

October 2013



SOUTHERN

# TIDINGS



**Small Church ... Big Potential**

SECCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

# God of the Dysfunctional

We can safely conclude from Jesus' tenure on Earth that God cares much about the mental and emotional afflictions affecting many in our communities. Those who encountered demon possession in Scripture constitute but one example of God's care for those whose minds are altered by the circumstances of living in a world of sin. Delusional assumptions, angers, and gross confusions that contribute to high school massacres, bloodcurdling drive-by shootings, and a battery of meaningless atrocities are contemporary indicators of how lost some people's minds are. Under the auspices of the phrase "mental or emotional afflictions" is a wide spectrum of suffering. Afflictions of the mind encompass anxiety, loneliness, depression, anger, guilt, and developmental problems arising from dysfunctional childrearing. Mental/emotional difficulties include everything from midlife crises to dysfunctional interpersonal relationships, sexual identity issues to violence and abuse, feelings of inferiority, low self-esteem, and grief — to say nothing of debilitating additions to alcohol, cocaine, and harmful practices.

The thought-provoking question that should be posed here is, "Why is God so interested in our mental and emotional well-being?" An analysis of Bible responses surrounding these issues suggests that God wants His followers to be of sound mind, clear channels through which He can share His love. It has become a significant challenge to achieve and sustain mental and emotional wellness in this complex age of stressors. Many people today are reaching out for help. Some receive it, but many are unable to benefit from available help for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that so many in our country lack adequate health care, let alone specialized mental and emotional therapy.

Although libraries are lined with books and dissertations written on the subject of mental health, there is still much misunderstanding and uncertainty about the value of professional counseling in the Christian arena. Many devout Christians are hesitant to pursue mental health counseling because of misconceptions about the process of clinical therapy in general, and how to benefit from it constructively. Caught between the need to talk and not knowing to whom to talk, they begin to drown in helpless and hopeless despair.

In the Christian community an awareness of God's will for our emotional wellness is critical. We would do well to keep in perspective that He is the ultimate Healer. Alongside this very important principle there must be an effort to establish closer ties between religious helping professionals and secular mental health professionals.

Many individuals reinforce their emotional dysfunction by continuing to cope with the stresses in their lives through unhealthy means. For example, they may continue to internalize anger. Also, they may continue their pattern of worrying, and thus use up all their mental energy. They may continue their pattern of being depressed simply because they are used to it, and it is at least a familiar way of coping.

A major way to ward off or reduce susceptibility to emotional/mental dysfunction is to maintain a quiet time with the Lord each day. This helps us to ventilate to our heavenly Father. It helps us to be close to Someone who loves us with a supernatural and intimate love. To be sure, there are mental health problems that cannot simply be solved by setting aside more time with God. Often that is just the first step. We then need to get a professional evaluation by a credible psychiatric professional, if need be. However, true healing comes from God. He is the source. Partnering with Him in life's struggles gives us confidence. It gives us a renewed hope in One who happens to also be the God of the dysfunctional.



**Ron C. Smith,**  
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Cover Caption: Martin Memorial Church, Centerville, Tennessee

# SMALL CHURCH ...BIG POTENTIAL

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ



In America, bigger seems to equate better, especially when it deals with churches. We hear about large churches in other parts of our state with hundreds (even thousands) flocking to experience the worship service, where Pathfinders are counted by the dozens and there are Sabbath School classes (in plural, as in more than one). The reality, however, is different for many congregations. Many of our churches are small, with less than 75 in attendance. That poses some real challenges and opportunities. If you belong to a small church, here are 10 questions to keep in mind as you are faithful to the call to evangelize the community that surrounds you.

**1. Who are we?** You are not a large church. Don't try to be one! Pick one thing, and do it with excellence. Be known in the community for that one thing. Promote it. Talk about it. Encourage it. Take pride in it.

**2. Is our focus health or growth?** Healthy organisms grow. Many times a church won't grow, not because it can't, but because it won't. Internal strife and general unhealthiness is keeping us stuck in neutral. People in the community are already messed up; they don't need any extra drama in their life. When a person joins a dysfunctional church and sees all the unhealthiness, they can become inoculated for life against Christianity. Get healthy. You will grow.

**3. How do we treat guests?** One extreme is to smother guests. They are few and far between, so when they do show up, people want them to join immediately, and smother them with information (sometimes some extreme information like the evils of milk). Please don't. Jesus didn't die so you would stop eating cheese. There sure are more primary things we could start with when conversing with newcomers. Welcome them. Love on them. The other extreme is to see guests as intrusions. We may not verbalize this, but our lack of attention to them sends a strong message: "Thanks for coming, but we are good here."



*Paul Dysinger, a member of Martin Memorial Church, preaches to the growing congregation in Centerville, Tennessee.*

**4. Are we doing what we do with excellence?** Small doesn't need to equal mediocre. Excellence honors God and inspires people. Sometimes the temptation when part of a small church with few helping hands is to give less than the best and let the circumstances determine the effort. Think to yourself: If God would bring us 50 guests today, what would they experience when they show up?

**5. How is your attitude?** A consistent problem I run into are small churches that constantly complain about the pastor, the conference forgetting they exist, the surrounding area that is experiencing "young flight," and a host of others maladies. If you are not careful, that attitude can become visible, permanent, and act as repellent to the people you are trying to attract. Keep a smile on your face. Life isn't fair. God rewards faithfulness, not sour grapes. Think about it: Who would want to stay in a church that is always talking about how bad things are?

**6. What is wrong with being small?** Nothing! Small doesn't equal bad. Some of the best restaurants I have ever eaten at were holes in the wall. There are people out there that are specifically looking for a small church. They believe big churches are impersonal, and they want to make a bigger difference. There are things a small church can offer than a big church never could, and vice-versa. That's ok. We need churches of all sizes. If you are a small church, be the best small church you can be.

**7. How is your faith, hope, and love?** If the church is the key instrument that God uses to share the Good News with the world, then we must never lose three things: faith in the God Who founded it, hope in its success, and love for the community it serves. Meet every week with expectation that, regardless of the past, God is about to do a new work. Prepare to receive the blessing that, although delayed, is not denied.

**8. How are your leaders?** Leadership makes the difference. One word of caution: Since in a small church, leaders are at a premium, the temptation for the existing ones is to take on too many responsibilities. That

can either burn you out, or can send the message to new potential leaders that they are not needed. Continually advertise the availability of leadership positions, and look at newcomers as contributors not threats.

**9. Who is your church for?** If your church is for the frozen chosen, for the founding members, for the people that already know the Good News, then let's put up with clutter, drafty windows, smelly bathrooms, and a lifeless worship service. But if church is for people that are far from God, a keen interest should be taken so the environment sends the message: We care about our church because we care about the lost people God will bring to it. A building that doesn't smell is a great start. Throw away the Ingathering materials; it's not coming back. Paint it. Fix it. Make it look good. It's all for them.

**10. When are you doing evangelism?** People in your community need Jesus. Don't give up on evangelism. Expand it, don't eliminate it. Do it in many forms, many ways. I once had a church that had 25 people. We did a crusade. Baptized 0. Did another one. Baptized 0 again. Did another. Baptized 2. That church has now become a company, and has regular baptisms. Don't give up.

The church I mentioned in the beginning of the article grew to around 50, with an emphasis on sustained intercessory prayer, outreach and small groups, and two yearly reaping crusades. If God can do that in a one-traffic-light town in the middle of apple orchards with six people, He can surely bless you where you are. Thanks for your service to God and faithfulness to His Work. Thanks for keeping the light on. Thanks for keeping hope, faith, and love alive in your small church.

Want this article in a

PowerPoint presentation to present to your church? Any ideas that have worked for you? Questions on how to expand God's Kingdom in your small church? Write to me at [rhernandez@southernunion.com](mailto:rhernandez@southernunion.com), and remember to watch our monthly webcast every first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.: [www.ustream.tv/channel/leadsu](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/leadsu). ☘

*Roger Hernandez is the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union.*

## Links and Resources to Aid Members and Pastors of Small Churches

### Books

*The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective.* Brandon J. O'Brien. Bethany House Publishers, 2010. [www.amazon.com/The-Strategically-Small-Church-Authentic/](http://www.amazon.com/The-Strategically-Small-Church-Authentic/)

*Revolution in the Church: Challenging the Religious System with a Call for Radical Change.* Michael L. Brown. Chosen, 2002. [www.amazon.com/Revolution-Church-Challenging-Religious-Radical/](http://www.amazon.com/Revolution-Church-Challenging-Religious-Radical/)

*The Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis and Treatment for the Big Issues.* Dennis Bickers. Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2005. [www.amazon.com/The-Healthy-Small-Church-Diagnosis/](http://www.amazon.com/The-Healthy-Small-Church-Diagnosis/)

### Web

[www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1987/03/the-small-church-advantage](http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1987/03/the-small-church-advantage)  
[www.smallchurchleaders.org/](http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/)  
[www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/140506-why\\_small\\_churches\\_tend\\_to.html?p=2](http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/140506-why_small_churches_tend_to.html?p=2)

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[www.leadsu.org](http://www.leadsu.org)  
[www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/july/rethinking-small-churches-6-questions-to-ask-about-your.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/july/rethinking-small-churches-6-questions-to-ask-about-your.html)

# TEENAGERS AND ROBOTIC SURGEONS:

Not as Odd a Pairing as You Might Think

BY JENNIFER ROBERTS

If you want to become a skilled surgeon ... play lots of video games? That reasoning may go against conventional wisdom, but James Rosser, M.D., of Florida Hospital Celebration Health, has conducted research that proves warming up with certain video games before performing laparoscopic surgeries leads to more efficient and error-free procedures.

Recently, with the assistance of two high school seniors, Rosser worked on applying this research to establish the world's first "surgical warm-up suite." This unique platform will allow surgeons to warm up before going into procedures to improve their speed, precision, and error suppression.

Why high school seniors?

"There's so much to learn and many new techniques that have to be established. We must speed up the educational process," said Rosser. "Cousins Darren and Noelle Pressey are the first high school students in the country to experience the same training that was originally only available for phy-

sicians and surgeons. We are hopeful the success of this pilot experience will lead to it becoming a widely available national program."

Rosser, an avid Star Trek and

"I believe that today's digital natives are capable," Rosser said. "The earlier we get them on board, the more time they have to innovate and change the world."

As part of the project, the Pressey cousins spent two months immersed in advanced technology and training methods that have previously been reserved for experienced physicians. During that time they used laparoscopic simulators at the Nicholson Center to practice intracorporeal suturing.

"I think it is a unique and rare opportunity," said Noelle, who is considering becoming a pharmacist or pediatrician. "It is not every day that students our age get to experience such an elevated level of training."

Darren, who would like to become an orthopedic surgeon, agrees. "When Rosser offered me this opportunity

to work with him on this project, I embraced the chance to experience this training, and I believe that anyone my age who is interested in medicine, science, or innovation should welcome such an incredible opportunity." ❖



video game fan, has long emphasized the importance of pop culture as a vehicle to more effectively transfer skills and knowledge. Much of his research is centered on educational processes utilizing video games and simulators as training tools.



JERRY ROSS

*Chief Eakins shares pertinent information with Oakwood University students.*

# Use My Talents, Lord

BY DEENA BARTEL-WAGNER

Students on the campus of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, pay the highest of compliments to Chief Lewis Eakins when they say to his officers, “You aren’t like other police I’ve encountered.” That is good news to Eakins. “We don’t want to be like other police,” says Eakins. “Even though we are an officially recognized police department, and we treat individuals with dignity and respect, we also want to help a student in difficulty turn their situation around.”

## The Lure of a Law Enforcement Career

Eakins once was an Oakwood student himself. “I’d planned to study physical education, but when a money shortage kept me from staying at Oakwood, I was disappointed.” Not to be deterred and eager to continue

their education, Eakins and a friend decided to take a course at a public college. “The only class that still had open seats was introduction to law enforcement,” says Eakins. “This caught my attention and I decided to enroll. That led me to pursue an associate degree in police science.”

During the time he was studying for his bachelor of science in criminal justice/business administration, Eakins also worked as a security officer at Oakwood. While he was a reserve officer on the Huntsville police force, Eakins was offered the job of assistant chief of police at Texas Southern University (TSU). “I was 24 years old and the youngest command level officer in Houston,” says Eakins. “The chief became my mentor and modeled what being an officer entailed.”

The TSU campus was in an urban setting and 8,000 students

strong. “We dealt with a multitude of challenges on campus. Robbery, kidnappings, and general crime, as well as small riots and several large demonstrations kept us on alert. During this period we started major initiatives in security cameras and access control on the university campus,” says Eakins. “Much of what I learned during my time at TSU gave me the foundation for other positions I have held throughout my career.”

Following his time at TSU, Eakins became bureau commander of patrol operations, support services, and investigations divisions with the METRO Transit Police in Houston, Texas. “When I began, our officers were non-sworn, and we were a staff of four,” says Eakins. “We made a change to sworn officers, and our department eventually grew to 200 officers.”



### Moving Out on His Own

In 1986, Eakins decided he wanted to move into business for himself and opened Eakins Consulting Services, a private investigations and security firm. "Our work included providing employment backgrounds and corporate due diligence, as well as security consulting services to religious organizations, business entities, and private clients," says Eakins. Familiar names among his client list included the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Enron.

Today, Eakins also serves as the chairperson for the American Society for Industrial Security International North Alabama chapter.

"I'd been in business for 22 years when officials from Oakwood contacted me about a vacancy in the University's Campus Safety Department," says Eakins. Intrigued with the idea of returning to the campus he had once patrolled while a college student, Eakins made the move.

### Coming Full Circle

His arrival also brought changes within the department. "We needed to employ a more professional model," says Eakins. "At that time our non-sworn officers only had first aid training and nothing else."

With his background, Eakins understood the value a law enforcement status would bring to the University's Public Safety Department. "We don't have a crime problem at the University," says Eakins. "Our move to law enforcement status was proactive."

In July 2008, the University made the decision to follow Eakins' recommendation. Eakins was tasked with gathering support from the local police chief, sheriff, and district attorney. The first step in the process was to obtain backing at the state legislative level. Eakins contacted Senator Tom Butler (D) of the Alabama House of Representatives. "Butler sponsored a bill to amend the existing legislation to give Oakwood's president the authority to 'employ and appoint police officers' that have

full arrest powers." The bill passed, the department obtained an agency number, and was officially designated as the Oakwood University Police Department on July 30, 2009, making it the first Seventh-day Adventist institution in the North American Division to have a police department.

A police force dovetails with emergency operations plans. "This allows us to have an increased level of preparedness and enforcement for events such as fire, earthquake, tornado, active shooter situations, etc.," says Eakins. "It also gives us the authority to conduct search and seizures, make arrests, and protect the campus from external forces."



*Lewis Eakins is chief of Oakwood University's Police Department in Huntsville, Alabama.*

The status also allows the department to apply for various state and federal grants for funding purposes, as well as enhancing the professional training of officers with mandated police academy training.

"We can now share and receive information with other law enforcement agencies," says Eakins. "When the General Conference held the Spring Council meeting on our campus, our department was able to determine whether there were any credible threats of which we needed to be aware. We worked with the

FBI, Alabama state troopers, and the City of Huntsville police."

### We Take Care of Our Own

The emotional health of his officers is important to Eakins also. "In my career I had two officers who committed suicide," says Eakins. "I understand the need to have a chaplain on staff. This allows the officers to have someone whom they can talk to confidentially."

Eakins works closely with his officers, and is now mentoring them to fill administrative roles. "I have them attend various community meetings, where the department has to be represented. Before they attend, I brief them on various aspects, such as the personalities in the room, the issues that will impact the University, etc."

As Eakins walks the 1,100 acres on Oakwood's campus, he reflects on his career in law enforcement and his current role at Oakwood. "It's amazing to me to be back here at Oakwood, where my interest in law enforcement first took hold. I understand the culture of Oakwood, and this helps me as the chief of the department," says Eakins. "My officers are here to not only protect the students and faculty, they are here to make a difference in individual lives."

Eakins says that the officers often go out of their way to help a student who is struggling. "One day a student was involved in an incident in the cafeteria and wasn't able to get a meal," says Eakins. "One of the officers who responded offered to take the student to Burger King. It gave the student time to cool down and the officer was able to connect with him. It was a positive outcome for all involved."

"When I first began working as a police officer, I committed to not having to work on Sabbath. This was a stand I had to take for myself," says Eakins. "The opportunities that I have had were not my doing. God has taken me and my talents and worked through me." ❖

*Deena Bartel-Wagner, editor, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.*



*Madison Campus Children's Choir*

# Thankful Heart

BY GISSELA KROLL

It was late at night and I could not fall asleep. My mind was going a hundred miles an hour; my heart knew nothing about quietness. I had just met a music producer on a flight to Nashville, and somehow the hour-long conversation had made my soul thirsty for music again, but in a stronger way than ever before.

I have been part of recording groups before, but since moving to Nashville seven years ago, the only music I have been a part of is the children's choir at Madison Campus Church, Madison, Tennessee, and leading praise and worship a few times a year.

I felt God was calling me to be a musician again in a way that could touch more lives. So, the journey began to plan recording an album. Although I was excited about the idea, somehow it just didn't feel right.

Lying in bed, I started praying, almost in agony, "Lord, why these feelings? Why now? Where are you leading? I don't have peace about this. I hear Your call and I am willing, but please show me the path." It was at that moment I heard loud and clear: "Gissela, you are going to record an album, but not of your singing. It will be with the Madison Campus Children's Choir." Suddenly it all made sense, and I was not only at peace, but very excited.

The next step was meeting with Faith Martin, choir co-founder and coordinator, to discuss the idea of recording a high-quality album. Faith was very encouraging and supportive, so we went to work.

Research was done on what kinds of materials were available for children, and there was very little especially for a children's choir curriculum. What was found was too progressive. In the previous six months, I had received three phone calls from smaller churches asking

for a children's choir curriculum. I could offer very little help because we were also struggling to find music fitting for a church service that the children would enjoy singing.

The project began to grow and the goal became recording a CD — and an accompaniment track, and publishing a music book that would be available to other churches. Now it was time to discuss this idea with Byron Corbett, pastor, the choir and their parents, and the church board and finance committee.

Approval was given and the official start was launched. With the help of generous donors and our church family, the money needed was raised. Christian producer Billy Smiley and Adventist producer Chad Carlson were on board. The selection of songs started and the process began.

The vocal recording started, and the children in the choir learned so much and really enjoyed the process. Phenomenal musicians played the instruments on the tracks, the same musicians that have played for Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Chris Tomlin, and others.

Mixing and mastering were next. Art and photography were done by very talented choir parents. The choir picked the name "Kids in Tune," which means more than being musically in tune; most importantly, it means being in tune with Christ. It was truly a dream how God was guiding, opening doors, and blessing.

The project is ready. Kids in Tune has their first album, titled *Thankful Heart*, which will be able to reach people all over North America. The voices of the Madison Campus Church Children's Choir are

going to reach little (and big) hearts with their praises.

The dream is that every child in the churches and schools of the North American Division will be gifted a copy of *Thankful Heart*. The hope is to partner with churches, conferences, unions, and divisions to provide this evangelistic tool for the children.

Children can play *Thankful Heart* as they travel in their parents' cars, and get their

parents to sing with them, too! What if our hospitals could gift a copy to the children being discharged? If we all work together, just how many homes can be reached? ✨



*Members of the choir with special parts: Samantha Martin (front row, left), Haley Fulton, Cody Blackburn, Angelina DiDomenico, Ireland Kroll (middle row, left), Andrew Murphy, Carleigh Corbett, Kaylyn Levoy, Lucas Burnham, Ashlyn Levoy (back row, left), Ainsley Corbett, Faith Martin, Billy Smiley, and Gissela Kroll.*

Finding the balance between reaching the "un-churched," having appropriate songs for a Sabbath morning church service, and using songs that would be meaningful and relevant to the children was very difficult. Much prayer and thought was given to this part of the project.



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, speaks during the Tri-Conference Camp Meeting in August. This event brings together people in Augusta, Georgia, from several conferences for fellowship and spiritual blessing.

## Conferences Gather: Second Unity Camp Meeting

BY BRITNI BRANNON

The weekend of August 2-3, 2013, was particularly meaningful for those in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), an area in and around Augusta, Georgia. It was there, at the First Baptist Church, that about 1,000 Adventists gathered for the second annual Tri-Conference Unity Camp Meeting.

“This gathering is a unique, symbolic, and important event that brings Adventists together from different churches, cultures, conferences, and language groups. It not only brings together the local congregations, but also guests from more than 100 Adventist churches within a two-hour driving distance,” said BJ Boles, senior pastor of Augusta First Church and president of the CSRA SDA (Seventh-day Adventist) Ministerial Association.

The idea to hold a tri-conference Camp Meeting stemmed from Boles’ desire to bring the Adventist community together.

“Pastoral colleagues from different conferences don’t know each other, folks from one conference don’t know anything about the other conferences nor who their leaders are, and members could be standing in line at the grocery store beside an Adventist brother and not even know it,” Boles said. “We planned this event to unify the body of Christ, develop fellowship

and friendship, and break down barriers of ignorance about our cultures, conferences, and churches.”

The event is a joint effort of the Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland, and South Atlantic conferences, and is planned by the eight pastors who make up the CSRA SDA Ministerial Association and represent each of the three conferences. In addition to the pastors, more than 60 members of the surrounding churches volunteer to help make the event a blessing to those who attend.

“Our prayer is that it be a time of bringing us together, and that the Lord bless us with an ‘upper room’ experience,” Boles said. “We also pray this event may serve as a spark to unite other Adventist communities across the nation.”

The weekend featured keynote speakers such as Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president; Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president; Ruthie Jacobsen, North American Division prayer ministries coordinator; and Marvin Moore, *Signs of the Times* editor. Sabbath afternoon featured seminars by Jacobsen and Moore, along with sacred music concerts by Charles Haugabrooks and The King’s Heralds. Services were also translated into Spanish, and Jorge Mayer, South-

ern Union Hispanic ministries director, offered an afternoon seminar.

All ages found something geared specifically for them. Children enjoyed a program with Rob Snider, associate pastor of Augusta First Church, and Ben Roy from The Science Zone, while youth/young adults listened to an inspiring message from LeClare Litchfield, retired pastor.

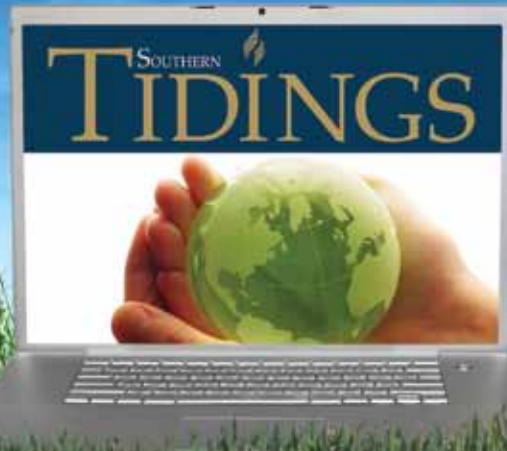
Sallie Smith, member of the Gainesville, Georgia, Church and previous member of Ebenezer, Augusta First, and Atlanta North churches, said the Camp Meeting is like a family reunion for her. She said this spirit of closeness is one of the highlights of the event.

“The unity that we need for our brothers and sisters, the love we need to give each other, and how we need to give the best to each other and be close with love,” Smith said. “We need to just unite. Sometimes, we members don’t even know each other because we’re in a different conference, so it’s been phenomenal for me.”

Next year’s Unity Camp Meeting is scheduled for August 2. ❖

*Britni Brannon is Georgia-Cumberland Conference communication assistant director.*

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*Professional football player Michael Vick (left) and John T. Boston II, pastor of Ebenezer Church in Milledgeville, Georgia, and First Church of Dublin in Dublin, Georgia, on opening night of the "I Still Have Hope" evangelistic crusade*

# I Still Have Hope

BY WHITNEY K. JORDAN

Hope: the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.

Today, more and more people are finding themselves without hope. Instead, they are living with fear and concern, not only about

the future, but the here and now. Jobs that were once considered stable are now questionable. The children are no longer safe from harm in the nation's schools. Wars, terrorism, natural disasters, and deadly diseases take the lives of

millions each year.

But, there is Good News! Help is available, not the kind the world has wherein it wishes for the best, but one that is based on the promises of God and the knowledge of His soon return. This is the hope

that John T. Boston, newly appointed pastor, and the members of Ebenezer Church in Milledgeville, Georgia, and First Church of Dublin in Dublin, Georgia, want to share in their communities through the “I Still Have Hope” evangelistic crusade.

“There are so many messages out there that have very little to do with that hope. People are talking about getting better jobs and better houses. Those things are vitally important as we live and occupy time on Earth, but the hope that burns in my heart and the heart of my churches is that Christ is going to soon come, very soon come, and that’s what we want to share with the world,” said Boston. “We want to share the second advent of Christ. We want to share that the world will not always be as bad as it is, because it’s worse than it has ever been, and it’s not getting better.”

On opening night, more than 3,000 people from across central Georgia packed the Walter B. William gymnasium in Milledgeville to not only hear the message of hope from Boston, but to hear professional football player Michael Vick speak.

With a focus on showing people that change is possible, Ebenezer members brought Vick in to share his personal, life-altering testimony.

“He came to express that he did have hope. A lot of people thought that when he was incarcerated that there was just going to be a contract out there waiting on him; that wasn’t the case. He needed somebody to come along beside him, and let him know, ‘you’re going to make it through this,’” adds Boston. “That translates into the hope that people need to know they can have in Christ...another chance, another opportunity, even though they have, by their own choices, messed up, derailed, or gotten off track in life. Christ has the ability to take you and use you in another area.”

Boston preached for about 20

minutes on the second coming of Christ and the state of the dead. Followed by Vick’s message about second chances and redemption, two themes attached to Vick since the dog-fighting allegations in 2007.

“I’m a guy that has been given a second chance in life,” said Vick, who spoke for eight minutes. “I know what that second chance is like.”

Vick — about believing in yourself, being around people who believed in him, and taking advantage of first chances — said, “Believe in yourself, listen to your parents, listen to the people who care about you, and don’t ever stop believing in yourself.”

The small, 23-member church prepared untiringly for the week-long crusade. “We have been preparing for a crusade for the last three to four years. We’ve been

Two billboards were put up across the city, more than 4,000 tracks were passed out, and a website [istillhavehope.com](http://istillhavehope.com) was set up for attendees to register for free tickets. Those who registered for the event were given the option to receive free Bible studies, and members of the church in pairs or family groups were responsible for conducting the studies.

Boston’s philosophy is to start with these large events, take those that respond to the appeal, bring them to the church, and use the evangelistic meeting to get them ready for baptism. “I Still Have Hope” evangelistic crusade yielded 62 baptized souls for the Lord in the cities of Milledgeville and Dublin.

Ebenezer and First Church of Dublin are taking their cities by storm, sharing the truth, and giving



WHITNEY K. JORDAN

*Elders pray with professional football player Michael Vick before going on stage.*

fasting, praying, and doing prayer walks in the community we picked. We prayed with the people who are in need of prayer, and consoled those who needed consolation,” said Malcolm May, Ebenezer head elder. “So we’ve been preparing, not knowing what the outcome of the event was going to be.”

great hope to those in their community. They are doing it with one goal and question in mind, “How can we be guiltless when the Lord comes and ask us what did you do for Milledgeville and Dublin?” ✨

## National “CEOs to Know” List Includes AHS Leadership

Among those included on the list of “130 Non-profit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know,” released on August 7, 2013, by Becker’s Hospital Review, are Don Jernigan, president/CEO of Adventist Health System; and Lars Houmann, president/CEO of Florida Hospital.

“These men and women are named to the list based on their experience and achievements in the health care industry, as well as their professional involvement in the communities they serve,” Becker’s Anuja Vaidya wrote in the article. “The nonprofit hospitals and health systems these individuals lead are recognized as some of the nation’s top health care



organizations in terms of clinical and financial performance.”

Jernigan was noted for his extensive service both at Adventist Health System and as a former CEO of Florida Hospital. Houmann was also recognized for his years of service, as well as serving on the board



of directors for the Florida Hospital Association.

“Both of these men are deeply committed individuals, and their passion for improving their communities through health care is evident in everything they do,” said Don Livesay, board chairman for Adventist Health System. “We

consider ourselves blessed at Adventist Health System to have them serve with us, and use their talents to further extend the healing ministry of Christ.”

—BY RAINEY TURLINGTON

## Florida Governor Appoints AHS Employee to Advisory Council

Florida Governor Rick Scott recently appointed AHS Information Services Tampa Facility Director Karim Veerjee to the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council. The council is tasked with providing annual recommendations to the governor and legislature that will encourage the government and the faith-based community to work together toward improving social services for Floridians.

“I’ve been very much

hard-wired toward community service,” said Veerjee. “I feel I am blessed that



I am in a position where I’m able to give back to the community; that’s what excites me all the time.”

During his three-year term, Veerjee will focus on child welfare, family initiatives, and criminal justice. He will also assist the council in reaching its goals of enlisting, enabling, empowering, and expanding the work of volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations.

“At the end of the day, it’s about the people and whether we facilitated

change that will help God’s creation,” Veerjee said. “We strive to make that difference.”

—BY ADAM JOHNSON



## Gordon Hospital Hosts Back to School Blast

Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Ga., sent local students back to school in style. Employees and vendors donated hundreds of supplies for the hospi-



tal's Back-to-School Blast, which took place on August 2, 2013. Roughly 2,500 people attended the event, including public, private, and homeschool students in grades Pre-K through 12.

"We were thrilled with the turnout this year," said Kim Brazell, director of marketing and public relations for Gordon Hospital. "In fact, the number of people that came was astounding, which tells us that in the future we need

to double up on school supplies, which were given to the students free of charge."

In addition to back-to-school information, attendees received kid-friendly health information on subjects such as the proper amount of sleep, proper nutrition, and the dangers of tobacco.

"Events like this, where we partner with our local schools and community agencies, are essential to

the hospital's mission of 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ' to all we serve," Brazell said.

As part of the fun, local DJ Donnie Holmes was on stage providing entertainment while the children enjoyed a giant inflatable slide and bounce house, hula hoop contests, and more.

—BY KAREN SHAW

## CREATION Health

### Live Life to the Fullest – And Help Others Do the Same as a Certified CREATION Health Presenter

**CREATION HEALTH TRAINING: November 4 and 5, 2013**

One of the most common questions people ask me is how can they become a CREATION Health presenter, because they are anxious to share God's life-changing message with others.

Well, I have great news for those who are interested. Florida Hospital Mission Development is conducting a two-day CREATION Health Leadership Training & Certification Seminar in Orlando on November 4 and 5. For additional information and registration details, go to [www.AdventSource.org](http://www.AdventSource.org) and visit

the events page for November, or call 800-732-7587.

#### REMEMBER...

Why do we do what we do? To relieve human suffering as Jesus did. Keeping this in mind, here are the eight root causes that are driving today's health crisis and creating a lifestyle of suffering:

- 1) Anger and frustration
- 2) Low self-esteem or self-worth
- 3) Economic disparity
- 4) Hopelessness and emotional despair
- 5) Lack of information or education
- 6) Meaningless existence
- 7) External and internal stress
- 8) Powerlessness and loneliness

Our mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ and point hearts to our gracious heavenly father just as Jesus did.

If you want to relieve suffering and share hope and joy with others, then consider becoming a certified CREATION Health presenter to discover how to effectively share God's original plan for living life to the fullest on this Earth and in the Earth made new.

*That's CREATION Health!*

—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN



## Students Help Older Adults Increase Home, Car Safety

Occupational therapy students joined forces with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the American Automobile Association (AAA), and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and participated in two events at a senior living community on July 25, 2013.

In the first event, CarFit, students educated and increased safety for senior drivers by assessing seat and airbag conditions, mir-



*An occupational therapy student assists Nancy S., a resident of a senior living community, adjust the settings in her car.*

rors, steering wheel height, blind spots, and other car settings. Later in the day,

students assisted with HomeFit, a program that makes in-home adjustments for comfort, safety, and long-term livability.

The two programs increase independence and safety for older adults with minor, inexpensive adjustments.

Nancy S., one of the 12 residents who participated, is uncomfortable switching lanes while driving. When the students assessed her car they discovered her mirrors were not aligned correctly. By adjusting the mirrors, she will now be able to change lanes with more confidence and ease.

"I didn't even realize the mirrors weren't aligned correctly," Nancy said. "It's great they

were able to come and help."

Fran Carlin-Rogers, a national instructor for CarFit, said the students did an excellent job working with the residents, and the adjustments made will have a real impact.

For Carl Hayes, a first-year occupational therapy student, the hands-on experience deepened classroom concepts he's learned. But, the very best part of the day was interacting and seeing the reactions of the residents.

"They were very sweet and accommodating. It is a great feeling to know they will all be a little bit safer."

—BY SARAH CROWDER

## Anesthesia Program Achieves 100 Percent Pass Rate for Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year, 100 percent of the graduates from the nurse anesthesia program at Adventist University of Health Sciences passed the National Certification Examination (NCE) on the first attempt. With this accomplishment, graduates gain the title of Certified Registered Nurse Anes-

thetist (CRNA) and the eligibility to practice in this advanced practice nursing specialty.

The NCE, which is administered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), covers basic sciences; equipment, instrumentation, and technology; and

basic and advanced principles of anesthesia.

The anesthesia students at Adventist University prepare for the examination through classroom learning and the excellent clinical experience they gain at Florida Hospital.

"Learning starts in the classroom, but it's driven home through a variety of

clinical experiences," said Alescia DeVasher Bethea, chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. "Students put the information they've learned into practice, and that process reinforces it."

—BY SARAH CROWDER

## Website Ranks Southern Highly for Return on Investment

Choosing a university requires careful consideration of a number of factors, but primarily it's about deciding where to make a long-term investment in the rest of your life. Southern Adventist University is excited to be ranked highly on a new list identifying the Tennessee colleges that provide the greatest financial return over time by Affordable Colleges Online (AC Online), an academic review website.

AC Online provides information on affordability and financial aid for colleges and universi-



ties. Recently, they developed a list that identifies the colleges in Tennessee where degrees pay off the most. Graduates from these schools have enjoyed the largest earnings gap compared to non-degree holders for more than 30 years, and earn more, on average, than graduates from other

Tennessee schools.

"We aim to educate so that potential students are aware of their options for obtaining a degree and, most importantly, for paying for one," said Dan Schuessler, AC Online founder.

"We've sifted through comprehensive data sources to find colleges and universities in Tennessee that offer a high quality education with consistent, long-term payoffs in the workplace."

AC Online determined which colleges made the list based on research into their individual tuition costs and graduates' aver-

age starting salaries. They used statistics from several national government organizations to compile unbiased data.

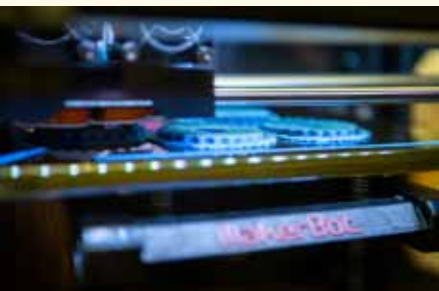
"Being recognized by the website helps give future students and their families the confidence that a degree here will greatly help with success later in life," said Ryan Herman, associate vice president for Enrollment Services. "Southern is worth the investment."

To learn more about the rankings, visit [www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/tennessee/](http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/tennessee/)

—BY LUKE EVANS

## 3-D Printer Provides Hi-Tech Opportunities for Students, Faculty

Southern Adventist University's McKee Library is in the process of moving away from being primarily a space that stores books,



and transitioning into a place where patrons work on original content. In the 2013-14 academic year, the library will open Maker-

space, an area designed to help students and faculty learn about emerging technologies while they bring their own ideas to life. The new creative space's main tool will be a 3-D printer.

The library purchased a Makerbot Replicator 2X printer at the end of the past year. It is capable of printing objects in two colors at once and layers as small as 0.1 millimeters. Since obtaining the equipment, the library has created a number of demo objects, including several that had to be assembled from numerous printed components.

"The great advantage

of having a 3-D printer is that students will no longer have to leave Southern to use one," said Ron Miller, library systems administrator. "They can now gain skills on campus that will be important in the future as 3-D printing takes off."

The cost to create a 3-D object is based on the amount of plastic used and the time required to print. Depending on the size, quantity, density, complexity, and detail of the item being printed, it can take anywhere from 15 minutes to 15 hours to construct an object.

Initially, the printer will

only be available to faculty and students who have classwork that directly involves printing 3-D objects and prototyping. However, as time permits it will be available for general faculty use as well.

"We have many things in our degree that we would love to use the printer for, especially in our embedded systems program," said Richard Halterman, dean of the School of Computing. "Students will now be able to design and create components for electronic hardware with ease, right here on campus."

—BY LUKE EVANS

## Pittsboro Members Realize 62-Year Dream

The Pittsboro, N.C., Church has been a fixture in Chatham County since 1950. Many people sacrificed and worked faithfully to insure that the dream of a church in Pittsboro would become a reality.

During the past 62 years, there have been various improvements made to the church structure, but it wasn't until early in 2000 that a committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of either a major reconstruction/addition to the existing facility or building a completely new structure. For a time, the committee looked at various parcels of land in the area, but ultimately decided that renovating the existing building was the best alternative.

With the assistance of architect Mark Gillis, plans for a 2,200-square-foot addition, as well as reversing the existing sanctuary, were approved by the membership in the summer of 2011. Actual construction



Lay leader Roger Tise (left), former pastor Ken Blake, incoming pastor David Cook, and Carolina Conference president Leslie Louis

BECKY CARPENTER

you with a sense of peace and reverence when you enter. The benches and platform furnishings were refinished and look like new.

It was a massive project, and many church members, as well as mem-

began in November 2012, under the direction of general contractor Larry Gervais. The addition contains additional classrooms and much-needed bathrooms.

bers from the Little Creek Fellowship church, worked faithfully alongside the builders in an effort to contain costs. The volunteer

under construction, the local Nazarene church graciously allowed the Pittsboro members to use their sanctuary for their worship services. Their first Sabbath back under their own roof was August 3, 2013, and the rededication of the building was on August 17, with more than 180 people in attendance. Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, was the featured speaker. Members were also excited to welcome new pastor David Cook and his family that same Sabbath.

Lay leader Roger Tise, former pastor Kenneth Blake, current pastor David Cook, and Conference president Leslie Louis led



BECKY CARPENTER

One of the highlights of this celebration was the baptism of Melinda Carey. "I am told there was never a person more ready to be baptized than Melinda," said Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president.

as well as a roomy welcome area and foyer. The renovated sanctuary with its deep blue carpeting and covered church pews fills

hours donated toward this project are innumerable and their value impossible to calculate.

While the church was

out in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and prayer of rededication for the remodeled church building.

—BY CAROLEE EUBANKS

## Carolina Teachers Renew at Nosoca Pines Ranch

“Come apart and rest awhile,” are God’s words to everyone. And, on August 1-5, 2013, that’s exactly what the Carolina Conference teachers did at Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty, S.C. This rest came through joining together mentally, socially, and spiritually in preparation for the 2013-2014 school year.

Gary Rouse, Conference superintendent of education, presented morning worships highlighting quotes from the book *Education* by Ellen White, combined with personal experiences of God’s leading.

On Friday evening the teachers enjoyed “By the Teachers for the Teachers,” a concert with spiritually-uplifting solos and instrumental presentations. For Sabbath School, Pam Forbes, associate superintendent, modeled an inquiry lesson using a jicama that really made the teachers think. Church



RON QUICK

service was presented by Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union associate director for secondary education. His message was entitled, “No Apologies Needed.”

Other guest speakers during the five days included Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president; Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial secretary; and Scott Rackley, currently a U.S. Army Reserve Criminal Investigation Division liaison for the commanding general of the 200th Military Police Command in Fort

Meade, Md. He is a Seventh-day Adventist who donated his vacation time to help the Carolina teachers be prepared for the hostile world they live in.

Breakout sessions were led by various teachers with helpful and interesting ideas for better teaching methods. Carolina teachers participate in monthly educational study group meetings throughout the school year. They also spent two sessions organizing and preparing for these virtual meetings.

The teachers were able

to spend time hiking, horse-back riding, skiing/tubing, and riding the pontoon boat. They also enjoyed playing basketball or volleyball together, swimming, and networking with each other to get new ideas for the classroom.

The teachers left reconnected to God and His power, and prepared to make a difference in their classrooms and their students’ lives.

—BY JULIE PRIMERO

## ACA Students Get Star Treatment

Adventist Christian Academy (ACA) in Charlotte, N.C., welcomed their

students like celebrities on their first day back to school this year. Two limousines, donated from a local limousine company, picked up students and their families at the Sharon Adventist Church next door and dropped them off at the entrance of the school. Fred Armstrong, ACA principal, dressed in his best suit, greeted them with style. The students and their parents were photo-

graphed by “fans” (teachers and church members) as they walked into the school on a red carpet runway. Upon entering the building, the students and parents were ushered to the gym where a reception was held, complete with breakfast treats from Panera Bread and Krispy Kreme

Doughnuts.

“The message we wanted to convey to the ACA student body and their families was that they are VIPs to us,” Armstrong said.

—BY KARA HOLLAND



CARLA STEWART



CARLA STEWART

## Margate Church Members Impact Community

“Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel” was the command given by Jesus. Margate, Fla., Church has challenged each member to think about how they can personally do their part. Some of the programs the church has introduced to encourage participation include the following:

Anthony Catthouse of the Personal Ministries Department decided to help the needy where they live. Up to 20 other members join him to feed the homeless on the second Wednesday of every month.

Teaming up with LifeNet4Families, more than 230 men and women are



*Volunteers from Margate Church team up with LifeNet4Families in feeding the homeless.*

fed in an area of Fort Lauderdale where most homeless wander the streets. After they eat, volunteers distribute Bible tracts.

“Thank you for your dedication and commitment,” says Chris Polzer, director, of

try to the elderly through praise, prayer, and the spoken Word. Some residents, in appreciation for their only visit in months, were brought to tears as they extended their arms for hugs. Nessa Cohen organizes this

LifeNet-4Families.

Another team of individuals, including Margate Pathfinders, visited Good Hope Manor, an assisted living center, for minis-

program on the first and last Sabbath of each month.

The Women Ministries Department held a picnic for the elderly at Hugh Taylor Burch Park in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Each senior was treated as pampered royalty during this quality time spent with family and caring volunteers. A mini program featured their lives in review and recognized the attendees for their patience, grace, and knowledge. Gifts were awarded to the eldest male and female; and Andrew Nugent, Margate pastor, prayed for a blessing on each guest.

—BY JULIA TEDIM

## Recipe for a Healthy 100 Years Shared

Joining the elite group of centenarians, Roselio Muñiz was honored on September 1, 2013, by 180 family and friends who gathered at the Florida Hospital Nicholson Center in Celebration, Fla.

Born August 30, 1913, in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico, 100-year-old Muñiz says, “There is nothing else you need for good health and a long life except the health message.”

A member of the Adventist Church since 1937, Muñiz was among a group of 16 baptized in the ocean, including one young woman, Crusita, who would later become his wife. First in his community to become an Adventist, he served as teacher/preacher at wor-

ship services held in his house.

After farming in the early years of his career, he became a carpenter and helped build Bella Vista Hospital in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. At its completion, he began to work in purchasing and was named head of the department from which he retired after 33 years.

Muñiz moved to the United States in 1991 and presently lives in Apopka, Fla., where he attends Forest City Spanish Church and enjoys a healthful lifestyle. His physical fitness routine includes riding a stationary bike three miles in 15 minutes, walking for 15-20 minutes around the house while helping with chores, and mowing the lawn.

Each day, breakfast begins with a shake made of seven or eight fruits, walnuts or almonds, one piece of bread, and a slice of cheese. Lunch often consists of his favorite rice and beans dish, while supper will include a bowl of fruit and yogurt.

He keeps his mind sharp by reading, emailing, and searching Google to learn new things. He repairs clocks as a hobby and owns a clock mechanism that was made in 1810.

Muñiz and his wife, Crusita, were married 63 years before she passed away in 2003. He continues to be blessed by his two children, Nehemias Muñiz of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., and Mildred Preussner of Apopka, Fla.;



*Roselio Muñiz blows out candles on the unique time-line cake at his 100th birthday party held at the Florida Hospital Nicholson Center in Celebration, Fla.*

six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Muñiz’s favorite Bible character has always been Jesus, and his goal now is to be alive when He comes!

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

## Tampa Adventist Academy Teacher Honored

Merili Wyatte, vice principal, kindergarten teacher, and special needs coordinator at Tampa Adventist Academy (TAA), was presented the Shine Award at a recognition ceremony held August 6, 2013, during Florida Governor Rick Scott's Cabinet Meeting. The award was created by the governor to highlight teachers who go above and beyond the call of



MEREDITH HALL

*Florida Governor Rick Scott presented a Shine Award to Merili Wyatte, Tampa Adventist Academy vice principal. The award recognizes teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty in pursuit of educational excellence.*

duty in pursuit of educational excellence.

"I am very proud that Merili Wyatte was the recipient of this prestigious award," says Glen Baker, TAA principal. "Mrs. Wyatte epitomizes the very best of Adventist education in the classroom, where her love for children,

commitment to excellence, and caring Christian example touch the lives of many students each day."

Carol Thomas, Ph.D., from the Step Up For Students Program in Tampa, nominated Wyatte for the Shine Award because of her outstanding commitment to elevating the educational experience for each and every child.

Wyatte has taught at Tampa Adventist Academy for 13 years, with a total of 17 years in education.

—BY GARLA JOHNSON

## Spring Hill Church Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On a picture-perfect Sabbath, members of Spring Hill Church gathered May 11, 2013, with friends, visitors, former pastors and their wives, and community officials to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the church.

In 1988, a small group of Seventh-day Adventists moved to Spring Hill. They decided with God's intervention, their faith, and fervent prayers, they would build a church. They were true visionaries and confident that what seemed impossible, God could make a reality.

There were many challenges, however, and they



*Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president, was the featured speaker at the anniversary celebration.*

initially held Sabbath services in each other's homes, at the Turner Funeral Home, and in a rented hall at the United Church of Christ. Finally, in 1992, the church, now growing in number, purchased 12 acres of land on Osowaw Boulevard,

and construction of the sanctuary began.

Members celebrated a significant milestone at the grand opening of their church facility, June 19-20, 1998. God greatly blessed the new congregation through baptisms and membership transfers. On

February 24, 2007, another milestone was achieved when the church celebrated its mortgage burning ceremony.

During the worship hour of the 25th anniversary, Reynold Maxwell, pastor, expressed his gratitude to God, the charter members, and each participant who contributed to the growth and success of the church during its 25-year

history. He acknowledged and read letters of congratulations from Governor Rick Scott and Congressman Richard Nugent. Board Commissioner Diane Rowden read a Resolution from the Board of County Commissioners.

This unforgettable day ended with Vespers featuring a musical anniversary celebration.

—BY SHIRLEY PALMER



LEE BENNETT

*Spring Hill Church as it appeared in 1998 at its grand opening.*

## “Sky Not the Limit” at North Atlanta Hispanic VBS

Some say “the sky is the limit,” and in some instances that may be true. When it comes to the Work of God and His Church, this is not the case. The limit is a lot higher. At this year’s Vacation Bible School (VBS) at North Atlanta His-

panic Church, Doraville, Ga., church members were given proof.

The theme this year was “SKY,” and its message was “Everything is possible with God.” This message was made relevant to everyone involved with the church’s Children Ministries Department since the beginning of the year.

The church’s budget is very slim, which made a big impact on children ministries, especially with a steadily growing population of little ones. The ministry had 85 children between the ages of birth and 14 years old attending Sabbath School regularly.

For VBS, the team was allocated some limited additional resources, and they started working in faith. It would mean making cuts in many areas, yet trying to accommodate as many children as possible. The goal was to reach chil-



*The North Atlanta Hispanic Church took a leap of faith and offered VBS on a very limited budget. God blessed the event with many neighborhood children. The sky is never the limit with God.*

dren from the surrounding community. A total of 140 children ended up registering, including 70 from the neighborhood who are not church members.

The VBS planning team made a plea to the membership for sponsors to help cover additional costs. The team also went to Sam’s Club

and Publix; both stores have helped in previous years with supplies. All parties provided support! In addition, the team took every opportunity to hold

fundraisers, including selling treats and holding a family movie and dinner night.

God showed up every step of the way.

The day finally came, June 25, 2013, the beginning of “SKY VBS.” The previous day the entire volunteer

staff spent decorating the church inside and out and making final preparations. Everything looked great.



*God showed up every step of the way and provided enough funds to offer this VBS outreach; 70 neighborhood children were able to learn more about God, and many received Bibles.*

Opening day all the children, parents, and staff received initial instructions and enjoyed the songs, games, experiments, and Bible lessons.

The children had a great experience learning about God’s amazing power; the volunteers rejoiced, interacting with the children and seeing their minds opening up to the Word of God. Even the parents had something to do. Every night they had a different expert providing seminars to 25 adults on topics including raising children, couples relationships, healthy eating, and immigration.

One of the most rewarding parts of the whole week was the fact that they were able to provide children’s Bibles as gifts to the children who attended throughout the week, as well as one adult Bible per visiting family.

One 11-year-old girl even approached her crew leader during the middle of the week and asked the children’s ministries director for a Bible, saying, “not a kid’s Bible, an adult Bible,” because she wanted to learn more about God.

The team learned a great deal this year at VBS, but the biggest lesson each one took away was that the sky is not the limit. With God everything is possible.

—BY JAVIER AND  
SUYAPA VANEGAS



## Baptisms, Child Dedication, Wedding Ceremony in Albany

During the first week-end of June, Albany, Ga., Community Church experienced a Heaven-sent blessing. The church members witnessed a child dedication and three baptisms.

One of the young families, Scott and Leigh Prichett, came forward with their two children, daughter Riley, age 10, and son Rad, age 4. Rad was dedicated to the Lord and Riley was baptized. Two more individuals also came forward to be baptized, Kelly Davis and Gary Riley.

On Sunday afternoon,



*Kelly Davis and Gary Riley pledged their lives to God through baptism on June 1, 2013; the next day, they pledged their love to each other during a traditional Irish wedding ceremony.*

June 2, the members were active again, this time with a blessed union in holy matrimony for Gary Riley and Kelly Davis. The ceremony was informal and included a number of Irish traditions: the customary men's dress, the locking of the doors so the groom could not escape, the salt ceremony signifying the union of the couple as one flesh, the giving of a silver horseshoe for bless-

ings upon their new home, the first congratulations for the new bride by the pastor, and the Irish blessing given to the couple by those in attendance. Bagpipes completed the Irish wedding.

It is such a blessing when members step up and say, "I'm ready to dedicate my life to God."

—BY RHONDA WILSON

## Public Health Students Learn about Adventists

The Community Health and Cultural Competency class for Public Health students at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) has invited the Johnson City Tenn., Adventist Church to share its beliefs and philosophy of health in the fall and spring semesters for the past three years.

They open the 75-minute class with two or three church members giving personal testimony for Christ and healthful living. Next the students watch ten minutes of the film, *The Adventists*; and are introduced to Ellen White's role in promoting health, and the key doctrinal beliefs.

After a Q & A session, the Creation Health acronym is used to share the principles of healthful

living.

This planting of seeds makes a deep impression on some students. One young woman shared that she had just about given up on Christianity before hearing our group speak.

All of the students write a feedback paper on the presentation, and that information is forwarded on to the church by the



*Each fall and spring semester the Johnson City Church members in Tenn., shares healthful living with students in the Community Health and Cultural Competency class at East Tennessee State University.*

teacher. Most of the feedback is quite positive, and when the students learn that Adventists live eight to

ten years longer, they are impressed.

—BY PAULL DIXON

## Evangelism in Athens Reaps Souls

The Discover Prophecy Evangelistic series in Athens, Ala., spearheaded by Johnny Mosquera, Conference evangelist, climaxed with nine people taking their stand for Christ on April 13, 2013. Even in this small community, more than 100 people attended the meetings as Mosquera focused on Bible prophecies and real solutions to current world problems.

Athens Church invited Ardmore State-Line Church to participate in all the activities associated with



*Tony Pitt (back row, left), Athens pastor; Christine Mayor; Carol Dulin; John Sine; Joyce Lynn; Johnny Mosquera, evangelist; Vera Stewart (front, left); Samantha Stegall; Makiya Hagan; and Melissa Dillon (Not pictured: Shirley Upton)*

the meetings. This not only maximized the resources available, but each church benefited. Two of the nine baptized members joined State-Line Church.

A second baptism was planned with two more candidates scheduled to join Athens Church congregation.

“It was evident that the Holy Spirit had been working on the hearts of many even prior to March 7, when the series began,” says one member. In preparation for this event, months of Bible studies, prayers, and fasting, plus a Prayer Meeting series on “The Upper Room” led by Tony Pitt, pastor of Athens Church, laid the foundation. Evangelism through meetings,

community service, Christian education, and social services is still the life blood of the Church. And for those who participated and served, it was a thrilling, blessed experience.

As a grand finale for the day of the baptism, a family fellowship luncheon followed the Sabbath services, giving all an opportunity to feast and fellowship with the new believers. The weeks ahead will now be spent not only nurturing the new believers, but following up on new interests which opened up as a result of the meetings.

—BY SANDRA PRICE

## Pathfinder, Adventurer Staff Develop New Leadership Skills

On the weekend of August 16, 2013, Pathfinder and Adventurer club directors and staff members gathered at Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, Ala., for their annual leadership training convention. The theme for the weekend was “Saved with Amazing Grace.” James (J.B.) Black Sr., director of youth ministries for the North American Division, was the featured speaker, and he taught a Pathfinder Leadership Workshop. His inspiring sermon on Sabbath morning centered on his personal experiences and how God has touched his life in an amazing way

Other workshops were taught by Pathfinder council members. These classes included training for Master Guide; and Pathfinder certification for basic staff, instructor, counselor jump start, and director.

Antonio Perejda, a guest Pathfinder council coordinator from Atlanta, Ga., and a member from the Southeastern Conference, taught classes in Pathfinder leader-



*The Conference Pathfinder Council volunteers, along with James Mangum (second row, center), Gulf States youth director, planned the Youth Leadership Weekend.*

ship and organization for the Hispanic staff members. Adventurer leaders were delighted by the presentations on how to

run an Adventurer Club taught by Ginny Perez, and Loisa Cortez from Community Church in Meridian, Miss. Cortez is also the Adventurer Club coordinator for Gulf States Conference.

The weekend was planned by James Mangum, Gulf States youth director, and the Conference Pathfinder Council.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## Bass Students Spend First Back-to-School Days at Camp Alamisco

On Monday morning August 12, 2013, two busloads of excited students from Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) left the school campus and headed for Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, Ala., for a four-day retreat.

This retreat was the idea of Chelsy Schauer, new BMA chaplain. Schauer felt a school-wide retreat was needed to start the new school year, so students and faculty could meet each other and find ways to connect with God. Phil Wilhelm, BMA principal, says, "My goal for several years has been to begin school by laying a solid foundation upon which the rest of the school year could be built, and



*Students participated in interactive, group-building activities.*

this seemed like a plan that would work."

The time at camp included time devoted to worship; interactive mingling games; and free time at the waterfront, boats, and canoes. The theme for the retreat was "Devoted," and a special emphasis was placed on connecting with God in a personal way. Schauer led out in practical ways



*A special emphasis was placed on connecting with God in a personal way.*

to establish a meaningful devotional time, and various faculty shared testimonies of their devotional experiences. Time was set aside each morning for the students to go outside with their Bibles and spend time alone with God. This has been continued after returning to the school campus.

Responses from the students were positive. Mia

Findorff, a freshman, said, "The retreat was awesome because I got to meet new people and have a good time!" Another freshman, Michelle Johnson, added, "The retreat has encouraged me to spend more time with God." Addison Cason-Clark, a senior, summed it up this way, "It was a great experience! It was a really good way to get to know the new and returning students, but most importantly, to get to know God better! Wish I could go next year."

Wilhem concludes, "I believe we have found the best way to lay that foundation."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## Athens Members Celebrate Iva Baum's 90th Birthday

Iva Baum, long-time member of the Athens, Ala., Church, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 27, 2013, and she didn't celebrate it alone. Athens members honored her with a luncheon and memory tidbits highlighting special recollections of her tenure at Athens Church during the last 12 years.

Baum is currently the only Adventist in her family. Her journey with Adventism began after she moved to the Chicago, Ill., area in 1949 and met and married Bill Baum. It was early in her marriage that she was ex-



*Church members honored fellow member Iva Baum with a luncheon on her 90th birthday.*

posed to the Church through her in-laws who were Adventists. They often invited her and Bill to special church functions, and out of courtesy to her in-laws, she and Bill would sometimes

go. Many times this interfered with Bill's sports plans, but her usual comment to her husband was, "If I have to go, you have to go, too."

Eventually, Iva became interested in present truth, and on February 9, 1981, both Iva and Bill were baptized. From that point on, she never looked back.

In April 1995, Baum lost her precious husband after a short illness. At that time, her only son, Terry, was living in Athens, a long way off to give Iva the kind of support she needed. So, in 2000, she moved to Athens after Terry convinced his mother that

she needed to be closer so he and his wife, Nora, could look after her.

Baum is one classy woman, and she has not lost her glow even at 90 years of age. However, it is her inward beauty that one notices most. She is very loving, and members know her as an encourager, prayer warrior, lovely hostess, and friend to all. Her long-time commitment to providing transportation for the shut-ins has been such a blessing — a service she provided until the last couple of years.

—BY SANDRA PRICE

## Indian Creek Camp Touches Lives

Indian Creek Camp (ICC) has much to offer many people. Below are answers to the question, "What does ICC mean to you?"

- ICC is staffed with mostly college age young people who are talented and smart, and go out of their way to make every camper feel special and wanted. They all want to be the first on the scene of a spilled lunch tray or a skinned knee; their kindness and concern is always evident. Much of the staff cried during Teen Camp as campers made life commitments to Jesus, and now depend on Him for healing from the pain in their lives. Indian Creek Camp is no ordinary place! This kind of caring and love is not seen much. What I saw at Indian Creek Camp was... The love of Jesus! –Alta Tucker, Family I camper, and mother of two campers and two staff members

- Victoria (name changed for privacy) had an awesome time at ICC and reconnected with Christ. The sponsorship funds made it possible for her to attend. Victoria cannot wait to go back to



*Teen Extreme Horsemanship camper at the reins with Bob Strickland (left)*

ICC and wants to become a counselor one day. She struggles with things at home, neither parent goes to church, and Victoria is having a hard time watching her mom go through treatments for breast cancer. The ICC staff was a wonderful witness for Jesus. They made a difference for Victoria. –A friend who helped Victoria to attend camp

- I have been working at ICC for three years and each year I look forward to coming back to this wonderful place. ICC has made many impacts in my Christian walk because of the relationships I have made. ICC is a place

where I can really interact with others that believe the same as I do. My co-workers are so close to me; I consider them family. The work that we as a staff do



*Mountain Biking Instructor Anthony Allen (third from right) with junior campers*

here helps people come closer to God. There is an atmosphere of worship to our Creator, and when campers come, I see the wonderful work that God is

doing in this place. –Anthony Allen, camp staffer

- Five years ago, my friend convinced my family to attend ICC Family Camp. We are not Adventists, but we felt welcomed from the first day, and every year feel like we are coming home to family. All the activities are great, and the staff makes sure you are well taken care of and having fun. The best and most important part about ICC to me is the time we spend in worship. ICC has restored my faith in God, and has given me a connection to Him that I had lost a long time ago. I had not prayed in years, and ICC made me feel so close to God it was easy to seek Him out. ICC will always be a part of my family, and I hope to one

day share with my grandchildren. –Joi Catanzaro, Family II camper

—COMPILED BY  
STEPHANIE RUFO

## Highland Academy Welcomes New Staff, Remodels

Highland Academy is bringing in the 2013-2014 school year with several new staff members, new landscaping, new interior for the ad building, new lobby floor in the gym, and new girls' dorm lobby. Highland praises God for all the new physical improvements to the campus, and welcomes new staff.

Bliss Kuntz will be teaching science and art classes. She taught science at Springfield High School in Springfield, TN. Kuntz received her bachelor of science degree in biology from Western Kentucky University.

Also joining the Highland family is Ken Hallum, who will be teaching English and history classes. Hallum comes to Highland from Denver, Colo., where he taught at Mile

High Academy. Hallum earned a bachelor of arts in English, history, and education. He also has a master in education in Diverse Learner from the University of Phoenix.

Another new faculty is Ivan Flores, who will teach music and Spanish classes. Flores comes to Highland from Modesto, Calif. He earned a master of music in instrumental conducting from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Stefi Affron is the new administrative assis-



Ken Hallum (front row, left), Bliss Kuntz, Stephen Rogers, Stefi Affron (back row, left), Ivan Flores, and Kendra Avila

tant. Affron comes from Gainesville, Fla., where she worked at Shands Children's Hospital. She has a bachelor of science in photographic imaging from Andrews University

The new assistant dean of women is Kendra Avila from Soddy Daisy, Tenn. Avila will graduate this year

from Andrews University with a degree in wellness.

Highland's new assistant dean of men is Stephen Rogers from Memphis, Tenn. He is a history major at Southern Adventist University.

Highland Academy is a dormitory academy located just three hours

northwest of Chattanooga, Tenn., and about an hour north of Nashville, Tenn. To learn more about the Highland family, visit [www.highland-academy.com](http://www.highland-academy.com).

—BY AMY CIRIGLIANO

## Gohdes Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

Howard and Betty Gohde of Woodbury, Tenn., Church will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on October 17, 2013. The couple was married in South Attleboro, Mass. They were classmates and pioneer students at Sunnydale Academy in Centralia, Mo., where they graduated in 1948.

Howard began his printing and photogra-



phy career working at the Southern Publishing Association in Nashville, Tenn. After Nashville he worked in Colorado, at Andrews

University in Berrien Springs, Mich., in Orlando, Fla., and retired from the College Press, Collegedale, Tenn. Betty worked at Florida Hospital in Orlando for 22 years in clerical work. They have happily served the Church in many capacities and leadership positions.

The Gohdes reside in Woodbury, Tenn. They keep busy with commu-

nity service, gardening, and helping others. The couple has two sons, Glenn (Winnie) Gohde of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Bruce Warren Gohde (deceased); and one daughter, Joyce (Troy) Gohde Kimbel of Woodbury.

The Gohdes have no plans for a cruise and no plans for a European vacation, but they do plan to meet all of you in God's Kingdom one day very soon.

—BY JOYCE GOHDE KIMBEL

## NAD Regional Conference Presidents Establish Hispanic Caucus

Strong and continuous growth in their Hispanic churches have prompted the presidents of the nine regional conferences in the North American Division (NAD) to establish a Hispanic council within their caucus. In 2012, 107 pastors in 269 congregations serving Hispanic communities, baptized 1,175 souls. Current trends suggest that this figure will be surpassed in 2013. At the present time, 19,000 Hispanic members compose more than six percent of the membership in the regional work.

In order to foster unified strategic planning and the implementation of uniform employment practices within the conferences, the regional presidents held

a joint meeting with their Hispanic coordinators at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., to discuss the establishment of a Division-wide Regional Hispanic Council. On Friday, March 29, 2013, the regional presidents officially voted to establish the NAD Regional Hispanic Advisory. The council will be composed of the Spanish-language director, coordinator, or vice-president in each conference working under the chairman of the regional caucus.

For the past several years, these leaders have established a Spanish-lan-



*Regional conference presidents are pictured with members of the newly formed Hispanic caucus.*

guage track at the annual Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Council held annually on the campus of Oakwood University. This session is open to all Hispanic pastors in North America, regardless of conference affiliation.

Regional conferences were established by the

General Conference in 1945 to serve the predominantly African-American populations centered in mostly urban areas within local union conferences. Today, the regional conference membership stands at nearly 320,000 members.

—BY DANIEL HONORE

## Berea Junior Academy Receives Laptop Computers

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” Ephesians 3:20. As a result of much prayer, diligence, longsuffering, team-work, faithfulness in the little things, and the working of the Lord, Berea Junior Academy (BJA) in Sumter, S.C., was blessed with 30

laptop computers, donated through the generosity of



*James K. Lamb, Ed.D. (left), South Atlantic Conference education superintendent; Redrick Howard, BJA principal; Lenora Powell, former BJA principal; Marquis Jackson, pastor of Berea Church in Sumter, S.C.*

the Food and Drug Administration. The school was granted its request as a result of its non-profit status, need, and commitment to community service.

The project was initiated by the former principal, Lenora Powell, and came to fruition as the baton was passed to the current principal, Redrick Howard, who is a math and technology specialist.

Each BJA student from kindergarten

through grade 8, from the 2013-2014 school year and onward, will have access to personalized technology. These tools will open up a whole new realm of possibilities for the teaching/learning dynamic — particularly in a small school, multi-grade setting — and particularly in an environment where the potential for growth is so great. “This is huge,” states Principal Howard. It is huge, indeed!

—BY CARLINE SAMUELS

## Decatur Takes Communion to Nursing Home Residents

Twice a month the residents of A. G. Rhodes Health and Rehab, a nursing home in Atlanta, Ga., are joined by members of Decatur Church for Sabbath worship. The members have conducted Sabbath worship services at the nursing home since February 2005, under the directorship of Dora Massey, Decatur Church nursing home ministries leader. In March 2012, Vanessa Johnson, social activity supervisor for the nursing home, asked if Decatur Church could provide com-

munion services to the residents. Taking the opportunity to expand the ministry at the nursing home, Dora Massey asked if the church could also conduct Bible studies with the residents. Bible studies were permitted and the plan was set to bring communion to the residents once per quarter. As a result of the Bible studies, one of the nursing home staff, Barbara McDew, was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on June 6, 2013.

On June 22, 2013, the residents of the nursing home had the opportunity to participate in another communion service sponsored by Decatur Church. Communion services had been conducted at the church earlier in the day.

Not only was this day the first communion service with the new pastor, John Nixon II, it also was McDew's first communion as a newly baptized Seventh-day Adventist.



*Deacons Odem Russell (left) and Ned Carlisle pass Communion emblems to the nursing home residents.*

Nixon spoke positively to the congregation about the way the elders and deacons displayed honor and respect during communion, and he looks forward to many more communions at Decatur. Immediately after the service, the elders, deacons, and deaconesses visited the nursing home, and administered communion to the residents in the same spirit of reverence and respect that Nixon had observed. The elders and deacons demonstrated honor and humility among the nursing home residents

in a way that they will not soon forget.

A typical worship service organized by the church's nursing home ministries leader includes opening prayer, song service, testimony time, special music, intercessory prayer, and a sermon. Joe Wooten, elder, uplifted the residents and nursing home staff during the intercessory prayer, and prayed specifically that the staff will continue to show love and respect as they attend to the needs of the residents, and that the residents will continue to grow in

God's grace. Cedric Smikle, deacon, encouraged the residents with a message about the consequences of following the commands



*Barbara McDew stands pictured to the right.*

of Christ — that often the reward of “afflictions and restriction of freedoms” is a consequence of following Christ, but as followers of Christ, “we should stay

on course” and continue to praise and uplift the Lord in spite of afflictions and limitations. The residents responded positively to the message, and thanked the church members for coming and sharing God's love with them.

The communion service was conducted in a solemn and reverent manner. As the elders and deacons administered communion to the residents, Ferline Simons sang “How Beautiful is the Body of Christ,” and Perry Cooper sang “You Loved Me with the Cross.” The residents observed how communion is a very special part of the worship experience. The deaconesses, newly baptized nursing home staff member Barbara McDew, and other members assisted the residents who were unable to hold the emblems for themselves, and waited on them until all the residents in attendance had been served. Lester Scott, head elder, pronounced the charge to “take, eat, and drink in remembrance of Christ”: “For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death until He comes,” 1 Corinthians 11:24-26.

Each quarter, the residents of A. G. Rhodes Nursing Home can count on the elders and deacons of Decatur to help them fulfill this commission.

—BY KAREN WOOTEN

## Jackson's "Pint-sized Preacher" Appears on Today Show

Jackson, Miss., native Samuel Green, 8, also known as "The Little Preacher," appeared on the Today Show in a segment called "Inspirational Kids." He sat down to chat with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb, who asked Green questions about being a child preacher and his aspirations.

"At just five years old, Samuel Green realized he had a special gift," said Gifford, introducing her guest.



Hoda Kotb (left) and Kathie Lee Gifford pose with Jackson, Miss., eight-year-old preacher Samuel Green on the Today Show.

the pulpit, inspiring anybody who wants to listen wherever he goes."

Green appeared on the show with his mother, Joann Green, and his mentor, Beverly Coleman. The Greens are members of Berean Church in Jackson. "I really don't forget things, and I really don't get nervous, because I know God has my back," said Green.

He told Kotb that Job is his favorite biblical figure to preach about.

Mom Joann Green said she first realized her son had a gift when he was invited to speak at a church in Birmingham, Ala. Coleman said she met Samuel when he was 13 months old, and soon realized he was academically gifted.

Green said his peers treat him like a regular kid. "They're like, 'Oh, Samuel's a preacher....Let's play soccer ball,'" a comment that generated laughs in the studio.

Green said he plans to have two jobs in the future, "I want to grow up to be a preacher and a doctor who takes care of children."

—BY LAREECA RUCKER

## Bowling Green Church Boosts Community Outreach

When Pierre Quinn, pastor, arrived to lead Cottage Chapel Church about a year ago, he discovered not many people in Bowling Green, Ky., had heard of the church founded in 1891.

"That was kind of surprising for a church that's been here so long," he said. "So I said, 'let's reconnect.' So, the way you reconnect is family."

The majority of Cottage Chapel's 100 members are young adults with families, so Quinn is focusing on

family-oriented activities as he slowly expands the church's programs in an effort to reach out to the community and get the church's name out there.

"We're starting off with once a month because we don't want to overcommit," he said. "Once we build consistency, we'll be able to add more programs."

On July 27, 2013, Cottage Chapel hosted a monthly program as a way to bring families together, and celebrate the end of the church's Vacation Bible



Gralie Boamab (left), 9, Ika Ngoy, 10, and A.J. Jones, 11, all of Bowling Green, Ky., perform a skit on Sabbath, July 27, 2013, about forgiveness during Family Reunion Day at Cottage Chapel Church in Bowling Green. The church held a family celebration to conclude its Vacation Bible School.

JOSHUA LINDSEY - THE CLARION LEDGER DAILY NEWS



School. The event featured music, food, face painting, and a visit from the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry in Louisville, Ky.

“We had Vacation Bible School, but hadn’t really connected with their families,” Quinn said.

He’s planning events each month for the rest of the year, including seminars, a fall festival, and a holiday program.

“It’s also important to build relationships with people in the community rather than just offer programs,” Quinn said. Sometimes in place of worship services on Saturday mornings, he will lead church members around the neighborhood to meet residents, and introduce them to Cottage Chapel and their faith.

“It’s easy to come sit (during services), but when you come sit, you’re not really reaching anyone,”

he said. “If you’ve offered nothing, if you’ve sacrificed nothing, you can’t expect people to come.”

Tracy Russell of Bowling Green, communications director for Cottage Chapel, is also passionate about creating a connection with the community.

“We like to think of ourselves as a small church with a big heart,” she said. “Community outreach is one of the most important things we do. It’s not so much about folks knowing who we are, as it is to help them.”

One way she and other church members reach out is through visiting the elderly, offering words of en-

couragement, and prayer.

“You want to always bring positive things that all things are possible,”

Chapel since childhood, and wants to share that experience with others.

“I want that for my

kids, as well as their friends,” she said.

Ngoy serves as the children’s ministries director at Cottage Chapel, and wants to reach out to the community.

“We want them to know the love of

Jesus, and that there are other people out there like them, so that we can be one big happy family,” she said. “We also want them to know we’re here if they need anything.”

—BY LAUREL WILSON



JOSHUA LINDSEY - THE CLARION LEDGER DAILY NEWS

*Pierre Quinn, senior pastor of Cottage Chapel Church, Bowling Green, Ky., speaks on Sabbath, July 27, 2013, during Family Reunion Day.*

Russell said. “That’s what we want people to understand. Some know, and others may have forgotten. We want to get out and just kind of be a reminder.”

Christina Ngoy of Bowling Green has been really active at Cottage

## Southern Union News

### MyWayToJesus.com

## Newest Online Resource for Seekers, Soul Winners

MyWayToJesus is the newest resource to reach those who are seeking Christ by means of the Internet. It has just been released by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

MyWayToJesus.com is positioned to reach “seekers,”

and acquaint them with Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It will also direct them to the nearest congregation using the eAdventist database.

This online resource also incorporates mass media strategies such as social media, PSAs, billboards, com-

mercial spots, and Adventist Vimeo channel videos. Other navigation bars include:

Did You Know (28 Fundamental Beliefs explained in .90 videos with Bible study links, live chat feature, etc.), Who Is God (Discover Bible Studies), God Loves Kids (My Place with Jesus), Wednes-

day’s Word (weekly email devotional message), and Prayer Requests.

Visit MyWayToJesus.com and then share it with your friends via Facebook, email, and Twitter, and yes, old-fashioned word of mouth.

—BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

## Southeastern Pilots NAD Evangelism Initiative

For two weeks this summer, Kamala Taylor, wife of Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga., brought the Word of God to the Valdosta community. The reaping series, which was themed “Jesus is Coming: Are You Ready?” began on July 21, 2013, and resulted in one marriage and 16 baptized individuals.

Taylor spoke on a variety of topics, which included the family, Creation, and the Cross. “God’s name was glorified through the series led out by Kamala,” said Winston Taylor. “The majority of the 16 souls that were baptized were first-time baptisms. Praise the Lord!”

The reaping series that Taylor conducted was a part of the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Spouses Evangelistic Initiative.

Sponsored by the NAD Ministerial Department, the initiative encourages the ministerial spouses to work in partnership with their pastor spouses and their congregations, to be the speaker of a reaping event in their local churches. Southeastern is one of three



Nicolle Brisé (left), Southeastern women’s ministries director; Donna Jackson, North American Division ministerial spouses coordinator; and Kamala Taylor pray for the Lord to bless the NAD Ministerial Spouses Initiative in Southeastern Conference.

conferences that are piloting this initiative.

“The purpose of the Ministerial Spouses Evangelism Initiative is to assist in kindling an ongoing passion in the spouses of pastors for



Shaun Boonstra, former speaker/director of *It Is Written* telecast, conducts a workshop on how to run a reaping series at the Southeastern Conference ministerial spouses evangelism training that was held on February 8 and 9, 2013, at the Conference office in Mt. Dora, Fla.

spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ within their local context, and thereby strengthen their homes and churches and grow the Kingdom of God,” said Donna Jackson, NAD ministerial

spouses coordinator.

In preparation for the reaping series, Jackson conducted a training event for the ministerial spouses of Southeastern. Taylor, along with 24 other spouses from Southeastern, participated in the training event which was held February 8 and 9, 2013, at Southeastern’s headquarters in Mt. Dora, Fla.

Shaun Boonstra, former speaker/director of *It Is Written* telecast, and Nicolle Brisé, Southeastern’s women’s ministries director, conducted the training. During the two-day training event, Boonstra and Brisé taught the spouses how to prepare, conduct, deliver a sermon, and close out a reaping series.

“We are excited that Southeastern was chosen to serve as one of the pilot conferences for this great initiative,” said Brisé. “Women have a special work to do that men can’t do in spreading the Gospel.”

Taylor is one of seven spouses who have planned to conduct a reaping series this year. The other six spouses are Sandra Brown, wife of Mark Brown, pastor of Breath of Life and Ephesus churches in Jacksonville, Fla.; Darlene Brooks, wife of Harold Brooks, pastor of Daughter of Zion Church in Delray, Fla.; Mae McKinney, wife of Brian McKinney, pastor of First Church in Thomasville, Ga., and Dixie Church in Quitman, Ga.; Dr. Brenda Owusu, wife of Michael Owusu, pastor of Perrine and Mission Station churches in Miami, Fla.; and Nicole Powell, wife of Curtis Powell, pastor of Lighthouse Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and All Nations Church in Miami, Fla.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga., baptizes nine of the 16 individuals who decided to give their lives to Christ as a result of the reaping series that his wife, Kamala Taylor, conducted.

## College Graduates Take Sabbath Stand

Graduation day is probably the most exciting day in the life of a college graduate. It signifies a moment of



When Leslie-Ann Krigger (left), Amanda Goodluck, and Ann-Marie Gray found out that their graduation service was scheduled to be held on the Sabbath, they decided to skip it. Perrine, Fla., Church members held a special service for them, and the president of the college, Dr. Jeanne Jacobs, did the commencement address.

accomplishment. Yet, when Amanda Goodluck, a member of Perrine, Fla., Church, and Ann-Marie Gray and

Leslie-Ann Krigger members of Bethel Church, Cocoa, Fla., learned that their graduation from Miami-Dade College would be held on the Sabbath, they decided not to march with the rest of their class.

The graduates worked hard and studied to become teachers, graduating with degrees in exceptional student education — K-12.

They earned their degrees with high honors. But, they had the courage to stand.

As is the

custom, the Education Department of Perrine Church holds an annual graduation ceremony for its students from pre-K to university. There were 32 graduates, but three were singled out because of their stand for the Sabbath. The Education Department held a special commencement exercise for

the three graduates.

These graduates could not have been more proud when the president of Miami-Dade College, Dr. Jeanne Jacobs, delivered the commencement address, officially making them graduates.

—BY MILICENT TAYLOR



Graduates from pre-K to university level are pictured with Michael Owusu (right), pastor of Perrine, Fla., Church.

## IDEA TO REACH

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### SOUTHERN UNION EVANGELISM COUNCIL 2013

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Pastor Roger Álvarez haciendo un llamado a tomar decisiones en favor de Jesús en la iglesia Acarigua Central.

# Cientos de Bautismos en Venezuela

MARIEL LOMBARDI

Rodney Aquino, pastor de la asociación de La Florida, conoció a Wen Jin Zheng, un empresario nacido en Guangdong (antiguamente Canton) cuando presentó la campaña que se llevó a cabo en la iglesia de Baraure, Venezuela, en junio pasado. Zheng, respetado por la comunidad, proviene de una familia budista, aunque nunca abrazó esta fe. Se consideraba un ateo.

La comunidad china en Venezuela es conocida por ser cerrada. No obstante, él se casó con Margarita Morillo hace 30 años. Margarita había asistido a la iglesia Adventista hasta que cumplió 17 años, pero por alguna razón se había apartado.

Hace aproximadamente 6 años, el padre de Wen enfermó de

gravedad. Se probaron diferentes tratamientos pero nada parecía surtir efecto. Cuando la familia había perdido la esperanza, Margarita le dijo a Wen que ella iba a orar por su padre, a pesar del descreimiento de Wen. Dios ciertamente tenía un propósito para esta enfermedad. Él no deja nada librado a la suerte, y la respuesta a la oración de Margarita fue la salud de su suegro. Wen estaba asombrado. Se dio cuenta de que existe Alguien que escucha las súplicas de sus hijos. Poco a poco su fe comenzó a crecer. Margarita le habló acerca de la iglesia Adventista, y decidieron asistir a una reunión. El día en que lo hicieron, el mensaje que un miembro laico presentó tocó profundamente el corazón de ambos. Esto, el amor recibido en la

iglesia, y el percatarse de que todo lo hablado era fiel a la Biblia, los instó a seguir asistiendo durante dos años. No obstante, a pesar de sentirse cómodos, nunca se comprometieron; cerrar su negocio en sábado no parecía ser una opción. Era una cuestión cultural: los chinos por lo general trabajan siete días a la semana. En adición a este hecho, la situación financiera del país era crítica.

Cuando Aquino presentó la campaña evangélica, esta pareja no faltó a ninguna reunión. Una noche, Aquino tocó el tema del llamado de Jesús a Leví Mateo e invitó a la audiencia a dejar todo y seguir a Jesús. Por primera vez, Wen y Margarita se comprometieron y respondieron al llamado. Los

miembros de la iglesia estaban felices. Durante un largo tiempo habían orado por Margarita y Wen, y sus oraciones estaban siendo respondidas. Algunos días más tarde, cuando Aquino lo visitó en su oficina, Wen le dio la buena noticia: su fábrica cerraría todos los viernes a las 5:00 de la tarde, y él y su esposa planeaban ser bautizados. Y así lo hicieron, junto a otras 13 almas que rindieron sus vidas a Cristo en esa iglesia como resultado de la obra del Espíritu Santo en la campaña.

El departamento hispano de Southern Union es bien conocido por su gran participación en evangelismo no sólo localmente sino también, como parte de la iglesia mundial, en muchos países de latino América y Europa. Durante 12 años, grupos de pastores del territorio de Southern Union, han viajado para conducir campañas evangélicas que han resultado en cientos de bautismos, y en un compromiso más profundo con la tarea de evangelizar, y con la misión de la iglesia de parte de dichos pastores.

El año pasado, el departamento hispano fue invitado por la Misión Venezolana de los Llanos Occidentales para colaborar en un programa de reavivamiento en Venezuela a llevarse a cabo en junio del año en curso. Trabajar en la salvación de otros es una de las formas de lograr un reavivamiento, por lo tanto, se organizaron campañas que se llevarían a cabo en 12 lugares diferentes. El plan era involucrar a la membresía en las diferentes tareas que este tipo de eventos requiere.

Venezuela, ubicada en la costa norte de Sudamérica, está enfrentando problemas económicos y de inseguridad. Esto siempre representa un desafío para la iglesia en la organización de estos esfuerzos. No obstante, como lo hiciera la Asociación General cuando eligió la ciudad de Nueva York para llegar a grandes multitudes con el Mensaje de Salvación, la Misión Venezolana de los Llanos Occidentales eligió Acarigua-Araure, en el noroeste de Venezuela, estado

de Portuguesa, para traer a su gente a los pies de Jesús. Estas ciudades están geográficamente conectadas, como si ambas fueran una gran metrópolis. Se las conoce como las ciudades gemelas. Se esperaba que el impacto de este evento fuera de gran magnitud.

De la forma en que se hizo durante los pasados 12 años, antes de aceptar la invitación la Unión estudió la oferta y oró por la guía divina. Se hicieron planes y Jorge Mayer, director del departamento hispano de la Unión, viajó a Venezuela en abril para encontrarse con aproximadamente 1,200 personas, miembros de las 12 iglesias en las que las campañas se llevarían a cabo. Mayer aprovechó esta oportunidad para animar a los asistentes a trabajar por sus amigos y familiares, en preparación para el gran evento. La semana anterior a la campaña, los pastores locales organizaron reuniones evangélicas en estas iglesias, como muestra de lo que sería el evento para el que se estaban preparando.



*Pastores y evangelistas de Southern Union junto a los líderes de la Misión Venezolana de los Llanos: Jorge Mayer (centro) director del Ministerio Hispano, rodeado de Daniel González, presidente de la Misión a su izquierda, y Miguel Yeppez, evangelista de la Misión a su derecha.*



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

*Pastor Ismael Uribe predicando la Palabra de Dios en la iglesia de la pequeña ciudad de Turen.*

Luis Reyes, pastor de la asociación de la Florida, y parte del grupo de predicadores que viajó para la campaña, nos relató la historia de Karlha Magliocco, boxeadora amateur de peso liviano, que representó a Venezuela en las olimpiadas del verano del 2012 que se llevaron a cabo en Londres. Ella decidió ser campeona para Jesús.

Karlha había crecido en la iglesia, pero se alejó de Dios en la adolescencia. No obstante, Dios nunca se alejó de ella. A pesar de sentirse altamente honrada por representar a su querido país, quería ofrecerle algo diferente a sus hijos y esposo; una experiencia en cuyo centro estuviera Cristo. Ella sabía que no podría comprometerse totalmente si conservaba ese estilo de vida. Al decidir bautizarse durante la campaña, sufrió mucha presión. Varias personas le dijeron que abandonar su brillante carrera era una locura, pero ella ya había tomado la decisión. El día de su bautismo, confesó que sentía miedo, pero sabía que con Jesús sería victoriosa. Pidió a la iglesia que orase por ella, y formó parte de las 21 personas que se bautizaron en la campaña de la iglesia de Acarigua Este. Este fue el comienzo de su carrera

espiritual, y ya comenzó a ver los resultados de su elección: su esposo también decidió bautizarse en un futuro cercano. Todo esto puede no significar una medalla olímpica, pero es una estrella en la corona celestial.

Esta fue otra de las más de 250 historias que se pueden contar para ilustrar el trabajo del Espíritu Santo entre las personas a quienes nuestros pastores ministraron en su



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

*Pastor Michel Rodríguez leyendo los votos bautismales a una joven que se bautizó en la iglesia Durigua en Acarigua*

estadía en Venezuela. Ellos no se hospedaron en un hotel, ni tuvieron tiempo para actividades personales. El lugar de alojamiento era sencillo, y debieron compartir habitaciones y baños. Cada mañana se reunían muy temprano para orar, estudiar y compartir testimonios, antes de salir a visitar a las muchas personas que se encontraban en el proceso de decisión por Cristo. Esta actividad tomaba la mayor parte del día, y terminaba casi a la hora de las reuniones.

Este evento significó una bendición para los miembros de las iglesias locales. El trabajar en la salvación de almas, ver el trabajo del Espíritu Santo y ser testigos de respuestas a oraciones, fortaleció la fe de muchos. El pastor Miguel Yepez, evangelista de la misión local expresó: “Fue un privilegio ver la intervención del Espíritu Santo; el leer los mensajes de texto de aquellas personas que estaban descubriendo el amor de Dios, escuchar sus testimonios, y visitar cada una de las congregaciones fue una experiencia feliz y de gran enriquecimiento para mi vida espiritual. El nuestro fue un trabajo de equipo, y el Líder fue nuestro Señor Jesucristo.”

Los pastores de Southern Union fueron altamente beneficiados con esta experiencia. “El viaje a Venezuela fue una bendición personal que motivó mi ministerio pastoral. Uní mis fuerzas a las de pastores experimentados de Estados Unidos y Venezuela. Trabajamos muchas horas juntos. Allí estaba yo, como un novato aprendiendo lecciones profundas a sus pies. Agradezco a Dios porque este viaje misionero ayudó en mi crecimiento espiritual. Regresé profundamente motivado a seguir ganando almas para Jesús aquí en Atlanta.” Pastor Juan Sandoval, Asociación Georgia-Cumberland. Su motivación inspirará sus iglesias, y será una cadena de experiencias de reavivamiento que resultará en la ganancia de almas.

## Intimidad con Dios

Con el propósito de formar una cultura devocional que llegue a ser parte del estilo de vida de los miembros, la iglesia hispana de Acworth lanzó el seminario: "Intimidad con Dios." El pastor Richard Urdaneta motivó a los participantes a desarrollar el hábito de la comunión durante una jornada personal de 40 días con Dios. Al final del seminario, los que completaron el curso recibieron el manual "Comunión y Santidad"



reafirmación, y se entregará el segundo manual, "Salvo Para ser Santo" que consiste en un programa de estudio de la Biblia y el Espíritu de Profecía durante un período 180 días.

el resultado de la oración ferviente del pueblo de Dios.

—RICHARD URDANETA,  
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

que servirá como guía de estudio y meditación durante esos 40 días.

Luego de este período se llevará a cabo el día del "Reencuentro" para compartir las experiencias y testimonios de esta jornada. Allí se lanzará el plan de

El reavivamiento no es algo que debemos esperar; debemos propiciarlo y buscarlo con dedicación mediante una comunión diaria con Jesús. Los grandes reavivamientos serán



## Impacto 2013 en Lawrenceville y Buford

Durante los días 20 al 27 de abril y 27 de abril al 4 de mayo, las iglesias de North Gwinnett y Lawrenceville realizaron su primera campaña evangélica de siembra siguiendo el programa de Impacto 2013. El lema fue "El Camino a Cristo es tu Único Camino."

El pastor Neftaly Ortiz, evangelista hispano de la asociación, presentó los temas en la iglesia de North Gwinnett llenando de entusiasmo tanto a visitas como a miembros de la iglesia. Al final de la semana las congregaciones fueron bendecidas con el bautismo de cinco almas y

doce personas que tomaron la decisión de bautizarse en el próximo bautismo.

En la iglesia de Lawrenceville fue el pastor Juan Francisco Artamirano quien tuvo la presentación de los temas, bajo el título "Clínicas para el Alma."

La concurrencia de cada noche fue notable, y estaba formada por miembros de iglesia e invitados. Al finalizar la semana, tres personas fueron bautizadas y una cuarta fue aceptada por profesión de fe.

Las iglesias continúan



Grupo de catecúmenos de la iglesia de North Gwinnett tomando los votos

con el proceso de cultivo y esperan una abundante cosecha en las campañas a llevarse a cabo en el mes de octubre.

—JULIO DE LA ROSA,  
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO



Grupo de catecúmenos de la iglesia de Lawrenceville con pastores y anciano

## Campestre

Como todos los veranos, el ministerio hispano organizó el campestre que reúne a todas las congregaciones hispanas del territorio. El pastor Esteban Bohr condujo las reuniones, y el título escogido fue "Impacto, 'Cree, Vive, Comparte.'" Su enfoque principal fue Cristo como nuestro



modelo a seguir. Resultó inspirador ver una asistencia de más de 900 personas

que llegaron de diferentes lugares para escuchar los temas. Un grupo de amigos y estudiantes de la Biblia vinieron desde Chicago. La experiencia fue como la de los bereanos, quienes deseaban comprobar que todo lo que se decía era un fiel "así dice Jehová." Todos fueron fortalecidos, y muchos

tienen el ferviente deseo de unirse a la iglesia de Dios.

Ysis España coronó el evento con un concierto lleno de amor hacia Jesús, el autor de nuestra salvación.

—ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

## 150 Aniversario de la Iglesia Adventista

El fin de semana del 27 y 28 de julio los distritos de Nashville y Madison se unieron para celebrar el 150 aniversario de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día desde su organización. El lugar de reunión fue el gimnasio de la academia Madison, y se contó con una asistencia de aproximadamente 700 personas.

Los pastores Pinto y Delima con sus respectivas esposas, así como otros encargados del programa se vistieron con ropa alusiva a la época de los pioneros. Hubo algunas representaciones dramáticas. El orador invitado el pastor Samuel Pagan quien está

actualmente trabajando en la obtención de un doctorado en Historia de la Iglesia. Su mensaje se tituló "La Herencia del Adventismo". Fue un fin de semana motivador, que reforzó el sentido de identidad de los miembros.

Con muestras de amor y gratitud para el pastor Marco Barrera y su esposa Rosalba, el distrito de Nashville Norte le organizó



Pastor Delima y esposa

una emotiva despedida reconociéndolo como un ministro del evangelio que invirtió su vida en las filas del Buen Pastor Cristo Jesús.

Luego de mucha oración y búsqueda insesante, la administración de la asociación le extendió un llamado al pastor Nathan Delima para que junto a su querida familia se una al equipo de pastores del departamento hispano. Ellos aceptaron la invitación.

—ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

## Gozo en el Cielo

Hay gran gozo en el cielo, como en el territorio de la asociación, porque luego de una serie de conferencias a cargo del

pastor Nathan Delima y su esposa Sofía, diez nuevos hermanos se unieron a las filas de los hijos de Dios que esperan el

segundo retorno de Cristo Jesús e impartir con otros las buenas nuevas del evangelio.

—ARMANDO DE

LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



## Premio a un Ministerio Dedicado

En una emotiva ceremonia llevada a cabo en el mes de junio, los pastores Jorge Mayer y Efraín Poloche reconocieron a Jorge Quintiana como el ministro más destacado de la asociación en el año 2012. Quintiana recibió un lector electrónico y fue agazajado con un almuerzo. Sus logros fueron descritos de la siguiente manera:

Organizó más de una campaña evangélica en cada una de sus iglesias.

Envió delegados



*Jorge Mayer, derecha, Jorge Quintiana, izquierda*

de sus iglesias a los eventos hispanos de la asociación y unión.

Veló porque cada iglesia lleve sus diezmos a la asociación en el tiempo estipulado.

Envió fotos y noticias para que sean publicadas en las revistas denominacionales.

Apoyó las reuniones y teleconferencias del departamento hispano.

Promovió un espíritu de unidad y respeto hacia la asociación y sus oficiales, entre los

líderes locales.

Aportó ideas y planes para la mejora y desarrollo de la obra hispana local y regional.

Contribuyó con los reportes de feligresía, bautismos y diezmos que se le pidieron.

Organizó un mínimo de una junta de iglesia al mes en cada una de sus congregaciones.

Continúa preparándose en su maestría, como también en el uso del inglés.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE,  
DIRECTOR DEL  
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

## Southern Adventist University Noticias

### ADRA Visita Southern

El nuevo programa de maestría de Southern en el área de Desarrollo de la Comunidad Global ya está abriendo puertas tanto para estudiantes como para el profesorado. Una de esas oportunidades fue la de establecer contactos con el presidente y vice presidente de ADRA durante su visita a la universidad a principios de agosto.

En esos días, los líderes de ADRA consideraron las posibilidades de lograr establecer asociaciones que beneficien a la organización de alcance global y a la escuela. Hablaron con varios decanos y directores

de departamentos mostrándoles que la creación de dichas asociaciones los ligaría en la meta común de esparcir el amor de Cristo en todo el mundo. Entre algunos de los departamentos con los que se reunieron en el escaso tiempo que tuvieron, se encuentran la Facultad de Religión, la Facultad de Trabajo Social, la Facultad de Administración y Gerencia, y el Departamento de Estudios de Historia y Política. Como resultado de estas conversaciones, se trazaron planes firmes para organizar un viaje



*Presidente de ADRA Jonathan Duffy, izquierda, se encuentra con Gordon Bietz, el Presidente de Southern Adventist University*

misionero patrocinado por ADRA, que conectará a los estudiantes de postgrado con los expertos del campo de entrenamiento de ADRA localizados en más de 100 países. “ADRA provee servicios de desarrollo en muchos de los lugares más pobres del mundo y nuestros estudiantes están ansiosos por trabajar por ellos,” dijo Sharon Pittman,

directora del programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad Global.

Además de las reuniones privadas con el personal docente y administrativo, los líderes de ADRA tuvieron un foro abierto para los estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad. En esta oportunidad se presentó un informe actualizado de

los objetivos y la visión de ADRA, y se dio lugar a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas acerca de la organización y las oportunidades de trabajo

“A pesar del escaso tiempo con el que cuentan los dirigentes de ADRA, tuvieron la deferencia de separar dos días en su agenda, para visitar Southern,”

dijo Pittman. “Esto nos dio una oportunidad de intercambiar nuestros puntos de vista en un contexto creativo, y orar juntos por las oportunidades únicas que tenemos para servir al Señor.”

—LUKE EVANS, EDITOR,  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST  
UNIVERSITY

## Estudiantes Bautizan más de 2800 Almas en Verano del 2013

Buena noticia! Southern Adventist University aún es un centro misionero. El Centro de Recursos Evangelísticos de la Escuela de Religión está comprometido en el mantenimiento del espíritu de los pioneros cristianos quienes estaban energizados por el Espíritu Santo. Este verano, 128 predicadores viajaron a siete destinos, en seis países. Recorrieron 1,119,222 millas en su viaje de ida y vuelta (sí, usted entendió bien) y predicaron 2,432 sermones. Dios los utilizó para guiar más de ¡2,800 almas al bautismo! ¡Alabado sea el Señor!

Estos misioneros contemporáneos siguen la senda de los héroes del pasado. Son jóvenes que estudian diferentes disciplinas como salud, biología, administración, matemáticas, lenguas modernas, música, enfermería, religión,

educación física, artes visuales, periodismo, etc. En otras palabras, son miembros de iglesia comunes, que están deseosos de participar en aquello que pareciera imposible.

Para poner sus logros en perspectiva, en los pasados 10 años, la asociación local promedió los 814 bautismos por año. En el mismo período, 774 estudiantes enviados por ERC promediaron los 1,849 bautismos por año. En un lapso de 13-años, el total de almas ganadas alcanzó los 24,042.

Estos jóvenes misioneros predicaron este verano 19 sermones evangelísticos en un período de 16 días. Más aún, los 128 predicadores que participaron tuvieron que juntar 101,000\$ por el privilegio de predicar el evangelio, y llevaron a cabo estas campañas en su receso escolar de verano.

No obstante, ¿no valen estos 2,803 bautismos cada centavo que se juntó, cada milla recorrida, cada poco de energía gastada, cada minuto, cada lágrima, y cada momento pasado en oración?

Durante las campañas llevadas a cabo este verano, nueve empleados de tiempo completo de la universidad participaron también de los esfuerzos, sirviendo como predicadores y supervisores. Sus gastos fueron pagos por el centro.

Para el 2014, se buscan cinco miembros de la universidad para que sirvan como líderes de los grupos de evangelismo. En algunos casos no tendrán a cargo las predicaciones, pero supervisarán a los estudiantes durante las reuniones. Los destinos elegidos son: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Bolivia, y Chile. Las fechas destinadas para este esfuerzo, mayo 6-25, junio

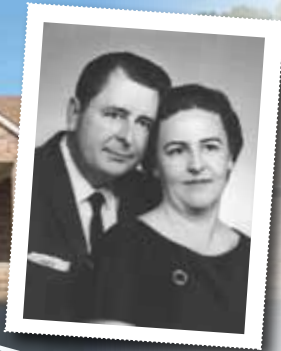
3-22, o julio 1-27.

Entre otras, las bendiciones por participar en la ganancia de almas incluyen la posibilidad de que al regreso los estudiantes puedan dar testimonio de las experiencias vividas tanto en las clases como en las iglesias a las que pertenecen, y contagiar a otros en la ganancia de almas; se vive una experiencia de oración más intensa, y el placer de saber que muchos oran por ellos también; en un futuro, estos estudiantes. Es sin duda alguna una experiencia de crecimiento.

Aquellos que deseen colaborar o participar pueden contactarse con martin@southern.edu.

—DR. CARLOS MARTIN,  
PROFESOR DE MISIONES Y  
EVANGELISMO DE LA ESCUELA  
DE RELIGIÓN DE SOUTHERN  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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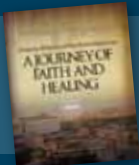
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 |

Continuing Medical Education Event

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Elders Charles White, great grandson of Ellen White, and Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University  
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**MOVING TO COLLEGEDALE, TN?** Call or email me for a free list of homes and land for sale in the Southern Adventist University and Collegedale area. For Sellers: Please contact me for special pricing at 4.5%. Twenty years experience ready to work for you. Jon D'Avanzo, Licensed Real Estate Broker, Davanzo Real Estate. 423-834-4545. Email me at [JDhelpingyou@gmail.com](mailto:JDhelpingyou@gmail.com). [10, 11]

**5 MINUTES TO SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**, low maintenance condo with 1440 square feet, 3 bed, 2 bath, single car garage, low

maintenance, only \$132,900. Newer home built in 2006, over 3100 square feet w/basement and fenced yard, \$299,900. Large plantation style home on 2.7 acres with 4-car garage in McDonald, low taxes, listed at \$489,900. To search for all MLS area listings go to [www.DixonTeam.com](http://www.DixonTeam.com). Wendy Dixon Team/Crye-Leike Realtors. Phone #: 423-883-0656; ask for Herby. [10]

**CLOSE TO SAU** – 3,450 square foot ranch home on 1.34 acres w/in-law suite, \$276,900. Updated, vintage ranch home with 2 bed & office, \$59,900. Newer 2 story home backing to a pond, with 3 bed, 2 baths and pool, \$148,000 Call the Twin Team: Sue Vosen, 423-774-1029 or Debbie Johnson, 423-605-4240. Crye-Leike Realtors. [10]

**COUNTRY LIVING NEAR COLLEGEDALE** – 1880 square foot home, 4 bed, 3 bath, full basement, fireplace, plus rental trailer. Fruit trees, gardens, greenhouse, root cellar, fenced property. Much More. \$289,500. Call 423-236-5552 or 423-396-9778. [10, 11]

**COLLEGEDALE DOUBLE-WIDE** mobile home for sale. 1800 sq. ft. m/l with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths located 1 mile to Southern Adventist University. Remodeled with custom made kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Master bath includes walk-in tub, sauna and shower. Family room with fireplace. New metal room. Excellent floor plan with living, dining, and family rooms. \$87,900. Call 828-423-5150. [10]

**PRIVATE COUNTRY LOTS** on the Cumberland Plateau only 55 minutes from Southern Adventist University. Property features gorgeous long-range views, mature hardwoods, city water, underground utilities and a stocked small lake - all at 2,000' elevation at the end of county road, bordered by 3,000 acre tree farm. 2-10 acre lots starting at \$3,900/acre. Call 301-992-7472. For pictures, plats and more information: <http://kismetkennel.com/countryland.html>. [10, 11]

**ATHENS, TN** – Private post & beam 3/2 on 41 acres with guesthouse, sweeping valley and mountain views. Another attached 3/2 50% complete. Perfect for multi-generational families or community. Beautifully landscaped. Fruit trees, berries, large organic gardens. 45 minutes to Collegedale. [www.greenhomesforsale.com](http://www.greenhomesforsale.com) #19517. 423-920-8380. [10, 11]

**COZY HOME** with 3500+ square feet. 2004 home, 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 kitchens, CH/AC, woodstoves, using year-round springs on 10 partly wooded private acres, DSL; hour north of Nashville. Churches, schools, academies 17 - 35 miles close. 859-333-0866. ©

**CABIN AND 59 ACRES** – Waynesboro, TN. 12x20 cabin. Land hilly, heavily wooded, five acres of pasture. Springs, wide and long stream, fruit trees, 120 ft. grapevines. Low taxes. Secluded. \$200,000. Call 407-373-5934. [10]

**115 ACRE SECLUDED RETREAT** in Speedwell, TN. Older 1000 sq. ft. home in good repair, and off-grid cabin. Wood heat, gravity-flow spring

water, large fenced gardens, woodlot, barn, root cellar, low taxes. \$250,000. Equipment also available. Call 423-869-3235. [10]

**CUSTOM HOME FOR LONG TERM RENTAL** on 46 acre wooded lot. 5-year old all brick, over 5,000 sq feet. 6 bed, 6.5 bath open floor plan. Full daylight basement. 10 minutes south of Adairsville, GA. \$2100/month negotiable. 678-549-7459. [10]

**MOUNTAIN LOT** cleared for house near Waynesville, NC. 1.3 acres, creek, septic is in, deed restricted. 352-688-2073. [10]

**PEACEFUL COUNTRY LIVING** in Mills River, NC near Adventist hospital, churches, and schools. 2060 square feet, 3 bed, 2 bath, large kitchen, CH/CA, 2 driveways to carport and 2-car garage, on 1 beautiful landscaped acre with garden. \$178,000. Pictures and more information: [ashville.craigslist.org/reo/4089894824.html](http://ashville.craigslist.org/reo/4089894824.html), or 828-808-6113. [10, 11]

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC** is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking **physicians in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology**. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; emailing [hr@guamsda.com](mailto:hr@guamsda.com); or visiting our website at [www.adventistclinic.com](http://www.adventistclinic.com). [10-12]

**INCREASE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE** and enhance your clinical skills at Walla Walla General Hospital, a 72-bed faith-based hospital with over 100 years of service to the community. Open positions include: **Director of Surgical Services**, WA State RN License. (Position available January 2014). **Director of Laboratory Services**, MT-ASCP or equivalent. To apply or learn more visit our website at [www.wvgh.com](http://www.wvgh.com). [10]

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Manage resident care, counseling, Maturation Therapy® program. Qualifications: masters in business, social work, psychology or experience. Christ-centered, ministry-minded individual or couple. Advent Home, an ASI/OCI ministry, serves at-risk boys, 12-17 and 18-23, with ADHD, academic, emotional, behavior problems. Contact Marilyn: 423-435-2033; send resume: [info@adventhome.org](mailto:info@adventhome.org); fax 423-336-8224; US residents. [10]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty member for a **Clinical Director for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**. Qualified candidates should have a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. For more information and to apply visit: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi). [10]

**Andrews University** is seeking a **Programmer/Web Developer**. Must have a Bachelor's degree and proven knowledge of java, JavaScript, and object-oriented programming. For more information and to apply visit: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi). [10]

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM** at Union College seeks **Clinical Director**. This faculty appointment includes teaching/advising opportunities, developing

# Advertisements

clinical sites, working with clinical preceptors, tracking students, and evaluating student rotations. Master's degree, three years PA clinical experience required. Contact Michelle Buller, PA Program Director, [mibuller@ucollege.edu](mailto:mibuller@ucollege.edu), 402, 486-2527. [10]

**GENERAL MANAGER, PROMISE FM (KARM / KADV):** Visalia, CA. Full-time. The Promise FM is looking for an individual passionate about leading listeners to Jesus through radio, social media, partnerships and events. Please contact Dr. Richard Dunn at [chair@mypromisefm.com](mailto:chair@mypromisefm.com). [10]

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

**BON HERBALS RECOMMENDS:** Do not ingest current seafood products (including Omega-3 fish oil) due to current Pacific Ocean radiation problems. For Omega-3, get safe Omega-3 essential fatty acids, vegetarian/vegan in flaxseed oil capsules. Website: [www.bonherbals.com](http://www.bonherbals.com). Phone: 423-238-7467. Bon Herbals, PO Box 1038, Collegedale, TN 37315. [10]

**NEED A PIANIST?** *Hymns Alive, the Adventist Hymnal* on 33 CDs. Quality accompaniment music to sing God's praises. Organ and piano. Kid's hymnals on CDs also. [www.35hymns.com](http://www.35hymns.com). Hymns on videos – 12 DVDs – *Creation Sings*, with words and beautiful nature photos & videos. Call 800-354-9667. [10-12]

**PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST:** Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at [www.pathfinderclubnames.com](http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com). For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at [pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com). [10-5]

**GOING OFF-GRID** but having trouble finding the right parts and supplies? Look no more. My Homestead Marketplace is an Adventist owned company supplying all of your homesteading needs. Check us out at [myhomesteadmarketplace.com](http://myhomesteadmarketplace.com), or call us at 931-403-9716. [10]

## MISCELLANEOUS

**SINGLE AND OVER 40?** Stay home and meet new friends in USA, only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. For information, send large self-addressed stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479. ©

**AdventistSingles.org** Free 14-day Trial! Join thousands of Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, profiles, match notifications! Adventist owners since 1993. Visit [www.ElliottDylan.com](http://www.ElliottDylan.com) for the Undercover Angels series of novels for Christian teens that build on Biblical principles and encourage integrity. Great Sabbath reading and gifts! ©

**SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED?** New SDA singles publication! Ages 18-88 listed free, confidentially, no word limit...giving birthday, marital status, race, occupation, year became SDA, interests, goals, ...lots more! Application: send S.A.S.E. or [gamtnwmn@tds.net](mailto:gamtnwmn@tds.net). Current catalog: \$25. SDA Friendship Finder, P.O. Box 673, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513. [10]

**ARE YOU MOVING SOON?** Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan now and reserve a time slot. Fast, direct, and economical. Contact: Gary Erhard, Erhard Moving & Storage, 610 South Mechanic Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; 269-471-7366 or 248-890-5700, evenings 8-11 p.m. ©

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist). [10-12]

**RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER?** The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at 800-248-8313 or contact us at [www.stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda). [10-12]

**WILDWOOD HEALTH RETREAT S.I.M.P.L.E. LIVING SEMINAR:** Prevention and recovery of lifestyle disease, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis, stress, depression, alcohol and tobacco. Cost: \$840. Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. For more information call Darlene Keith: Phone 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). [10]

**BUTLER CREEK MISSION SCHOOL:** Spiritual and health classes combined with practical skills. Learn Bible, health, literature evangelism, vegan cooking, and home gardening. A six-month work-study program: canvassing and other work pays for the program. For more information contact Sharlene Reyes: 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). [10]

**THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER** can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit [www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle](http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle). [10-5]

**PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR?** Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit [www.hopesource.com](http://www.hopesource.com). You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver on-time. [10-12]

**LOOKING FOR AUTHORS** who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844. [10-4]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion, and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies). [10-5]

**BOOKKEEPING FOR SMALL BUSINESS IN GA** – Need an affordable bookkeeper, internal auditor, accounts reconciler, accounts receivable or payable specialist? Name your "reasonable price." I am a retired/retrained bookkeeper and do it as a hobby. Call 404-935-1008 or email [help-sac@comcast.net](mailto:help-sac@comcast.net). [10]

**JOIN OUR SDA GROUP** on a 7-day cruise to Roatan, Honduras; Belize City, Belize; Costa Maya & Cozumel, Mexico. From Tampa, FL on the Norwegian Dawn. February 16. Sabbath services on ship. Foll travel, 1739 Orangewood Place, Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone 863-453-7196, email [bobkatfoll@embarqmail.com](mailto:bobkatfoll@embarqmail.com). [10]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Oregon Milo Alumni Weekend – Oct. 11, 12.** Honored classes: 1958, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, and '13. Contact MaryKay Fletcher at [mkfletcher@charter.net](mailto:mkfletcher@charter.net).

**Stewardship & Religious Liberty Convention with Ed Reid – Oct. 18, 19.** South Atlantic Conference Convention Center in Orangeburg, SC. Details: Olivia Morrison, 404-792-0535 x107.

**Society of Adventist Communicators 2013 Annual Convention – Oct. 24-26.** Theme: "Communicating Christ in the Chaos." Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. Register now at [PlusLine.org](http://PlusLine.org). For your convenience, onsite registration will be available all day on Thursday, and up to one hour before sunset on Friday. Details: [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org).

**Florida Keys Camp Meeting – Nov 22, 23.** Camp Sawyer in Big Pine Key, FL. Details: 305-743-5268 or [prayingks@aol.com](mailto:prayingks@aol.com).

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Low Country Camp Meeting** – Oct. 5. Summerville Community Church, 520 Gahagan Rd., Summerville, SC. 29485. Starts at 10 a.m., ends at sundown. ACBC opens at sundown. Bring your water, snacks, and a picnic lunch. Speaker/Seminar Presenter: Roger Hernandez, Southern Union Ministerial Director.

**Revelation Today: Presented by John Bradshaw** – Oct. 11-31. Ovens Auditorium. Charlotte NC. Discover more at: [www.revelationtoday.com](http://www.revelationtoday.com).

**Hispanic Women's Retreat** – Oct. 18-20. Nosoca Pines Ranch. Liberty Hill, SC.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/>

**Florida Pathfinder events** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/pathfinders/events/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

**Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.** Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/childrenandfamily/events/>, [djmiller4000@gmail.com](mailto:djmiller4000@gmail.com), or 407-703-3050.

**Florida Adventist Book Center** – Winter Park: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). 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)

**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**

Oct. 26. Sunrise.  
Oct. 27. Plantation, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)  
Nov. 2. Naples.  
Nov. 3. Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Avon Park, Winter Haven.  
Nov. 9. Tallahassee.  
Nov. 10. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.  
Nov. 16. West Palm Beach.  
Nov. 17. Midport in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa,

Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)

Nov. 23. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Nov. 24. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

**Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics**

Oct. 26. Northwest Miami Spanish.

Nov. 2. Spring Meadows.

Nov. 16. St. Augustine.

Dec. 14. Tampa Spanish.

Jan. 18, 2014. Orlando Spanish.

**Teaching Nature to Kids** –

Nov. 1-3. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. A training weekend for teachers, leaders, and parents to learn how to better engage young people in nature activities. Details to be announced in church posters and the autumn 2013 issue of Florida Focus.

**A New Song: The Joy of a Redeemed Heart** – Nov. 9-13, 15, 16. 7:30-8:45 p.m. A Florida Conference NET event based on the Gospel of Luke, presented by Elizabeth Talbot. Broadcast on Hope Church Channel and online at <http://www.ANewSongFlorida.com/>

## Georgia-Cumberland

**God in Shoes Outreach** – Oct. 13. Andrews, NC.

**Men's Retreat** – Oct. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Crandall, GA.

**Pathfinder Fellowship Events** – Oct. 18-20.

**Family Ministries Leadership Training** – Oct. 18-20. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

**Hispanic Youth Congress** – Oct. 24-27. Camp Kulaqua. High Springs, FL.

**Marriage Retreat** – Oct. 25-27. Gatlinburg, TN.

**Pathfinder Fellowship Events** – Oct. 25-27.

**Family Ministries Leadership Training** – Nov. 1, 2. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

**Pathfinder Teen Challenge** – Nov. 1-3.

**Health Rally** – Nov. 9. 2-5 p.m. Decatur, TN, Church.

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online**

<http://www.gscsda.org>

**Elders' Certification Training** – Oct. 5. Meridian Church.

**Conference Executive Committee** – Oct. 7. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Huntsville, AL.

**Pathfinder Camporee** – Oct. 17-20. 12 a.m. Camp Alamisco.

**Teen Invitational-Rock Climbing** – Nov. 1-3.

**Teen Weekend** – Nov. 8-10. Camp Alamisco.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Pathfinder Camporee** – Oct. 17-20. Salt Lick Park.

**Board of Education** – Oct. 24.

**Men's Conference** – Oct. 25-27. Indian Creek Camp.

**Outdoor Education** – Oct. 28-30. Indian Creek Camp.

**Highland/Madison Academy Boards** – Nov. 7.

**Elders' Training** – Nov. 8-10. Indian Creek Camp.

**Adventurer Camporee** – Nov. 15-17.

**Executive Committee** – Dec. 10.

## Southern Adventist University

**Homecoming** – Oct. 24-27. Come "Experience the Spirit" during Alumni Homecoming Weekend at Southern! Featured honor classes are 1933, '43,

'53, '63, '68, '73, '83, '88, '93, and '03. New events this year include an alumni service project in the Garden of Prayer, an art and film showcase in Ackerman Auditorium, and School Spirit and Sports Night in the Iles P.E. Center. On-campus lodging now available. For more information, visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni).



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Adventist Health

	Sep. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1
Atlanta, GA	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:54	6:47	6:41
Charleston, SC	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:37	6:30	6:24
Charlotte, NC	7:05	6:56	6:46	6:38	6:30	6:24
Collegedale, TN	7:22	7:13	7:03	6:55	6:48	6:41
Huntsville, AL	6:28	6:19	6:10	6:02	5:54	5:48
Jackson, MS	6:44	6:35	6:27	6:19	6:12	6:06
Louisville, KY	7:24	7:13	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:38
Memphis, TN	6:42	6:32	6:23	6:15	6:07	6:01
Miami, FL	7:06	6:59	6:52	6:46	6:40	6:36
Montgomery, AL	6:28	6:19	6:11	6:03	5:56	5:50
Nashville, TN	6:29	6:19	6:09	6:01	5:43	5:46
Orlando, FL	7:10	7:02	6:54	6:48	6:42	6:37
Wilmington, NC	6:54	6:45	6:36	6:28	6:20	6:14

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