mission," to encourage one another and work fervently for the satellite evangelistic crusade presented by Rolando de los Rios, Conference Hispanic evangelist. At the end of the campaign, nine people in this district were among the more than 500 new members who were baptized throughout the Conference.

Bulletin

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference, in partnership with South Atlantic Conference and Habitat for Humanity, needs workers to help build a home in Atlanta, Ga. Call 678-482-1494 or email cdonovan@gccsda.com to sign up.

Eight churches worked together (Bowman Hills, Cedar Ridge, Ladd Springs, Village Chapel, Benton, Cleveland Spanish, Cohutta, and East Cleveland of the South Central Conference) on meetings in English and Spanish at the Cleveland, Tenn., Mall. The team included pastors, seminary students, church members, and Ron Clouzet, dean of the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University.

The **Hixson, Tenn., church** recently held a cooking class. Two hundred people attended. Brenda Walsh taught the class and Harold Mayer, Ph.D., presented a health lecture.

The **Cumberland Heights, Tenn., church** has operated a school since 1946, but in May had only one student enrolled. As of August, nine students had enrolled.

The **Duluth, Ga., church** celebrated its new debt-free status with a mortgage burning ceremony. Their mortgage was \$451,000. "It is because of the Lord's blessings," says Mario Cruz, pastor.

Visit www.gccsda.com

God in Shoes Brings Love

Sixty women and nine men representing women's ministries for the Conference traveled to Sneedville, Tenn., this September for a two-week God in Shoes event.

God in Shoes is a ministry especially for women, by women. The women travel to a chosen community, get to know the people, offer evening meetings with refreshments, and perform community service. In Sneedville, two houses were renovated, as well as another house in Rogersville. The group also hosted a "Take Time for Me Day," where they pampered the women with new shoes, haircuts, manicures, and massages.

"God wants us to be out there," says Jo Dubs, Conference women's ministries director, who began God in Shoes four years ago. "And, seeing every year how God works out the details, things just open up and evolve, it is a faith

experience."

"All four years have inspired me," says women's ministries volunteer Frances McCarter.

"It makes a better person of me, and I can do more than I think."

This year God in Shoes helped a women

and her 50-year-old handicapped son by power washing, scraping and painting their home's exterior. In the home of a single young mom with two children, they placed underpinning on their trailer, fixed leaks in the roof, mounted mini blinds, and purchased bedding and sleepwear. In the home of an older woman and daughter, they set dry-wall on two interior rooms, replaced a ceiling, painted



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOD IN SHOES

God in Shoes volunteers help paint a house in Sneedville, Tenn.

rooms, replaced carpet in one room, and installed mini blinds and curtains.

"People warmed up to us and trusted us as their friends," says Donna Crandall, secretary for the Conference's women's ministries department. If you want to begin your own God in Shoes ministry, contact Jo Dubs at 800-567-1844. The 2008 God in Shoes will take place in Atlanta.

—BY TAMARA FISHER

Coble School Opens New Building

Students, parents, staff, and school supporters celebrated the grand opening of the new John L. Coble Elementary School building in Calhoun, Ga., on September 8, 2007. The new \$3.1 million complex is 26,500 square feet and has seven classrooms, a library, computer lab, music room, conference room, teachers'

lounge, and a resource room, in addition to the

offices for the principal and secretary.

The gymnasium is 60 by 105 feet and has full high school basketball and volleyball courts. The original school building will be used for the renovated cafeteria and multi-purpose needs.

—BY BARBARA MITTLEIDER



TAMARA FISHER

Students cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony.

Knoxville Area Adventists Care for African Refugees

Eight Adventist churches in the Knoxville, Tenn., area are making African refugees feel more at home. Adventist Refuge of Knoxville (ARK), which is a coalition of Adventist churches in cooperation with Bridge Refugee Sponsorship, is currently helping three refugee families from the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARK

Consolata (back row, center) and her family arrived in Knoxville on July 23, 2007, from Tanzania.

Republic of Burundia.

In a newsletter by ARK, Sarah Gimbel, editor, shared that, due to the years of war and genocide in Burundi and Rwanda, many people fled to refugee camps in Tanzania. The United States government, in cooperation with the United Nations, has agreed

to accept a number of these refugees. Seventy-eight families, who began arriving in 2006, will come to the Knoxville area. Even though many of the refugees do not speak English yet, ARK takes time to get to know them through singing, teaching English songs, playing games and sports, reading the Bible, helping with transportation and translations.

“These families have a strong spirit to share in spite of the tragic circumstances they have lived in and among,” writes Gimbel. “Of course, they, like each of us, will continue to face hardships, but when

we rally behind each other, our endurance increases.... The mission field is here.”

To learn more about Adventist Refuge of Knoxville, visit the Knoxville First church website at <http://knoxville.netadventist.org>

—BY REBECCA BROOKS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARK

Brothers Enock (left) and Lambert arrived in Knoxville on August 17, 2007, from Tanzania.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARK

Vestina, her husband Innocent, and their three children, arrived in Knoxville on June 13, 2007, from Tanzania.

Jamestown Becomes 153rd Conference Church

The Jamestown, Tenn., church became the 153rd church in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, August 18, 2007.

“The Jamestown church represents the tangible reward of faith when even a small group of believers are determined to do something very big in service to God,” says Steve Haley, Conference vice president for administration. “Less than five years ago, there was no organized presence of Seventh-



LONNIE COOK

Rick Greve, Conference ministerial director for the northern region, and Joe Blevins, pastor, take part in the service.

day Adventists in Fentress County, Tenn.”

“To hear the stories of people like Billy

and Lucille Kilby, having prayed for more than 14 years just to see a solid work established here, or Jack Wright, or Dan and Marguerity Purple, Jim and Hellen Purple, and many others whose vision has not been dimmed by the slow but stable growth, is simply exhilarating,” says Joe Blevins, pastor.

Lonnie Cook, who is the church’s Bible worker and also operates the church’s radio station, was the fourth person baptized

at Jamestown. “The Lord blesses us far beyond anything we can imagine,” he said. “Other churches come to us for prayer.”

The church has about 58 members who attend services. The church is already paid for and was built by Alvin York, a World War I veteran famous as a conscientious objector and hero. York built the church for his brother, and the first person to be baptized in it was his niece.

—BY TAMARA FISHER

Bass Students Help Start New Church

The Jesus First Adventist Fellowship, which is the name chosen for the new Wiggins, Miss., church group, was fully embraced as a ministry under the sponsorship of the Bass Memorial church this past April.

Wiggins is a small town with a population of 5,000 in the heartland of Stone County in southern Mississippi, and is the hometown of Drew Rester, an English teacher at Bass Memorial Academy. One of the focuses of BMA is getting students involved in ministry, hence, Rester had a dream. "I've always wanted an Adventist church in Wiggins. I also believe if we do not empower the youth to serve, they will either leave or transition into the next generation of pew warmers," Rester explains.

Rester and Steve Vicaro, Bass church pastor, began making plans. A call was made for volunteers, and 26 students responded. With the help of several families living in the Wiggins area, including Rester's parents, Wednesday night Bible study and church planning meetings began. The group desired a different approach to church planning, and from the beginning non-Adventists were invited to the planning meetings.

The student volunteers took part in a huge door-to-door project called the "Big Scary Weekend." The goal was to distribute literature to every home in the entire county. The students

distributed more than 7,000 pieces of literature. They have developed important relationships with the citizens of Wiggins, and helped with worship services, personal evangelism, and community service programs. Another benefit has been the students' help in developing an upbeat, positive attitude and maintaining an energy level which fueled the new group's activities.

A building was purchased and renovated. The church group's mission is to be ambassadors for Christ, putting Him first by loving and praying for everyone in the community and teaching children about God's love. A children's church and Sabbath school program was held on the first Sabbath. Using round tables, the format of the adult services is that of a small group Bible study with a thematic approach, using the Bible as the source of all discussion.

Another group of students leads the activities for the children. After the singing of hymns, prayer time, and a wrap-up message by the pastor, everyone joins in a fellowship meal before the academy students head back to their campus.



The average children's attendance is 50 percent of the adult attendance.

This summer the work continued to move forward. In July evangelistic meetings began, and, to date, 17 have joined the Church by baptism or profession of faith. The goal of the church is to get everyone who joins involved in ministry. "We don't want to just play church," explained one of the newly baptized members who is already leading out in a Bible study class.

Breaking barriers of bias is a vital part of the ministry. As a new member Elizabeth Arinder began helping to take students door to door. At first she only agreed to drive the

students. However, when some in the community were rude to the students, she began to go with them, and she is now a courageous door-to-door witness herself.

At first Arinder's family was not happy about her involvement with the Adventists. Then, during one of their

community service days, students from BMA came to their home and removed damaged sheet rock left from Hurricane Katrina. The parents were so impressed by the students that they still talk about them with their family and friends. The students have changed their opinion. Today they are proud that their daughter has found a wonderful new church family.

The church now has 31 members and is averaging more than 45 people in attendance each Sabbath.

—BY REBECCA GRICE/
LESLIE LOUIS



Many new members have joined the church by baptism or profession of faith.

Church Witnesses at Mule Trader Day

As this year's Labor Day dawned hot and clear, members of the Floral Crest church in Bryant, Ala., headed 15 miles down the road for the annual Mule Day celebration in Ider, Ala. Health and temperance leaders Patti



Blood pressure checks and literature focusing on health and wellness were offered to all who attended the popular Mule Trader Day.

Mitchell and Bertha Kerby arranged to have a health awareness booth for the past two years at this annual event, which draws thousands from the southeastern area of the United States. Among the

antique cars, draft horses and mules, wagon rides, and other activities associated with Mule Day, the members of Floral Crest church were there volunteering their time to offer free blood pressure checks and literature focusing on health and wellness.

—BY PATTI MITCHELL

Auction Raises Money for Nehemiah Project

The members of the Olive Branch, Miss., church have not let the building of its new church facility deter them from whole-heartedly supporting the Nehemiah Project. The Nehemiah Project is a 52-day campaign designed to help pay for the rebuilding of Bass Memorial Academy after Hurricane Katrina struck.

After a business meeting to select the brick for its new church, the members

gathered in the fellowship hall to bid on cakes that were baked by the men of the church. Six hundred dollars was raised at the auction, which put the church more than \$7,000

over its goal.

—BY CHUCK WOODS



The members smile in anticipation of tasting the cakes being auctioned. Tom Martin (right) was an excellent auctioneer, who also managed to buy one of the cakes he was auctioning.

Micklewrights Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Ed and Katherine Micklewright celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sabbath, August 11, 2007, with family, friends, faculty, and students of Bass Memorial Academy.

Ed and Katherine met in 1956 at Southern Missionary College and were married in Ft. Pierce, Fla., on August 13, 1957.

Thirty-five of their 50 years of marriage have been spent at Bass Academy. Katherine was the music director for

more than 11 years and started the musical group known as Chelesta. During those years, Ed drove the "Basshound" bus and, though not a BMA staff member, he was actively involved with the Academy.

Their commitment for BMA and the Bass church continues today. Katherine plays the organ and piano for church services, while Ed can be found working behind the scene on the sound equipment and sanc-

tuary lighting. He is also a member of the disaster response team, works with the American Red Cross, and served tirelessly after Hurricane Katrina with the recovery projects.

Ed and Katherine's 50 years of love and service to each other, their children, and their church is a quiet testimony to those who have been blessed by their example.

—BY ALISSA JONES



The Micklewrights cut the wedding-style cake which featured their original bride and groom cake topper from 1957.

Lexington Church Welcomes New Pastor

John Bradshaw, pastor, and his family arrived in Lexington, Ky., in July, 2007, as the new pastor. Bradshaw's wife, Melissa; son, Jacob (7), and daughter, Shannon (4), made a family portrait complete. Bradshaw comments, "Lexington has a wonderful church family, a nice new church, and a wonderful three-teacher school. Lexington is a vibrant city, and we're going to have many opportunities as a church to reach the people who live here."

Bradshaw has a passion for soul-winning and training people to share



The Bradshaws

their faith in Jesus Christ. He believes God is going to continue to do great things

in Lexington.

Before Bradshaw was a Christian, he was successful in commercial radio, working as a breakfast show DJ. He hasn't forgotten his media background and has brought his broadcasting talents to ministry. He is the host of a radio program heard on Christian radio stations from coast to coast. He

is also the "voice" of The Hope Channel, the official television network of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has been a guest speaker at camp meetings and other similar events.

Originally from New Zealand, Bradshaw has worked for the past 12 years as an evangelist with *Amazing Facts*. He and his wife, Melissa, have held public evangelistic meetings across the United States in cities such as New York, San Francisco, Dallas, St. Louis, Seattle, Sacramento, Nashville, and Fresno. "And now the Lord has led us to Lexington," Bradshaw says, "and our whole family couldn't be happier."

—BY MARY C. EDMISTER

Tullahoma Member Turns 100

Grace Allen Scott turned 100 years old on July 27, 2007. Her wonderful spiritual journey began when she was 13 years old and her Sunday school gave her a memory verse card that got her attention. It stated: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.... The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

She went home and checked the kitchen calendar and found that Saturday was the seventh day. She couldn't help wonder why her family didn't go to church on Saturday, but Grace was

not one to question her parents. For years she kept that secret in her heart and never forgot it.



After she was married she began her search to find a church that kept the Sabbath. It was many years before she attended

a tent meeting and the minister spoke on the seventh-day Sabbath. At last she had found what she had

been looking for all those years. She joined the Tullahoma, Tenn., church, and is now the oldest member.

Eventually her husband joined her in her faith. Her daughter, Kay, is married to John Fowler, who served the Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference for many years as executive secretary.

The church celebrated Grace's birthday on July 22. She attributes her longev-

ity to the fact that she has spent most of her life **not** worrying—truly great advice for everyone.

—BY ALICE ARELLANO

Highland Academy Homecoming

Highland Academy invites all alumni and former faculty to Alumni Weekend, April 4-5, 2008, "Renewing Friendships for Eternity." Honor classes include years ending in three's and eight's (2003, 1998, etc.). See www.highland-academy.com for more information.

William James Taitano, 1955-2007

William (Bill) James Taitano was born August 8, 1955, and died September 2, 2007. Bill had been fighting cancer for the last several months.

Bill was born in Vito, Guam, where he grew up and attended grade school and high school. He served in the U.S. Army from March, 1975 to March, 1978. Following his military service, he attended Gulf Coast Community College and received an A.A. degree in 1980. He



also attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla. Bill started in the pub-

lishing work as a literature evangelist in the Florida Conference in July, 1981. He later became a district

leader in Florida. While there, he met Cindy Hodges, and they were married July 22, 1984, in the Forest Lake church.

Before coming to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Bill had also served as a district leader in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He was serving as a district leader in the Carolina Conference when he was invited to become the publishing director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He served as the publishing and public affairs and religious liberty director from June, 2006, until the time of his death.

While Bill took his work seriously, he also had a sense of humor. Bill

was short, but loved to play basketball. He would say, "I can't wait to get to Heaven so I'll be tall enough to dunk a basketball." He was also an avid racquetball player.

Bill loved the Lord, his Church, and people in general. He had a passion for spreading the Gospel through literature and personal witnessing. He loved his family, the publishing ministry, and his fellow workers.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy; one daughter, Breanna; one son, Matthew; and his mother, Chong, who still lives in Guam.

Volunteers Help to Replace Murfreesboro's Roof

The temperature soared close to 100 degrees, but that didn't stop 40 volunteers who went to the Murfreesboro church on August 19, 2007, to replace a flat roof over the wing of the fellowship hall, where the kitchen, restrooms, Pathfinder room, and the community services office reside.

The flat roof was re-



Before

placed with a pitched roof, restoring the structural integrity of the hall that was threatened by the years of leaking when it rained.

The project was organized by Helping Hands,



After

led by Bob Wint, pastor, from Clarksville, Tenn., and Duane Brown, a member of the Madison Campus church. Helping Hands depends strictly on volunteers. Whenever there

is a project, communication goes to the churches of the Conference, announcing the project and requesting volunteers. Among the volunteers for this project was a man

from a local company who had helped move the air conditioning previously.

—BY PHYLLIS BOND

Sumter Member Turns 107

The Berea church family hosted a birthday celebration for Earline McCoy at the National Health Care Facility in Sumter, S.C., on July 28, 2007. McCoy, who turned 107 years old, is a resident at the facility where the staff love and respect her, mostly for her sense of humor and love for God.

The birthday celebration began with prayer by the pastor, Robert Green, Jr. Joseph Taylor, elder, read one of her favorite



Earline McCoy (seated) is pictured with her oldest daughter, Ethel Wright, and Robert Green, Jr., pastor of Berea church in Sumter, S.C.

scriptures from Psalm 119:105-112, after which one of her favorite songs was sung by the guests, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." A poem was read by Nancy Kennedy,

entitled, "The Sweet Fragrance of Love." Ann McGainey shared special remarks.

Her son, Junious Spann, gave her a dozen red roses, Berthina White gave her a dozen yellow roses, and all the members of Berea church signed a giant card. Two more of her children, Ethel Wright and

Gladys Williams, joined in the celebration as well. A second celebration was held by her children the next day.

Mother McCoy, as

some call her at Berea, was born to the late Mary Magdalene and Bungie Burns in 1900, in Sumter County, S.C. She was married to the late Israel Noah "Eddie" Spann in 1917, and to this union they were blessed with eight children: Sadie, Ethel, Birdie Maude, Corine, Junious, John, Mary Ruth, and Gladys. McCoy became a widow, married Ed Rose, and was blessed with two more children: Samuel Jerome and Franklin. She lost her husband Ed in an accident and married Oliver "Hooks" McCoy who passed in 1964.

—BY NANCY KENNEDY AND LORETTA BLACK

Ephesus Church Ushers Make a Difference



The ushers of Ephesus church participated in a food drive.

The ushers of the Ephesus church in Salisbury, N.C., recently participated in a Postal Service Community Food Drive. Their participation was so significant that the director of the initiative sent them a hand-written letter of thanks for their assistance to help "Stamp Out

Hunger in Rowan County."

The ushers of this congregation are truly making a difference with not only the food drive, but an on-going "Bread Ministry" where they pass out bread to the people in their community.

—BY MAE BROWN

Ebenezer Center Holds Open House



Anne Alberty (left), an open house hostess; Zettie Lanham, community service director; Charlene Jenkins; and Dorothy Sheppard enjoyed the open house.

The Ebenezer church in Augusta, Ga., had its first open house for the Community Service Center. The event took place July 15, 2007, and was hosted by the community service department.

The center services the church and community year-round, providing food, clothing, housewares, furniture, water, and food baskets on special occasions.

—BY ZETTIE LANHAM

State Honors Franklinton Member



Ann Turner, a member of Franklinton church, received the Award for Excellence for the North Carolina State Employees.

Not quite a decade ago, the Privette, Dunston, Wilson, and Person families of Franklinton and Louisburg, N.C., decided to share the light of the Gospel with their neighbors. To that end, a Branch of Zion was founded in Franklinton.

The Lord blessed the Franklinton church family with multifaceted gifts so that everyone in the Franklinton-Louisburg area could benefit from the light of truth.

Among those who joined the church family was Ann Turner, a retired septuagenarian accountant, who had relocated to Franklinton from New York with her husband. She lost no time in sharing her skills of finance with the church family. In time, she helped to develop what has now become a very efficiently operated finance department.

Turner took a temporary assignment at the North Carolina State University where she assisted students with the financing of their education. When the time arrived for her to leave, she

was informed that she was too valuable to let go. She then became a permanent employee.

There were those who questioned her praying with students and parents over financial issues, and reported her for taking extra time to help needy students. Many were concerned because of what they considered to be her over zealous approach of caring for troubled young people. What they did not know was that Turner was letting her light shine so that others would receive the benefit of the truth, that God cares...even for students.

Ironically, when questioned about who should receive the Most Valuable Employee of the Office Award, those who criticized her actions the most, overwhelmingly voted that

she should be the one to receive the honor. In addition to this recognition, Turner and 14 other individuals were selected from all of the state nominees to receive the Highest Award for Excellence because their service to the state of North Carolina represented outstanding performance. Personnel director Wright and Governor Easley stated that Turner "set an example for state employees everywhere." They applauded her for her "excellence in public service."

The faculty, staff, and students of North Carolina State University, as well as the surrounding communities, benefit from the light that Turner has allowed the Lord to shine through her.

—BY LOÑIETA THOMPSON
CORNWALL

Vacation Bible School Makes a Splash

Vacation Bible school is a "whole church" effort, and runs smoothly with the dedication of its staff and the prayers and support of other church members. Such an effort ran very smoothly recently at the Philadelphia church in Burlington, N.C.

Staffers encouraged the children to "Make a Splash with Jesus" in a water park



Some of the VBS staffers prepare the children for the games.

themed vacation Bible school, August 12-16, 2007. Twenty-nine children from ages 3 to 12 (17 from the community) followed Jesus'



The children enjoyed making crafts each evening.

example to "plunge" into obedience, worship, courage, faith, and service. The children learned about Jesus from daily Bible stories.

They also worshiped Him with theme-related activities, singing, crafts, snacks, and water games.

A fun-filled week ended with awarding certificates, presenting backpacks filled with school supplies from the community services department, and a pizza party sponsored by the AYS department.

—BY VEDA HOWELL

Conference Members Work with Lockheed on Orion Space Project

Aerospace firm works with Lockheed on Orion project. For Infinity Technology, Inc., a contract to work with Lockheed Martin Space on the next-generation vehicle for human space flight is both a wonderful opportunity and a logical extension of the work that has come before the Orion project.

Infinity was founded in Huntsville in 1989 by Guy and Alicia Juzang, a husband-and-wife team who had been working for Digital Equipment Corporation and Dynetics before striking out on their own. Devout Christians, the Juzangs named the company with the aim of giving God the glory and set about working to build a company that could move into the aerospace and, ultimately, space fields. Infinity is described as an aerospace engineering, systems, software, and technical services company. The Orion project is charged with building a human space flight system to transfer astronauts to and from the International Space Station, the moon, Mars, and other destinations, according to Lockheed Martin.

Infinity, which established a successful relationship with Lockheed Martin for avionics software and other work it performed on the F-22 fighter jet, will provide engineering and fabrication for Orion's main engine simulators, solar ray simulators, propulsion tank

simulators, some flight hardware mechanisms, and possibly software development and other services, said Guy Juzang, Infinity's president and CEO. The overall contract has three phases and runs 27 years.

Infinity employs 120 people today, with offices in eight states. During the past few years, revenue averaged nine to 10 million.

Guy Juzang said the company began by providing Monsanto in Decatur, with a system to allow it to scan all its safety documents. But then there were lean times, he said, that challenged the company's ability to survive. He said Alicia Juzang, the company's chairwoman, oversees operations. An Alabama native, she is extremely detail-oriented, which has been essential to the company's growth and success, Guy Juzang said.

Guy Juzang, a self-described "Air Force brat," who was born in Korea and grew up mostly in Albuquerque, N.M., has focused on business development. "Those real traumatic experiences that you go through, when you have success, it helps you understand why this had to happen before that did," he said.

The beginnings of the 1990s were a hard time for



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL MERCIER/HUNTSVILLE TIMES

Guy Juzang, president of Infinity Technology, says, "Those real traumatic experiences that you go through—when you have success, it helps you understand why this had to happen."

the company, but by 1993, it was providing work for the F-22, the most advanced jet fighter in the world. The company said it has worked with the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics for 14 years, and has worked on operation flight program software for the Apache Longbow helicopter, the C-130, and other aircraft, including the F-15 and F-16 fighter jets.

Following a nomination from Lockheed Martin, Infinity was the Small Business Administration's subcontractor of the year in 2000. That relationship with Lockheed also helped spur the chance to do Orion work, Guy Juzang said.

"We moved from the ground, doing work with

AMCOM – parts for tanks – then aerospace, with the F-22, which was another step toward Orion. In hindsight, what has been the end of the process was set at the beginning," Juzang said. "Each step was a building block."

Juzang said Infinity today has the best staff it's ever had, and the company is now pointing to the next phase, becoming a \$20-million-a-year business."

Our story has been tough, but we keep getting some of them most enviable opportunities," Juzang said. "We always seem

to get in on the beginning of something big."

Guy and Alicia are members of First church in Huntsville Ala. They have four children, three girls and one boy: Guielle, Patricia, Marisa, and Deshon.

The Juzangs continue to give God the glory for their success. They look forward to the day, when man will travel from place to place in space without the need of today's technology.

Reprinted with permission from "Beginning of Big Things for Infinity."

Published in the Huntsville Times, September 11, 2007.

—BY BRIAN LAWSON, *TIMES* BUSINESS WRITER

Morningstar in Vicksburg Launches "Mission 66"

Morningstar church in Vicksburg, Miss., had the privilege of spearheading and inaugurating a new food ministry program in Vicksburg named "Mission 66."

The food ministry is designed to target and serve meals to those in close

proximity to the church. This service is provided on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The longterm goal of the program is to provide meals Monday through Friday in the community. It is a partnership between Morningstar, Salvation Army (the meals are served at

this facility), and Jackson Street Baptist church. Each of the aforementioned is currently providing meals for the community.

Mayor Laurence Leyens of Vicksburg is a staunch supporter of this ministry to the community and is actively seeking additional food and resources for the program.

The food ministry is the brainchild of Jonathan Smith, pastor, born out of his initial meeting with Leyens to introduce himself. Smith conveyed his philosophy, saying, "It is unrealistic

for the people of Vicksburg to believe that our civic leaders can provide all the social services needed by the community." This philosophy was well received by Leyens, and "Mission 66" was born.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE



Captain Patrick Lyons (left) of the Salvation Army; Laurence Leyens, mayor; and Jonathan Smith, pastor



Several women from the Morningstar church join Patrick Lyons (left) and Jonathan Smith in the food ministry.

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Summer Institute Challenges Faculty in Online Instruction



Participants pose for a group shot at the conclusion of the summer institute.

In May, 2007, the UNCF/Mellon Faculty Programs at Spelman College granted the request made by the Oakwood College department of faculty development and research to host a teaching and learning institute from August 13-15, 2007. Subsequently, Oakwood was awarded \$29,574 to facilitate the development of a summer institute that would focus on "Moving Beyond Face-to-Face Instruction to Blended and Online Instruction." Under the direction of Edith Fraser, Ph.D., director of faculty development and research at Oakwood College; Hannah Chambers; and Pamela Henry; more than 50 faculty members from other institutions were invited to attend the event on Oakwood's campus in Huntsville, Ala.

This summer institute provided an opportunity for faculty from various Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to meet and share strategies and best practices aimed at strengthening the teaching and learning environment. The total of 43 faculty members who were in attendance included representatives from Fisk University, Miles College, Stillman College, Talladega College, Tuskegee University, and Alabama A & M University.

Some of the best national experts in distance learning were invited to present information for transforming traditional classroom instruction into online teaching. Among the presenters were faculty from Fielding Graduate University and Capella

University, DePaul University of Chicago, and the Penn State: Rena Pallof, Keith Pratt, and Janossy and Stevie Rococo. These presenters taught the participants how to conduct an online course, and how to introduce and incorporate both blogging and podcasting as classroom learning tools. Participants were challenged to develop a short podcast for integration into one of their existing courses. In addition, they developed tools for both blended and hybrid courses. Each faculty member committed to incorporating these concepts into their teaching, sharing this information with their respective campuses, and developing a virtual network to enhance faculty collaboration.

Participants in the sum-

mer institute had only positive comments to share, ranging from, "This was the most organized conference I have been to," to "[We] congratulate you and your team on the excellent Mellon HBCU Institute you organized at Oakwood College. [We are] sure all attendees learned a lot and our students will benefit from the training we received."

Cynthia Spence, director of the Mellon-UNCF Summer Institute, remarked that she was impressed with the proposal and the well-designed institute. The tools offered to faculty will be instrumental in bridging the digital divide for students of color.

—BY EDITH FRASER

College President Well Suited for Occasion



President Delbert Baker takes his promissory dive into Oakwood's campus pool.

He promised that when enrollment numbers hit 1,800, he'd do something special to mark the occasion, but that wasn't enough for Delbert Baker, Oakwood College president. He wanted to *really* make a splash. So, when the fall enrollment numbers peaked at 1,824, Oakwood's chief administrator climbed the diving board at the campus natatorium and took a celebratory dive—in his three-piece suit and tie, no less! It was the fulfillment of a standing promise that is about seven years old, but there were those who had their doubts that Baker would actually take the plunge.

The celebrations began Tuesday morning, October 2, at the regularly scheduled student chapel, with a high-spirited student body, faculty, and staff gathering expectantly at the Oakwood campus church. Though usually

well attended, the sanctuary was almost filled to capacity, replete with camera crews, photographers, and reporters from local news stations. A six-foot banner that read, "Congratulations, Oakwood College, on a record enrollment of over 1800," spanned the breadth of the platform behind program participants, and a lively praise team led song service with anticipative exuberance. Baker congratulated the enrollment management team, directed by Jason McCracken, for a job well done, and thanked everyone for doing their part in bringing Oakwood to this eventful point.

It was just one week prior to this event that Oakwood College was cited in *U.S. News & World*

Report as a top-tier institution in the national rankings of the publication's newest guide to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and received very positive press regarding its achievement. Oakwood occupies the 22nd slot, outperforming Alabama A & M University, which came in at number 26 on the list of best HBCUs in America. Institutional ratings are based on SAT and ACT scores taken into consideration by ranking officials.

That same morning, Oakwood was also the first institution in northern Alabama to become the recipient of the Storm-Ready Supporter Award, a program sponsored by

the Department of Public Safety and Transportation, directed by Chief Lewis Eakins. With all of this positive news surrounding the occasion, it's no wonder students packed the Natatorium, immediately following chapel, to witness the president's historic dive as he flawlessly executed his entry into more than 12 feet of water, fully clothed. Afterward, everyone was invited to the Oakwood Market Square for complimentary ice cream. Curious onlookers wanted to know two things—what the fate of that three-piece business suit would be, and whether or not it would be salvageable or trashed. Those answers lie in the hands of the cleaners, and the president might very well want to hold on to that suit for his promissory dive from the *high* board, forthcoming when enrollment hits 2,000.

—BY MICHELE SOLOMON



Onlookers take advantage of a photo-op following the momentous occasion.

Achieving Excellence

BY REBECCA BROOKS

A.W. Spalding Elementary School, located in Collegedale, Tennessee, is the first school in the Southern Union to receive the Adventist EDGE (Educators Delivering GREAT Education) School of Excellence award. The Southern Union Conference department of education presented this award to A.W. Spalding on October 2, 2007, at a special ceremony held in the Collegedale church. The School of Excellence award signifies that the school has satisfactorily completed the criteria outlined in the Southern Union Conference *Adventist EDGE Handbook*, and is now proclaimed as the first exemplary school among its 194 elementary school piers.

Requirements for this prestigious award reflect the investment, dedication, and commitment that it takes to actualize an educational program that exceeds the accreditation standards of the Adventist Accreditation Association (AAA), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the Council of International and Trans-regional Association (CITA). The criteria require a level of rigor in keeping with the true essence of excellence.

The A.W. Spalding validation visit was based on the Adventist EDGE Comprehensive School Improvement Initiative. The team that visited A.W. Spalding based their validation on the acronym "GREAT" and specifically identified where excellence had been achieved in the following areas:

- G – God-centered,
 - R – results-oriented, in an
 - E – environment that is safe and nurturing,
 - A – aligned with Adventist and national standards; and a
 - T – team effort.
- A.W. Spalding has adopted best

practices that emphasize the Natural cycle of learning and differentiated instruction. Teachers deliver GREAT education with a variety of learning styles in mind, making sure that students are motivated at every level and in all areas of study. A. W. Spalding has given special attention to improving how the institution meets students' individual needs, according to Murray Cooper, principal.

"I am pleased that A.W. Spalding is the first school to achieve the full award designation. It is a testament to the teamwork between students, parents, and teachers in this school," says Cooper. "It is an opportunity to step back and praise the Lord for the blessings and the gifts He has bestowed on us and our constituency."

Along with the Adventist EDGE School of Excellence award, A.W. Spalding also received a custom-designed school of excellence flag and a check for \$18,000 from the Southern Union Conference Adventist EDGE "SMART" (Schools Making a Real Transformation) Fund. According to Cooper, the money will be used for continued staff development, to purchase three active boards with electronic pens, and other school projects.

"It is an important milestone for Spalding Elementary, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, and the entire



Union, Conference, and school officials proudly display the "School of Excellence" award, check, and flag: Conrad Gill, Ed.D. (front row, left), Southern Union education director; Murray Cooper, A.W. Spalding principal; Cynthia Gettys, Ph.D., Conference vice president for education; Ed Wright, Conference president; Don Duff, D.C. (back row, left), school board chair; Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president; Gene Brewer, Ed.D., Southern Union education development specialist; Diane Ruff, Southern Union education associate.

Southern Union," says Cynthia Gettys, Ph.D., Conference vice president for education.

"The Adventist EDGE is Southern Union's response to the North American Division's *Journey to Excellence*, a document that calls for changes and improvements in Adventist education and in schools for the 21st century. The Adventist EDGE," explains Conrad Gill, director of education for the Southern Union Conference, "calls for exemplary schools in all categories. It is the Southern Union's comprehensive school improvement plan designed to implement the *Journey to Excellence*. Our teachers, schools, and conferences have to be intentional to ensure that Adventist education in the Southern Union is the best available product in the communities we serve. We know and clearly understand that 'Excellence is never achieved by accident.' It takes hard work, along with much prayer."

Secret of the Cave Released Nationally

Secret of the Cave, a feature film created by Southern Adventist University with assistance from students and faculty, was released on DVD in September, 2007.

The DVD is available nationally at Blockbuster, Movie Gallery, Hollywood Video, RedBox, online at BarnesandNoble.com, ChristianBook.com, SilverPlatters.com, CDUniverse.com, Amazon.com, and AdventistBookCenter.com.

Based on a 1920s children's book of the same name, *Secret of the Cave* is a suspenseful tale of an American boy,

Roy, who uncovers what is behind the puzzling events that are a mystery

to the townsfolk of the small Irish fishing village he is visiting. The family-

focused adventure film explores themes of forgiveness and selflessness.

Secret of the Cave was awarded the Crystal Heart Award, at the Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis, Ind., last year, and the Dove Foundation's Family-Approved Seal.

Southern Adventist University worked with Carmel Entertainment and First Look Studios in making the DVD available for release.

For more information go to secretofthecave.com.

—BY LORI FUTCHER



Secret of the Cave DVDs are available nationally at Blockbuster.

Southern Celebrates Continued Growth

Enrollment at Southern Adventist University is at a record high for the eighth year in a row. This marks the twelfth consecutive year of continuous growth. The total number of students enrolled for fall 2007 is 2,640—47 students more than fall 2006, and 1,049 more students than fall

1995. Freshman headcount is at 535.

Since 1995, Southern has added graduate programs, incorporated a School of Visual Art and Design, opened a new science building, added distance learning, and expanded student housing. Under construction is the

wellness center expansion and a new nursing building.

"In spite of growth, we intentionally maintain a learning environment based on networking, small groups, and personal interaction with professors," says Vinita Sauder, vice president for market-

ing and enrollment services. "We never want to lose our personal touch. Students find a unique faith environment here that is distinctively different from the larger public universities and colleges. It's what makes us very special."

—BY LORI FUTCHER

Students Get Plugged In at Ministries Expo

Southern's student body spent an evening after vespers on September 7, learning about and joining many of Southern's ministries during the eighth annual Ministries Expo.

More than 30 booths

featuring ministries such as literature evangelism, small groups, Bible work, and Christian drama, were set up outdoors near the Collegedale church.

"It's always been a goal here at Southern not only to tell students about

Jesus but for them to experience Christ themselves," says Kevin Kibble, assistant chaplain.

Senior business major Taylor Paris says the event was a wonderful chance for students to continue their spiritual growth out-

side the classroom.

"It gives us the opportunity to see what's out there," Paris says. "To get plugged in and make a difference on campus, in the area, and around the world."

—BY ANH PHAM

Children Graduate from KidZone Bible Guides



Emmaus Elementary School students, Columbus, Miss.



Jacksonville, Fla., First church students

Three youngsters from Tennessee were the first Southern Union graduates from the *Voice of Prophecy's* new KidZone Bible Guides: Terry Hampton of Afton, Zack Barnett of Sevierville, and Juliana Castellaw of Dyersburg.

Locally operated Discover Bible Schools have enrolled many in KidZone. One of the most active schools is at the Jacksonville First church, where Evelyn

Exson is the coordinator. As each student completes the guides, a diploma is presented during a worship service. Six have already graduated from KidZone, and more are studying.

Eleven students at the Emmaus Elementary School in Columbus, Miss., enrolled, studied, and graduated together.

Ten-year-old Stephen John Jordan, who attends the Athens, Ga., church, says he enjoyed learning more about God. "That helps me to change my

life. I started listening more at church."

KidZone presents doctrines with stories and illustrations that junior-age youth enjoy, and is designed to be used by vacation Bible schools, baptismal classes, and elementary schools, as well as for sharing door-to-door.

Topics for the 14 lessons include creation, the fall, salvation, baptism, prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, health, death, the second coming, and Heaven.

Every guide includes

an appeal to accept Jesus.

Besides a response sheet to be returned to an instructor, each lesson also features an activities page with games, puzzles, and other fun things to do.

KidZone is free to children in the U.S. and Canada as a correspondence course. Children worldwide will be able to read the guides online when a new VOP website, kidsvop.com, launches early next year. The website will also have additional activities for kids that are not included in the lessons.

—BY ELDYN KARR



After studying the KidZone lessons with retired pastor Roy B. Thurmon, 8-year-old Juliana Castellaw of Dyersburg, Tenn., became the first graduate to be baptized.



Stephen John Jordan, Athens, Ga., church



Zack Barnett, Sevierville, Tenn., church

Mission Accomplished

BY SARA BERNAL

Two hundred student missionaries consecrated their time this summer to work as literature evangelists. For more than two months, students from various Adventist academies and colleges joined the 10 canvassing programs throughout the Southern Union, taking the message of salvation door to door to thousands of people.

More than 200,000 books, including *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*, were distributed to 1.2 million doors, generating 3,000 Bible studies given by students and church members. The mission culminated with evangelistic crusades in some of the states and 30 individuals were baptized.



Esteban Hidalgo, Bible worker for the Atlanta program, also canvassed to generate more Bible studies.



Union and Conference leaders pose with summer MagaBook literature evangelists during their retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, S.C.

RON QUICK

Before the start of each program, 30 student leaders in the Union gathered at Atlanta Belvedere church in Decatur, Georgia, for an annual week of intense training, covering such areas as inventory, finances, organization, and territory. Six Bible workers met at the same place to train and prepare spiritually to teach the Gospel to others. For three days, they fasted in anticipation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His blessings.

As a result, four people in Georgia surrendered their lives to God after the evangelistic series presented by Esteban Hidalgo, the official Bible worker for the Atlanta territory. After a three-week series in Bible prophecy presented by several Bible workers in Louisville, Kentucky, 17 individuals were baptized. Another 600 continue receiving Bible studies throughout the Union.

The students celebrated a successful 10-week program at their annual end of summer retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch, in Liberty Hill, South Carolina. They had the opportunity to share outstanding experi-

ences and to appreciate the efforts of the students and publishing directors.

This year, the students also paid a special tribute in memory of Hailu Kidanamerian, an Ethiopian student from Antillean Adventist University in Puerto Rico, who died after he was struck by lightning while canvassing in Miami, Florida. Hailu was honored and remem-

bered through recent photographs, and in the words of Les McCoy, youth publishing director of the Florida Conference: "Hailu lived a life of service, and our hearts will not forget his sacrifice." Many students shed tears as they remembered the example of love shown by a student who, in 45 days, had touched so many lives.

When asked about goals for next summer, Rocky Davis, youth publishing director for the Southern Union, said the plan is "to raise our program standards higher, do one-on-one mentoring to students on the field, and be more involved with evangelism." This year, the summer and winter programs, including the MagaBook industry of the Southern Union, will have added up to more than \$1,000,000 through the sale and distribution of Christian literature.

Sara Bernal, junior broadcast journalism student at Southern Adventist University, toured with the literature evangelists in five states during the summer, photographing, writing articles, shooting video, and interviewing students.

Obituaries

ALBOCK, Doris Davis, 90, born Aug. 14, 2007 in Quitman, MS., died Jan. 12, 2007 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Meridian First church.

ALDRICH, Myrtle, 93 born Oct. 7, 1913, died June 16, 2007. She served the denomination for more than 30 years as a missionary in Iraq and as an LPN at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church.

ARMSTRONG, Willis, 101, born Aug. 3, 1905, died Dec. 20, 2006. He was a member of the Sebring, FL, church.

BARNES, Edward, 98, born Nov. 8, 1908, died March 28, 2007. He was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

BARNES, Iva, 97, born Feb. 16, 1910, died July 18, 2007. She was a denominational teacher for 42 years: 1930-37 Clarksville Elementary; 1937-39 Colorado Springs Elementary; 1939-43 Kansas City, MO Elementary; 1949-1958 Mount Vernon, OH Elementary; 1958-1982 Orlando Junior Academy; and taught missionary children at the Far Eastern Division in Singapore for two years. She was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

BEERBOWER, Richard, 77, born April 22, 1930, died Aug. 25, 2007. He was a member of the Sebring, FL, church. He served as a literature evangelist and a pastor for more than 20 years.

BEERS, Constance, 92, born Dec. 3, 1914, died Sept. 16, 2007. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church. She served 20 years in the denomination as activity director at New England Sanitarium in Melrose, MA, and in the dietary office at Florida Hospital Altamonte, FL.

BENNETT, Catherine, 85, born Feb. 12, 1922, died June 25, 2007. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores, FL, church.

BENNETT, Ercel, 92, born Feb. 15, 1915, died March 24, 2007. Her 20-year employment included being a librarian at Southwestern Junior College in Keene, TX, and a teacher at Healdsburg College in South Africa. She was also a supportive pastor's wife for more than 40 years. She was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

BINKLEY, Georgia, 78, born Aug. 30, 1928, died Aug. 12, 2007. She was a member of the Sebring, FL, church.

BISSMEYER, Gary W., born March 1, 1960 in Louisville, KY, died Feb. 5, 2007 in Louisville. He was a member of the South Louisville church.

BLACK, Catherine 'Kitty' Broome, 83, born Nov. 21, 1923 in Union County, died July 15, 2007 in Charlotte, NC. She was a member of the Charlotte Sharon church.

BLACKMON, Waldron Monroe-"Nick" Sr., 70, died Aug. 30, 2007. He was a member of the Florence First church.

BODNER, Daniel P., 60, born Oct. 9, 1947, died July 7, 2007. He was a teacher in the Adventist school system for 37 years. He was a member of the Hickory church.

BONDRANKO, George, 85, born Aug. 7, 1921 in Yale, VA, died March 31, 2007 in Charlotte, NC. He was a member of the Charlotte Sharon church.

BONDRANKO, George, 85, born Aug. 7, 1921, died March 31, 2007. He was a member of the Charlotte Sharon church.

BRANHAM, Florence, 73, born April 29, 1934, died Nov. 4, 2006. She was a member of the South Brevard church in Palm Bay, FL.

BREWER, Shirley W., born May 9, 1937, in Robertson County, TN, died Aug. 12, 2007 in Springfield, TN. She was a member of the Cross Plains, TN, church.

BROOKS, Tressie Marie, 89, born July 11, 1921 in Grand Bay, AL, died March 18, 2007 in Grand Bay. She was a member of the St. Elmo church.

BROWN, Gordon L., 89, died June 16, 2007. He was a teacher, band director, and principal at Fletcher Academy until his retirement in the 1980s.

BUCKMAN, Sylvia May (Jack), 87, born Oct. 18, 1919, died Aug. 21, 2007.

COONE, Donald, 76, born June 18, 1930, died May 13, 2007. He was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

CABEY, Reginald, 80, born Oct. 20, 1926, died Dec. 5, 2006. He was a member of the Silver Springs Shores church in Ocala, FL.

CARROL, James, 36, born Aug. 10, 1970, died March 16, 2007. He was a member of the Communities West church in Loxahatchee, FL.

CATES, IRMA "Franny", 93, died April 6, 2007. She was a member of the Memphis First church in Memphis, TN.

CHASE, Arthur, 84, born Jan. 29, 1923, died June 20, 2007. He was a member of the Silver Springs Shores, FL, church.

CHRISTAKOS, Peter George, 92, born Jan. 12, 1915, died Aug. 23, 2007. He was the founding pastor of the Blythewood church in 1974.

CIRIGLIANO, Anthony Paul, 56, born May 26, 1951, died June 25, 2007. He was the former senior pastor of the Columbia First church in Lexington, SC. He served from 1998-2002, at the same time traveling and giving evangelistic lectures. He was the senior pastor at the Morganton church for seven years. Upon leaving the Columbia First church he moved to Boone, NC, to serve as pastor until transitioning into full-time Christian evangelistic ministry. He was a popular speaker at camp meetings and evangelistic events across the country. Pastor Tony also authored and co-authored *Revelation Made Simple* and *They've Tampered with the Word*. He spoke regularly on 890 AM, WBAJ Christian Talk Radio in Columbia, and developed and taught an extensive Bible study instruction seminar.

CLARKE, Aureta, 88, born March 4, 1918 in Kansas, died June 24, 2007. She was a member of the Fairview, NC, church.

CLOAR, Nellie Marie, 88, born June 19, 1919 in Jonesboro, AK, died Aug. 17, 2007 in Jackson, TN. She was a member of the Jackson, TN, church.

COLLINS, Effie, 100, born Oct. 17, 1906, died Feb. 22, 2007. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL.

COLLINS, Orla L., 84, died March 23, 2007. He was a member of the Upward, NC, church.

CUNNINGHAM, Matthew Moss, 19, born Jan. 25, 1988, died May 20, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

DAUNS, Robert Joseph, 80, born June 15, 1927, died Jan. 26, 2007. He was a member of the Sandhill church.

DAVIDSON-HUMPHRIES, Clarice, 85, born July 14, 1921, died Feb. 25, 2007. She was a member of the Jacksonville First church in Jacksonville, FL.

DAVIS, Buford, 90, born Feb. 21, 1916, died Dec. 11, 2006 in Smith's Grove, KY. He was a member of the Sandhill church.

DELILLO, Pasquale (Pat), 83, born April 5, 1924, died Aug. 25, 2007. He was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

DESMOND, Imelda A., 105, born Nov. 16, 1901, died June 12, 2007. She was a member of the Apison, TN, church.

EVANS, Robert, 81, died June 8, 2007. He was a member of the Meister Memorial church in Deer Lodge, TN.

EVANS, Todd Alexander, 36, born Jan. 7, 1971, died Sept. 19, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church. He was formerly employed by Southern Adventist University.

FOLL, LoyGeorge, 94, born Feb. 2, 1913, died March 29, 2007. He pastored for 32 years in the Southern and Lake unions, and served as a hospital chaplain in the Potomac and Wisconsin conferences. He was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

FOLL, Melvin, 70, born May 31, 1937, died June 6, 2007. He served as a denominational pastor in Michigan and Tennessee; as a theology professor; and woodworking and guitar building teacher at Caribbean Union College, Maracas, Trinidad, West Indies. He was a member of the East Pasco church in Zephyrhills, FL.

FOLL, Ruth, 94, born April 4, 1913, died May 7, 2007. She served the denomination for more than 30 years as a teacher at Broadview Academy, Atlantic Union College, and Southwestern Adventist University. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church.

FORD, Dr. Augustus C., Jr., 87, born Jan. 11, 1920, died April 16, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

FOSTER, Dr. Augustus, Jr., 80, April 8, 1927, died April 29, 2007. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church.

FOUTCH, Ruth Howell, 84, died Feb. 6, 2007. She was a member of the Duluth, GA, church.

FULLER, Dr. Forrest LaVerne, 80, born Dec. 5, 1926, died May 16, 2007. He served as a missionary in India from 1951-1956, and as the assistant treasurer for the Southern Asia Division. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

GORDON, Loretta, 94, born March 31, 1913, died April 24, 2007. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores church in Ocala, FL.

HALCOMB, Della, died Oct. 30, 2006. She was a member of the Taylor Mill church.

HANSCOM, Julianne Weaver, 86, born Sept. 16, 1920 in Bridgeport, CT, died June 28, 2007 in Fletcher, NC.

HARRISON, Charles, 75, born Jan. 20, 1932,

Obituaries

died March 19, 2007. He was a member of the Morganton church.

HARRISON, Gloria A., 75, born April 2, 1932, died July 9, 2007 in Morganton, NC. She was a member of the Morganton church.

HILL, Raymond, 98, died March 26, 2007. He was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

HOPE, Samuel Larry, 67, died Jan. 22, 2007. He was a member of the Spartanburg church.

HORNBECK, Delbert, 76, born Aug. 23, 1930 in Wichita, KS, died July 26, 2007. He served as the business manager at Madison Academy, as patients' accounts manager at Fletcher Hospital, and manager of Homestead Farms Health Food Store. He was a member of the Tryon, NC, church.

IPES, Thomas Peter, II, 90, born on April 21, 1917, died Aug. 4, 2007. He was a member of the McDonald Road, TN, church. He had pastored Adventist churches in New Jersey, California, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Norfolk, VA.

IVANOSKI, Dorothy, 90, born Dec. 4, 1916, died June 23, 2007. She was a member of the Sebring, FL, church.

JACKSON, Vernal, 77, born April 10, 1929, died Jan. 2, 2007. He was a member of the Silver Springs Shores church in Ocala, FL.

KELLEY/HOLT, Elizabeth, 87, born Oct. 28, 1919, died Sept. 4, 2007. She was a member of the Kress Memorial church in Winter Park, FL.

KENDALL, Bessie Mae, 94, born Aug. 31, 1912, died June 19, 2007, in Charlotte, NC. She was a member of the Goldsboro church.

LEE, Martin Lloyd, 59, born Sept. 4, 1947, died June 17, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

LIGHTHALL, Dolphus Haysmer, 88, born Oct. 28, 1918, died June 17, 2007. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church, and a retired professor from Loma Linda University.

LUNA, Catholene, 90, born Aug. 12, 1917, died Sept. 10, 2007 in Jackson, TN. She was a faithful member of the Jackson, TN, church.

MAPLES, Mary Edith, 87, died June 24, 2007 in Morganton, NC. She was a member of the Morganton church.

MARTINEZ, Jerameel, 27, born May 8, 1980, died July 25, 2007. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church.

MAULDIN, Dr. Lloyd W., born April 30, 1923, died April 4, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church. He served the church as a teacher in various capacities in the Far Eastern Division; as well as educational secretary; and as chairman of the English and education departments at Columbia Union College.

MCCANDLESS, Glenn M., 44, born Nov. 9, 1962, died March 8, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

McDONALD, Doris Lucille, 76, died Feb. 16, 2007 in Mobile, AL, born April 30, 1916 in Mobile, AL. She was a member of the St. Elmo church.

MCGRADY, Jay, 49, born Aug. 18, 1958, died Sept. 12, 2007. He was a member of the Kress Memorial church in Winter Park, FL.

MERTZ, Allen, 70, born Jan. 17, 1937 in Washington, DC, died March 8, 2007. He was

member of the Myrtle Beach, SC, church.

MERTZ, James Allen, 70, born Jan. 17, 1937, died March 8, 2007. He was a member of the Myrtle Beach church.

MILES, Rodney, 73, born Feb. 12, 1934, died June 24, 2007 in Jackson, MS. He was a member of the Community church.

MOODY, John Parker, 48, born Oct. 4, 1958, died June 18, 2007. He was a member of the Spartanburg church.

MUTH, Alice M., 87, born 1920 in Centertown, KY, died June 10, 2007 in Louisville, KY. He was a member of the Louisville First church.

NEIDIGH, Rodger Vincent, 91, born Aug. 1, 1916 in Burlington, IL, died Aug. 29, 2007. He was a member of the North Knoxville church.

PARKHURST, Eugene, 72, born Feb. 5, 1935, died March 20, 2007. He was a member of the Melbourne, FL, church.

PATRICK, Joseph, 83, born June 16, 1923, died Feb. 21, 2007. He was a member of the Sebring, FL, church.

PEAT, Corinne, 81, born July 1, 1925, died Feb. 22, 2007. She was a member of the Sebring, FL, church.

POMEROY, Cecil, 88, born Dec. 19, 1918, died March 16, 2007. He was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

QUICK, Ann, 97, born Oct. 28, 2009, died May 1, 2007. She was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

RAMPTON, Barbara Helen (nee Winch), 83, born January 22, 1924, in Wyong, New South Wales, Australia, died July 9, 2007 in Hendersonville, NC.

REEVES, Lewis, 93, born April 19, 1913, died Jan. 13, 2007. He was a member of the Kress Memorial church in Winter Park, FL.

RETZER, Dorothy Mae, 84, born Aug. 9, 1922 in Bayonne, NJ, died Aug. 5, 2007. She was a member of the Ooltewah, TN, church.

RODDY, Jennie Madeline, 90, born June 25, 1916 in Providence, RI, died Jan. 18, 2007 in Dyersburg, TN. She was a member of the Dyersburg church.

SAUDER, Harvey Louis, born Dec. 22, 1922, died July 31, 2007. He served the church as a pastor, conference evangelist, and youth leader. He was a trust officer at Loma Linda University, the Upper Columbia Conference, and the Columbia Union, besides serving as Stewardship and Trust Services officer for the Trans-Africa Division. He was a member of the Calhoun, GA, church.

SCHANSON, Gerald Whitlock, died Jan. 19, 2007.

SCOTT, Eima, 96, born Aug. 3, 1910, died Feb. 2, 2007. She was employed by Florida Hospital as the head nurse of the maternity floor. She was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

SHERBONDY, George, 89, born Jan. 22, 1917 in Aspen, CO, died Nov. 24, 2006 in Fletcher, NC. He served the Church as a pastor in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Ohio. He was a member of the Fletcher church.

SMITH, Trinh Tuyet Drab, 41, born Sept. 12, 1966, died Jan. 9, 2007, in Belmont, NC. She was a member of the Charlotte Sharon church.

SNELL, Rupert Augustus, 85, born March 9, 1922 in Dale County, AL, died May 28, 2007 in Dothan, AL. He served the Church as a literature evangelist and literature evangelist leader for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Dothan, AL, church.

SNYDER, Charles H., 87, died July 1, 2007. He worked as a hospital administrator and conference treasurer, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Ridgetop, TN church.

STONE, Glyda Lucille, 83, born March 11, 1924, died April 4, 2007. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

STRAWN, Nora, 87, born Feb. 2, 1920, died March 2, 2007. She was denominational employed for more than 15 years as a medical records librarian for the Adventist Health Systems in hospitals in Florida and one in Georgia. She was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

SWINSON, Reba, 85, born Sept. 2, 1922, died Sept. 25, 2007. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

THOMAS, Wilda, 80, born Nov. 6, 1926, died Feb. 22, 2007. She was employed at the Glendale Adventist Hospital in Glendale, CA, and the Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, MD, for more than 15 years. She was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

TROYER, Diane, 57, born Jan. 11, 1950, died May 2, 2007. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, church.

TURNER, Lillian (Lil), died at the Rosedale Manor Nursing Home in Latonia, KY. She was a member of the Taylor Mill church.

VIGRASS, Wilbert J., 91, born April 28, 1916, died June 18, 2007. He spent many years volunteering at the Niagara Falls, NY, church, before moving to Collegedale, TN, where he volunteered at the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, TN. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

VITAL, Everett R. Sr., 91, died May 23, 2006. Since 1981 he and his wife Margaret, who preceded him in death in 1997, were committed to passing out literature to educate those who did not know the Lord. He self-sponsored and passed out 64,000 *Steps to Christ*, more than 800 Bibles, and more than 60,000 pieces of literature. He was a member of the Knoxville church.

WEBB, Elizabeth, 101, born April 1, 1905, died April 24, 2006. She was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

WHEELER, Faye, 79, born Aug. 9, 1927, died June 7, 2007. She was a member of the Florida Living church in Apopka, FL.

WIESNER, Verla, 98, born May 23, 1908, died March 19, 2007. She was a member of the East Pasco Church, Zephyrhills, FL.

WILKINSON, Gerald H., 89, born May 14, 1917, died April 13, 2007. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

WILSON, Brewer Shirley, 70, born May 9, 1937 Robertson County, TN, died Aug. 12, 2007 in Springfield, TN. She was a member of the Cross Plains, TN, church.



Satellite Viewers Witness 243 Baptisms

BY ABEL PAULÍN

An interactive and simultaneous baptismal ceremony on April 21, 2007, saw 243 individuals baptized in several Florida churches at the close of the satellite uplinked Florida NET 2007 evangelistic campaign, "Confirmando la Fe de Jesus" (*Affirming the Faith of Jesus*).

More than 500 total baptisms in Florida resulted from the April 14-21, 2007, series presented by Rolando de los Ríos, Conference Hispanic evangelist. It was broadcast from the Forest City Spanish church and downlinked throughout North America and parts of South America and Africa.

Three months prior to the satellite campaign, ministers and laypeople in

444 small groups among 52 churches began studying the Bible course, *The Faith of Jesus*. Two hundred and fifty individuals were baptized during these preliminary meetings.

"The night I was presenting the message 'See It to Believe It,' I expressed my conviction that we should trust Jesus no matter what the circumstances," says de los Ríos. "However, no one in attendance knew that I was experiencing that faith in my own soul."

De los Ríos, a former heart bypass surgery recipient, had been stricken that morning with a burning pain in his chest and shortness of breath. He knew if he gave in and went to the hospital,

the evangelistic campaign would be disrupted. Instead, he petitioned the Lord to take away his symptoms until the series was completed, and then he would go to the hospital.

Pastor de los Ríos' prayer was granted, and he was without pain until Sunday afternoon after the campaign. He then went to the hospital, was diagnosed with a heart attack, and had to undergo a catheterization.

"With God's help, it is my purpose to continue ministering for Him as long as He so desires it," says the veteran evangelist and radio preacher, "and I am completely assured that the God in whom we trust will sustain us until the end."



Rolando de los Ríos, Hispanic evangelist



Northwood Spanish, West Palm Beach



Kendall Spanish, southwest of Miami



Indiantown Spanish, near Lake Okeechobee

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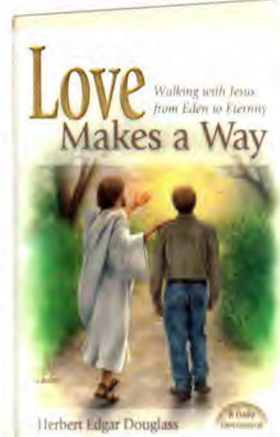
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When **Jesus** arrived at Bethsaida, the people brought
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Jesus took the man by the hand and led him from the village.

After **touching** him **once**, the man began to **see**.

He touched him **again**, and his **vision** became **clear**.

— MARK 8:22-25 —

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# Events Calendar

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**Pathfinder Events—**<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

**Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information.** <http://www.asamcf.org/>, [djmiller4000@earthlink.net](mailto:djmiller4000@earthlink.net), or 386-789-3235.

**Adventist Book Centers—** Winter Park: 800-765-6955. Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: [FloridaABC@floridaconference.com](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)

### Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Nov. 17. Naples.  
Nov. 18. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Lakeview, Winter Haven.  
Dec. 1. St. Petersburg.  
Dec. 2. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.

Dec. 8. Sunrise.  
Dec. 9. Plantation, Lauderhill. (SEC: Mt. Olivet.)  
Dec. 15. Tallahassee.  
Dec. 16. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

### Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars

Dec. 1. Communities West in Loxahatchee.  
Dec. 15. Victory in Port Saint Lucie.

**Winter Haven Church Concert Series.** Details: <http://www.winterhavensda.org/>, [pastor@winterhavensda.org](mailto:pastor@winterhavensda.org), or 863-224-2196.

Nov. 17. Jennifer LaMountain. 6:00 p.m.  
Dec. 8. Gale Jones Murphy Christmas Concert. 6:00 p.m.

**Power of Prayer 2008: Experiencing God's Presence** prayer emphasis weekend—Jan. 4, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Jan. 5, morning worship services and 4:00-6:00 p.m. Forest Lake Church, Apopka. Facilitator: Dr. Joseph Kidder. Details: [svatel@forestlakechurch.org](mailto:svatel@forestlakechurch.org) or 407-869-0680 x16.

**14th Annual Retired Denominational and Hospital**

**Workers' Retreat—**March 9-11. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Speaker: Jack Harris. Reservations required. Details: [rhshepard@netzero.net](mailto:rhshepard@netzero.net) or 407-331-3249.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online—**  
[www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)

**Habitat for Humanity Project—** Oct. 14-Dec. 2. Atlanta, GA.

**Pathfinder Teen Backpacking—** Nov. 2-4.

**Pathfinder Junior Event—** Nov. 2-4.

**Family Ministries Boot Camp Training—** Nov. 2-4. Atlanta Belvedere Church.

**Adventist Education Week—** Nov. 5-10. Conference-wide.

**Invitational Elementary Choral Festival—** Nov. 8-9. Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

**Southern Union Departmental Council—** Nov. 9-17.

**Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training Event—** Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

**Festival of the Family—** Dec. 8.

## Gulf States

**Women's Ministries Autumn Renewal Retreat—** Nov. 2-4. Camp Alamisco.

**Youth Rally—** Nov. 2-4. Bass Memorial Academy.

**Elders' and Deacons' Meeting—** Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Camp Alamisco.

**Executive Meeting—** Dec. 11. Conference Office.

**Bass Finance Committee—** Dec. 12. Teleconference.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board** Nov. 27. Jan. 15. March 11.

**Conference Executive Committee**

Nov. 27. Jan. 15. March 11.

**Highland & Madison Academy Boards**

Nov. 29. Jan. 17. March 20.

**Conference Board of Education**

Feb. 14. April 10.

## Southern Adventist University

**Online Winter Registration—** Nov. 12-16.

**PreviewSouthern—** Nov. 15, 16.

**Thanksgiving Break—** Nov.

21-25.

**Online Registration for New/Transfer Students—**

Dec. 3-Jan. 11.

**Christmas Break—**

Dec. 20-Jan. 6.

## Announcements

**Walker Memorial Academy 60th Anniversary** is being developed for the 2007-08 yearbook. If you are willing to share some of your best memories for the publication, contact Jeannette Zesch at 863-453-3131 or fax your submission to: 863-453-4925.

**Festival de Otoño (Fall Festival) Fifth Anniversary —** Nov. 10. 5:30 p.m. Life Center Church, 63 E. Kennedy Blvd., Orlando. Music performances in Spanish and English by

Steve Green, Rudy Micelli, and Beloved, plus Advent Brass. Love offering will be received. Details: [www.festivaldeotono.com/](http://www.festivaldeotono.com/), [info@festivaldeotono.com](mailto:info@festivaldeotono.com), or 321-662-1073.

**Health Summit Orlando —** Feb. 1-9. Do you need motivation and new ideas for health ministry outreach? More than 25 seminars will be taught including the following brand new offerings: Forgive to Live, Reaching Out to Your Community, Foundations of Health Ministry (earning college credit), Women's Health, and Family Health. To learn more about this exciting training, which is co-sponsored by the North American and Inter-American Division Departments of Health Ministry, go to [www.nadhealthsummit.com](http://www.nadhealthsummit.com)

## Adventist Satellite System

For Installation in the Atlanta Area, Call

**Kaz Sanocki - 404 791-3093**

## Sunset

|                 | Nov. 2 | Nov. 9 | Nov. 16 | Nov. 23 | Nov. 30 | Dec. 7 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Atlanta, GA     | 6:41   | 5:36   | 5:32    | 5:30    | 5:29    | 5:30   |
| Charleston, SC  | 6:24   | 5:20   | 5:16    | 5:14    | 5:13    | 5:14   |
| Charlotte, NC   | 6:24   | 5:18   | 5:14    | 5:12    | 5:11    | 5:12   |
| Collegedale, TN | 6:41   | 5:36   | 5:32    | 5:29    | 5:28    | 5:29   |
| Huntsville, AL  | 5:48   | 4:42   | 4:38    | 4:36    | 4:35    | 4:36   |
| Jackson, MS     | 6:06   | 5:01   | 4:58    | 4:56    | 4:55    | 4:56   |
| Louisville, KY  | 6:38   | 5:32   | 5:27    | 5:24    | 5:23    | 5:23   |
| Memphis, TN     | 6:01   | 4:55   | 4:51    | 4:49    | 4:48    | 4:49   |
| Miami, FL       | 6:36   | 5:33   | 5:30    | 5:29    | 5:30    | 5:31   |
| Montgomery, AL  | 5:50   | 4:43   | 4:42    | 4:40    | 4:40    | 4:41   |
| Nashville, TN   | 5:46   | 4:40   | 4:36    | 4:33    | 4:32    | 4:33   |
| Orlando, FL     | 6:37   | 5:33   | 5:30    | 5:29    | 5:29    | 5:30   |
| Wilmington, NC  | 6:14   | 5:09   | 5:05    | 5:03    | 5:02    | 5:03   |



# *The Ministerial Secretaries*

of the

## SOUTHERN UNION

Announce

## MINISTERIUM 2008

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**ATTENTION  
EXHIBITORS!  
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AVAILABLE**

Exhibit spaces are available on a limited first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms must be completed and submitted to the Southern Union Ministerial Department by November 1, 2007, for consideration. Contact Carol Hollie-Tsede by telephone at (404) 299-1832, Ext. 449 or, via e-mail at [chollie-tsede@southernunion.com](mailto:chollie-tsede@southernunion.com) for registration, fee information and/or exhibit kits.

SOUTHERN  
**TIDINGS**

Southern Union Conference  
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Decatur, GA 30031  
Address Services Requested

SEQ NO. 70284



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