

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

RECORD

SEPTEMBER 1995



We're a part of the family of God.

IT'S A BIG FAMILY, over 8 million, And we're a part of it.

AMAZING! Delegates came from the east and west. They came from the north and south. They came by plane and by train. They came by car and cab. They came by bus and boat. They came from far and near. It seemed they came from everywhere! All these people came to Utrecht, Holland, to be at the 56th Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

How many were there? That last Sabbath of the session nobody really knows. Someone said 100 extra bus loads came from Germany and another 10 bus loads from England. They packed the main auditorium. They packed the subsidiary meeting rooms. They jammed the foyer and the hallways and spilled over into the

parking lot. How many people? No one really knows and no one was prepared for such a crowd, but it is estimated that 50,000 were there for the closing Sabbath! Utrecht had never seen

anything like it.

As news of this church gathering hit the local news, more and more reporters converged on Utrecht. The GC newsroom had anticipated 250 media people, but

another hundred came. They came from countries such as Switzerland, France, Western Germany, Romania, England and Poland. Stories were picked up by Associated Press, US News Wire, and a number of other wire services. Television crews from

near and far were present to record the session, besides the in-house crew who prepared the nightly program that was beamed to North and South America.

ADRA's Global Village, which depicted habitats in 9 different countries, attracted a record crowd of 40,000 visitors from surrounding towns. Bus loads brought an average of 2,000 school children a day to this attraction. The display was so impressive that it will be staying in Europe to be shipped to a number of places for viewing in the coming months.

Local restaurants soon got the message that crowds were in town. Posters popped up in windows advertising vegetarian menus. One advertisement read: "Buy your tickets on Friday for Sabbath dinner." The owner of a local beer joint soon discovered that the visitors to his city don't drink beer, so he put up a notice saying, "Buy bottled water here."

The impact this has made, not only on the delegates, but on all of western Europe and countries further afield, is that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a world-wide, multi-cultural church—a growing church, one that is striving for unity even in diversity. And above all, it's a church that has a vision—a vision to tell the world that Jesus is coming again, and soon.

Twenty-four delegates from



Robert S. Folkenberg is greeted by fellow church members after being re-elected president of the 8.5 million-member Seventh-day Adventist Church on June 30 during the General Conference session in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Photo: Kurt Fattic

the Southwestern Union were part of this great gathering. We asked some of them for their comments. This is how they feel:

Willie Hucks, Sr., Dallas, Texas - I thank the Lord for the privilege and opportunity to serve as a delegate to such an important convocation. I love my church and am very much encouraged by the reports and the inspirational sermons. After Elder Folkenberg's message on the last Sabbath, I thought, "Is it over already? I don't want to leave this gathering." I loved the theme, "United in Christ," and the beautiful theme song, "We Have this Hope." However, I could tell from the vigorous and intense discussions that, although unity is a goal, we have a lot to do in order to be united on everything as a world church.

with great confidence in the future of the church and in our leadership. The spiritual tone was set by three things: 1) Elder A. C. McClure's speech at the last business session in which he noted how the delegates had worked through an incredible number of agenda items dealing with extremely weighty issues, yet they were still united in Christ. He then lead the congregation in singing a cappella, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." 2) Elder Dwight Nelson's powerful Friday night sermon on unity which ended in the entire congregation of 22,000 dividing into small prayer groups of 2, 3 or 4. It was a very moving experience. 3) Elder Folkenberg's inspirational Sabbath sermon on global unity, healing and the future of the church.

Robert Everett, Fort Worth, Texas - My wife and I felt it was a tremendous blessing to see how the church is growing all over the world. We realized that we here in North America must get busy to keep pace with the work in other parts of the world. The spirit of fellowship among people who are actually strangers from all parts of the world was thrilling.



South African choir from Soweto in song. Photo: Jason Wells



Romanian and Bulgarian choir members wave their flags in greeting the night the Euro-Africa Division gave its report at the General Conference session. Photo: Ron Quick

Darilynn Edwards, Fort Smith, Arkansas - It was an incredible experience. I got acquainted with fellow believers from 41 countries. It helped me realize that this is truly a worldwide church. I also realized more than ever that Christ's coming is very near, and I determined to do all I can to spread that message to my corner of the world.

Cyril Miller, Southwestern Union Conference president - This was a historic General Conference session. Several decisions were made that will strengthen the unity of the church, keep us balanced in our relationships and hasten the second coming of Jesus.

Cover Photo: Large crowd at the 1995 General Conference session. Photo courtesy of Review and Herald Publishing Association

"THE LAND WE EXPLORED DEVOURS THOSE LIVING IN IT. All the people we saw there are of great size . . . We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." Yes, the sons of Anak were giants. They were as tall as cedars and strong as oaks, according to the Bible dictionary.

But, you know the rest of the story. After wondering around the desert for 40 years, the Israelites finally crossed into the Promised Land, having been delayed because of doubt. Then with Joshua in the lead, they accepted God's promise for success, crossed the Jordan and conquered Jericho.

Now, 40 years later, here comes Caleb with a request. He says, "Now then, just as the Lord promised, He has kept me alive for 45 years. So here I am today, 85 years old. I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out . . . Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You, yourself, heard that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as He said," Joshua 14:6, 10-12 NIV.

Giants—even today we face them. They may be giants of a different nature, but giants they are to us. Why is it we are so reluctant to accept God's assurances of victory? of overcoming our giants?

Our behavior, whether it is of faith or a lack of trust and reticence to give our all to God, tells the world (and God) what our true commitment is. When we trust implicitly we will show it by the way we act. Our talents, our means and our services will be used for God's glory. And like Caleb, we will be able to overcome those obstacles which hold us back from a full relationship with God.

"If we make God our strength," Ellen White wrote, "We shall have clear perceptions of duty, and unselfish aspirations; our life will be actuated by a noble purpose, which will raise us above sordid motives . . . The Lord would do much more for His servants if they were wholly consecrated to Him, placing His service above the ties of kindred and all other earthly associations," *Gospel Workers*, page 114.

God is asking us to trust Him. He says, "From the days of your fathers you have gone away from my ordinances and

Giants in the Land



Ralph Orduno
President, Texico Conference

have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you." Later in the chapter He says, "And try Me now in this day, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it," Malachi 3:7, 10 (last part).

Commitment is shown by our actions—they are an indicator or a symptom of something that is within. What are some of the indicators in our church today? There's our use or misuse of God's holy day, the Sabbath. There's the way we show respect in God's house. There's the way we dress, and what we look at or read. There's the use we make of the talents He has given us, including our finances. These are indicators of how much we value God's promises to bless.

A 1995 NAD study on giving patterns in our churches highlights some of our "giants." This study finds that nine in 10 church members believe in tithing, and four out of five (82%) think that it should be paid through the local church. But this study also shows the actual commitment of the members. There are the reactive givers (29%) who require stimulation to get them to make a donation, the habitual givers (22%) who give a fixed amount year after year regardless of decreased buying power, and the intentional givers (31%) who plan their giving based on current needs in the church. Then there are the non-givers who make up the final 18 percent.

What does this study show? It's just an indicator of how we are relating to God's promises. Our commitment is revealed in our behavior. When we withhold or misuse our talents, our time or our finances, we're telling God that He is not first in our life. And if God is made to take second place, He is not able to fulfill His promises to us. His commandment is clear—to love God with all our heart, our mind and our soul.

Caleb's statement showing implicit trust in God should challenge us to be strong and of good courage, and trust the Lord to help us drive out those "giants" that hold us back from full commitment and victory in the Lord. His promises are sure. We can trust His word. Let's make God first in our lives.

IT HAD BEEN A TOUGH WEEK with all of the usual challenges of pastoring a church and a few more piled on top. Besides everything else I had to do, I had two funerals that week. I was just trying to catch my breath before the grind of writing the prayer meeting and the Sabbath sermons, when the phone rang again. I didn't recognize the voice at the other end asking for the pastor, but it began by saying, "I'm from Smith's Funeral Home. I'm looking for a Seventh-day Adventist minister to have a funeral for Mrs. Doe. She had some Adventist background at one time when she was a little girl, and she wanted to have an Adventist funeral. It was her wish. She's not one of your members. In fact, she hasn't attended, probably, since she was a little girl. But would you help us out by conducting the funeral?"

Pause. I admit to you that with all that was taking place that week I wanted to say "no." My mind was saying "no," my heart was saying "no," my calendar and my appointment book were screaming "no." But my mouth, which always gets me into trouble, said "yes."

So here I found myself having to write another funeral sermon. It was tough. I didn't know anything about her. Not only that, I didn't know anyone who knew anything about her. The funeral home wasn't much help. They told me she was a widow, that her husband had died a few years prior, that he had been an orphan and had no family, and she was an orphan and had no family. Really—no children. I thought, great, what do I do with that? Two orphans, no kids. That's a lot to work with!

All I had to go on was that she attended Tacoma Central at one time in her life when she was a little girl, that some

"What If"

Condensed from a sermon by
Ron Halvorsen, Jr., Pastor
Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church



sweet Adventist woman cared enough about her to take her to Sabbath school and church for a few years, and had left enough of an impression on that woman that she wanted to have an Adventist funeral.

I wrote and crumpled up and threw away so many pages trying to write that funeral sermon. But when it came time for the funeral I didn't have anything in front of me. I just took my Bible along with the committal in the *Minister's Manual* and drove to the cemetery wondering what I would say, praying desperately for something to say.

I'll never forget it. I stood by the head of the casket at the cemetery and watched while a handful of her friends gathered around it. I listened to them talking quietly to one another while waiting for the service to begin. As I listened I heard bits and pieces of the woman's life. I heard them talking and recounting the happy memories and the sad trials she'd been through. I remember their saying how they were going to miss Jane

Doe, God's child.

I welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Then I read a scripture and had the opening prayer. When I finished the prayer, I looked at them and asked if they would help me with the service. I told them that I knew next to nothing about their friend. That if anyone felt comfortable enough to share with me and the rest, I would like for them to share some of the things they loved most about this woman and to tell me about her and the qualities, the memories about her life.

And they did. Everyone of them did. It was like a miracle. Right there beside that coffin in the quiet graveyard, they shared beautiful things that no preacher could have shared. They told me all of the reasons why they loved her and why they would miss her. It's hard for me to put into words or to explain to you what it was like. You would have had to be there. It was like we were standing on holy ground, and I believe we were, because I felt God's presence there at that funeral.

God is able to fulfill His promises. His resources are infinite, and He employs them all in accomplishing His will. And when He sees a faithful performance of duty in the payment of tithe, He often, in His wise providence, opens ways whereby it shall increase. He who follows God's arrangement in the little that has been given, will receive the same returns as he who bestows of his abundance.

The same is true also of those who cheerfully employ their talents of ability in the cause of God, while those who fail to improve that which has been given them will incur the same loss as if that little had been much. It was the man who had only one talent, but who hid that talent in the earth, that received the condemnation of the Lord. *Gospel Workers*, Ellen G. White, pages 222, 223

When they got done, I made my sermon off of their personal biographical sketches. God's presence was felt.

After I said the closing prayer, no one left. For at least an hour, nobody left. They just stood there talking to me. They told me how thankful they were and how they'd never been to a funeral that was so personalized. They wanted to know more about this woman and the church that she loved, and about Adventists. Some knew nothing about Adventists, and some had us confused with some other groups.

Commercial: People around you notice more than you think. And your influence is greater than you think. What's your influence?

On the drive back home I was thanking God for delivering me again and for making an unwanted job into one of the most beautiful funerals I have been to in my life. I prayed that God would use that service as a seed for His kingdom and that He would bring some good from it.

Months passed and the funeral was far from my mind. The phone rang again. The man at the other end of the line told me his name. It sounded familiar, but I couldn't quite place it. Then he told me he had been at the funeral, and it clicked.

He said he had worked with Mrs. Doe's husband, and when she became ill he would look in on her and take her groceries. He was handling her estate, which wasn't much. She lived in a little trailer there in Tacoma. But he knew, he said, that she would have wanted to give a gift to her church. (I want to meet that woman someday and tell her of the miracles that happened to our a congregation because of her.)

He asked if he could come by and give me a check for the church. Twenty minutes later

he was at my door. He came in, and we visited. Again he thanked me for the funeral service. He said it was beautiful and asked if the church had any needs. I told him, "Plenty." We were in a building program, and like most building programs, we had run into extra costs. In

he wrote out a check for \$5,600! God knew our needs. Why do I share this experience with you? Because it's been my experience that God always has a way when His people are committed to His cause, when they're sacrificing out of love. God has a million and more ways to



... God always has a way when His people are committed to His cause, when they're sacrificing out of love.

fact, that very week we had to pay \$5,000 extra that no one had counted on.

He said that she didn't have much, but he was there to give it. He started to write a check, and he wrote a five and then a zero. I thought, "That's nice, that really means a lot." Then he wrote a second zero—\$500. And then he wrote a third—\$5,000. Exactly!

A funeral I didn't want. A need I couldn't face. And \$5,000 exactly!

He said that when he settled everything, he'd be back with another check, but it wouldn't be much, it would be a lot less than this one.

Our building program progressed, and then we discovered that our brand new, top-of-the-line fire program was already out of date. With the new regulations, we needed yet another machine—\$5,000 more.

Some time later the phone rang again. It was my funeral friend. This time I remembered him. Twenty minutes later he was at my door. I remembered what he had said before about its probably being less than the first check. But this time

accomplish His work, and He can see it through.

Think about the feelings the Israelites had when they heard that Moses had died—God's servant, their leader, was gone. And then the announcement, "Therefore, arise, and go."

Think about it. They're in their moment of greatest sorrow. They're in their time of greatest trial. There in a time of great loss, Israel's greatest victory comes, their greatest promise. "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you." Good news.

Did Moses tell Joshua that he was leaving, but that God was still in charge, and that God would lead to victory? No one knows, but we do know that Joshua turned his back on Nebo and headed for the Jordan.

There are many lessons to learn by the Jordan—spiritual insights to guide us through life, but the one the Church needs today, more than any other, is this: God didn't quit when Moses died. And though Moses' work was finished, God's work had just begun.

The lesson we need to know is that God has not confined Himself or His power or His

presence to only one generation that lived in the past, or to only one leader in the past. What we need to remind ourselves is that God has the same power today as He did yesterday. If we will walk by faith as Moses and Joshua did, He will take us over Jordan. And we will prosper. God's purpose can be realized in each of our individual lives. He never fails.

The Jordan. It was the ultimate spiritual gut-check for Israel. Would they move forward, or would they fall back? Would they rally to His call, or would they just call for another rally? Would they go or stay? Would they take Canaan, or would Canaan take them? That was the gut-check.

Someone might be thinking, that was then. They were in the Bible, and they had an advantage that we don't. I say, No way! Sometimes we Christians just live in the past. We think God is history. Well, God is the future as well. When the Israelites stepped into that Jordan, it was a giant step of faith.

This generation needs to learn to walk that way. Today, as my title says, I ask, "What If?" Consider what if. What if



Meropi Gjika, who kept her faith and saved her tithe for 40 years during the time religion was banned in Albania. She was the oldest delegate at the General Conference session in Utrecht. Photo: Jason Wells

Joshua hadn't accepted the challenge? What if Joshua had chickened out? What if he told God to find somebody else? What if Israel refused to follow? What if they refused their calling? What desert would have held their graves? What epitaph would be marking Israel's grave?

There are plenty of "what ifs" to consider in God's word. Sometimes God tests us with rivers. Sometimes with giants. Sometimes with a wilderness. And sometimes, with our wallets. Sometimes he tests us with manna, and sometimes with money. And it really doesn't matter how He tests us. What matters is passing the test. Can you, will you, pass the test?

Financial Freedom—Can Christians Have It?

EVERY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SHOULD EXPECT PROSPERITY! That's right, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. I really believe God makes a promise of prosperity to committed Seventh-day Adventists. Listen to what Moses wrote centuries ago:

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these

blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 28:1, 2



Roland J. Hill

position as the remnant church, then we should gladly

Since we believe in keeping the commandments of God as Seventh-day Adventists and accept our distinctive

accept God's special promises as outlined in Deuteronomy 28. In this powerful passage God declares that obedience leads to prosperity, and disobedience results in poverty. This highlights the

fact that our relationship with God does have consequences.

The operative word in this passage is obedience. Obedience implies that there are laws that should be adhered to. So then

our relationship with God is shown by our response to His laws. John, the writer of the fourth gospel, penned the words of Christ, "If you love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15. Our love for Christ is shown by obedience to His commands. But for many, law and obedience are dirty words, especially when it comes to financial matters.

We might accept obedience to the moral laws, the universal laws, and even the health laws, but we shy away from any real authority over our money. We feel that financial matters have nothing to do with our relationship with God. And God and His laws don't really have much to do with our personal prosperity. Wrong! The promise of prosperity comes to those who allow God to have authority over every aspect of life, including financial matters.

What are the laws that govern our financial well-being? Searching the scriptures, I have found three laws. Each law was given by God for our personal prosperity. They are the laws of Ownership, Investment, and Prudence.

To obey the law of Ownership, we must be willing to give to God the first fruits of our increase. One tenth of everything that comes into our

possession must be returned to God's storehouse. Obedience to the law of Ownership is a clear declaration that we believe God owns everything. Every time we keep back tithe, we not only violate the law of

Ownership, but we declare to the universe that ownership of the planet has changed hands—that now we own the world.

Would we dare seek to wrestle ownership of

the world from God?

Then there's the law of Investment. This law demands that we make the most profitable and long-term investments possible. Since we work for God and all things belong to Him, we can conclude that God has guidelines for our investments. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposits, savings bonds and bank passbooks have their place, but none of these are God's best investment. Matthew the tax collector, who was probably well aware of earthly investments, recorded these words of Jesus: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth where moths and rust doth corrupt . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break through nor steal," Matthew 6:19-20. And Matthew continues by quoting, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," Matthew 6:21.

Then the financial law of Prudence. This law has to do with the wise use of what is left over after returning tithe and giving offerings. There are those who believe that once they have obeyed the first two laws of finance that what they do with the rest of the money

is their personal business. But God's law covers every penny that comes into our possession! This law requires that we live within the framework of our budget. It calls for debt-free living. It demands thrift, honesty, and faithfulness.

The struggle many have to keep the first two laws is due largely to their lack of obedience to this third law. Ninety-five percent of Americans are in deep debt. Living on a budget is a foreign idea, and restricting one's lifestyle is old-fashioned. My experience as a pastor clearly indicates that those who kick up the greatest fuss about God's financial laws are those who

are experiencing financial difficulty. And those who are experiencing financial stress are generally suffering in their relationship with God.

God really does want to fulfill His promise of prosperity, but He is not able to as long as we willfully neglect His financial laws. So the promise of prosperity is not about the church, but about each individual on earth. He has given us the choice to follow His financial laws. It's up to us to claim His promises and to wait for Him to bring about their fulfillment.

Roland J. Hill

Assistant Professor of Religion
Southwestern Adventist College

Children of the Heavenly King

◆ Davaahu Barbaatar

"I kept asking my teachers, 'Where I come from?'" Davaahu told me in her broken English. "I not know where I come from and why I be here. Teachers told me I come from monkey. Every time I ask teachers, they tell me I come from monkey!"

Davaahu is one of the delegates who attended the General Conference session in



Davaahu Barbaatar, the first delegate to a General Conference session from Mongolia. She's so happy to be a child of God that she smiles all the time. Photo: Ron Quick

Utrecht. She is the first person to become a baptized Seventh-day Adventist in former Outer Mongolia. She was excited to meet so many Adventists from around the world.

"Then," she said, "some missionaries come. They ask me to teach them Mongolian. I say okay, but you teach me English."

"Soon they show me how to read Bible. We start at beginning with Genesis. Then I read God makes man in His image. I ask missionary, 'Where I come from?' They tell me God made me."

"God made me?" I asked.

"Yes," they say. "You are a child of God. He loves you and wants you always to be His child."

"Now I so happy. I tell everyone, 'We not come from monkey—we come from God in heaven. Now I worship God in heaven.' He is the one who made me."

Editor

◆ Tyrus and Ruth Gullatte

Tyrus and Ruth Gullatte have been members of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texarkana since 1946. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 9, 1993.

The Gullattes' dedicated, unselfish devotion to Bethel and the world church has been evident in their continuing endeavors to put God first in their lives. They have followed the counsel in Isaiah 58:7: "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him: and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

Tyrus Gullatte, now 83, has served as elder in the Bethel church for many years. He travels to Hope, Arkansas, every third Sabbath to minister to the congregation there. People love to hear him quote Scripture, preach sermons, and pray. He can bring to memory chapter and verse when others may need time to look up the location of the text.

Ruth Gullatte served Bethel as treasurer for over 20 years and still serves in this position when needed. When her records were audited by the conference office, she received excellent reports. She has also held a number of other posts in the church, works as a counselor, and maintains friendship with the young people of the church.

When, in the 1940s, Tyrus and Ruth were among the first to own an automobile, they used it to transport young



Tyrus and Ruth Gullatte

people and others to church functions. They've given thousands through the years to care for the homeless and supply food and clothing for those in need. The Gullattes have given countless hours to the sick in the Texarkana area. Their favorite quotation remains: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Bill Wright

Communication Director
Southwest Region Conference

◆ Charles and Marian Wilson

Part of an interview by Evelyn Williams:

Question: What is your personal definition of stewardship?

Answer: It is a blessed opportunity for us to assess our personal relationship with God. Furthermore, our stewardship is a barometer of our basic Christian experience—it shows our commitment to God.

Question: What is your stewardship plan?

Answer: My wife and I have allocated 25% of our salaries to religious and charitable endeavors. We began with 15% and as the Lord rewarded our faith, we eventually increased that amount to the present 25%.

Question: Has there been a measurable difference in your means since entering into this commitment?

Answer: First of all, because this was a faith venture, we have seen our own faith increase because of our commitment. We have realized financial blessings that have managed to manifest themselves in different ways. For example, we have remained in good health. Consequently, there have been few visits to the doctor.

Question: What else does this commitment, this stewardship, involve?

Answer: It is the wise and unselfish use of life that



Charles and Marian Wilson

involves our time, our talent, our possessions, and our body temple. This holistic endeavor involves the total person.

Question: Would you recommend such a commitment to everyone?

Answer: Most emphatically, yes! They'll find out, "They can't beat God's giving—no matter how they try." We cannot err when following God's plan.

Question: What is your recommendation to us?

Answer: A commitment such as this offers temporal and spiritual value. The promise given to the faithful steward is, "God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work," 2 Cor. 9:8.

◆ Ruben Villegas

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according



Ruben Villegas

to His purpose," (Romans 8:18).

My name is Ruben Villegas, and I have always considered this verse to be an important part of my life. I am a Seventh-day Adventist medical doctor with a specialty and practice in allergies. God has blessed me with a wife and four marvelous children, and He has presently given me the opportunity to serve him as the health/temperance leader at the Five

Points Church in El Paso, Texas.

Every day I give thanks to God for the way He has guided my life. I was born in an Adventist home, and my parents taught me to love God and give my life to Christ early in life.

I have seen so many blessings as a result of God's guidance and will mention just a few:

1. When I studied in high school I registered at a vocational school. My goal was to learn a technical trade and go directly to work right after high school. Christ tutored me to become an honor student with a scholarship to attend a university.

2. With Christ's inspiration and guidance, I finished medical school after being expelled for not attending on Sabbath.

3. As I was finishing medical school, I was given the opportunity to attend graduate school and earn a degree as an allergy specialist.

4. When I started my allergy practice, a local TV station "gave" me a 30-minute weekly interview for two consecutive years. That gave me more than just a boost in starting my practice.

5. I have seen God's work exceedingly multiply from the small congregation in which I grew up to more than a dozen churches.

6. My family's development in all phases of life, especially in spiritual things, fills my life with joy and gratitude to have given my life to Christ. I am so grateful for the many things God has done for me.

As it is written in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

◆ Bonneetah Coulter

My mother-in-law, Bonneetah Coulter, truly typifies a Christian steward—one whose actions witness to the glory of God.

Probably the most obvious area of stewardship witnessed is her health practice. Living in an area where many people know very few Seventh-day Adventists except her family, her life-long vegetarian diet is scrutinized and often credited with being the reason for her being so healthy at age 82. Upon rising, her daily routine includes drinking 2 cups of hot water, followed by a cold shower. Walking regularly is another one of her practices.

A natural love for seeing things grow led her to be a steward of beautiful flowers and plants in her garden. "I find gardening to be an activity where one's senses work closely with God," she comments, "one that brings out many spiritual lessons." The many flowers in front of her house bring comments from passersby. She uses these flowers to make arrangements for many church functions, community dinners, and other special occasions. They have also been the perfect "bright spot" for the elderly, shut-ins, school classrooms, and her daughter-in-law's home.

She very willingly uses her God-given talent of leadership. Her patient guidance has been a great help and inspiration to

family members. She has held almost as many church offices as there are to be held, and has always been a Sabbath school teacher in one division or another. She served on the Texico Conference Executive Committee for ten years. Leadership in the community has included serving two terms as PTA president and six years as secretary of the VFW Auxiliary. She recently received a plaque from them for outstanding leadership in serving 20 years as president of the organization.

Her musical talent of both voice and piano has been used in the Lord's work and to help out where needed.

Personal devotions time is the most important area where Mrs. Coulter exhibits devout Christian stewardship. Only heavenly beings could calculate the numerous hours she has spent in prayer and communion with her loving Father. A life-long habit of memorizing entire chapters began in the first grade when their entire little church school group recited the first chapter of Genesis at the end-of-school program. Later in life she committed to memory the entire books of Romans and Matthew, along with several shorter books and many other single chapters.

When considering blessings received for faithful service, my mother-in-law counts these two the greatest: being married almost 60 years to a devoted Christian man and having all her children strong in the faith.

Living a model Christian life, developing talents, and using time for the Lord's work are the ultimate examples of Christian stewardship. How can a person accomplish this? Bonneetah Coulter has found the answer to this and to everything in one of her favorite Bible promises, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee;

yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness," (Isa. 41:10).

Neta Coulter, Texline, Texas

◆ Annie Mae Joseph

Annie Mae Joseph, a member of the Ephesus SDA Church in New Orleans, puts God first, before everything else. Her faithfulness is a demonstration of her love and commitment to God. She believes in taking God at His word. She does her part to support the church, to help sustain it, and finish its work. In return, God has blessed her with health, children, family, friends, and neighbors.

Mrs. Joseph doesn't talk about what needs to be done.



Annie Mae Joseph

When she sees a need she tries to support the endeavor financially and personally. She doesn't have a lot of money, but

she knows when and how to sacrifice the essence of stewardship.

She is a strong supporter of Christian education. When she saw that many children in church school didn't get a balanced diet, she started a hot lunch program.

Her support of the work of God is strongly evidenced by her faith, love, and commitment. She counts it a privilege to be able to return to God that which is His. Her heart is made cheerful to be able to do the small things that mean so much to so many.

◆ Peter and Marie Weber

Every person, whether a new-born baby or the president of the United States, receives 86,400 seconds of time from God every day. Everybody receives the same amount of time. It's like a savings



Peter and Marie Weber with their sons

account that has to be emptied every day, and of course it takes wisdom to know how to use it in the most profitable way.

Guidelines I have used for the gift of "time" that have brought God's blessings to me are these:

1. Consecrate your time to God, "knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed," (Romans 13:11).

2. Consecrate some time for your family: spouse, children, other relatives.

3. Consecrate your time for the church: attending services, relating to old and new members, participating in outreach or as part of church leadership. "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season . . ." (2 Timothy 4:2).

4. Consecrate the time spent in earning bread: "redeeming the time . . ." (Ephesians 5:16).

5. Dedicate some time also to friends: old friends, new friends, community involvement—because if we want to win souls for the Kingdom, we ought to first win them as friends.

6. Take some time for yourself: time to rest, time for recreation, time for sports or hobbies, time to study, meditation, prayer. Everything has its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

*Peter A. G. Weber, Pastor
North Valley District
New Mexico*



Bonneetah and C. V. Coulter

Southwestern Union

A Balanced Formula for Life – (Commitment, Loyalty and Love)

Loyalty is God's greatest test of our commitment to Him and to His church. That is why Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15.

Our loyalty to God is demonstrated in many ways. First, I think of our relationship to God's Holy things—His Bible, His Sabbath, His tithe, and His Holy Spirit dwelling in our body temples which also belong to Him. All four of these are holy because they are of God, and God declared them to be holy.



Cyril Miller

Therefore, if we are loyal and fully committed to God, we will have a positive love relationship with Him in all four areas of our life that touch Him and His holy things.

Actually, these four dimensions of life are holistic or totally inclusive for successful living—the **Sabbath**, for worship and communion with God; the **Bible**, for mental and spiritual growth; the **tithe**, for material and financial success; and the **Holy Spirit** for daily guidance and blessings.

If we are loyal and fully committed to God, then we can claim all of His wonderful promises which offer an abundant life now and eternal life later. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth," 3 John 2.

Why not take an inventory of your personal life and your family activities to determine how

loyal you are in your commitment to these four very vital and holy relationships with God.

Some time ago, I met an elderly widow who was a saint. She measured up very high in her personal relationship to God and all His holy things.

- 1) She lived in a country which took away her pension because she kept and taught the **Sabbath**. This was a powerful witness for the only Adventist in a city of a half million people.
- 2) She memorized and quoted all the answers to the Sabbath school lesson direct from the **Bible** without reading.
- 3) She had no regular income but always **tithed** in advance, believing God would give her financial support and He did through gifts from friends and strangers.

- 4) She was guided by the **Holy Spirit**, in excellent health at age 74, and some Christian neighbors called her the "Star of Macedonia."

I offered to petition the government and ask for her pension to be restored. She replied, "No! I would rather trust God. Today, two people stopped me and gave me some money as I walked across town to come here." She then reached into her purse and pulled out a handful of bills and with a big smile said, "Here is my tithe." Remember, she always paid in advance!

As I recall listening to her speak with such deep conviction, I wonder what would happen if all God's people were as committed and loyal to Him in all four dimensions of our holy relationships.

Cyril Miller, President

Healthcare

Metroplex Adds High-Tech MRI System

Images of the internal body so detailed that they approach the fine line anatomical drawings found in medical textbooks, is



Dr. Stephen Vancura, medical director of radiology at Metroplex Hospital, points out features on the control panel of the new magnetic resonance imaging system. Photo: Killeen Daily Herald

how Dr. Stephen Vancura describes the picture quality of the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system recently acquired by Metroplex Hospital in Killeen.

As medical director of radiology at Metroplex, Dr. Vancura was proud to explain the new MRI system to the central Texas news media when the new system became operational in July. "We now have an imaging system with new technology that is showing great promise in revealing abnormalities in an internal body organ that we have not been able to see previously. And all without ever having to make an incision," said Vancura.

The new GE Signa Advantage 0.5T MRI creates images with

such amazing clarity and detail that physicians are able to pinpoint brain lesions, identify problems of the spinal cord, knee, abdomen and other organs and tissues.

Dr. Vancura added that other benefits of MRI include offering fewer risks than some diagnostic alternatives and, in some instances, it may reduce the need for a lengthy hospital stay, thereby holding down health care costs.

Metroplex president, Ernie Sadau, says the new \$1.3 million system replaces the former MRI which was housed for five years in a mobile unit outside the hospital.

"We have seen hospital services increase dramatically over the past three to four years, and we knew we needed an in-house system, with cutting edge technology, that would allow faster scanning times with greater flexibility. This system will provide the newest technology that will allow our doctors to make better

diagnoses and will translate to better care for the patient," says Sadau.

According to Sadau, the MRI system makes up a key part of the hospital's current \$6 million expansion and renovation project that began in August of 1993.

As new construction is completed, patient visits continue to increase. Since the hospital opened its new emergency center in March, patient visits have increased by 300 a month.

During the first part of September the entire imaging center, three times the size of the hospital's previous imaging area, will open. In addition to the imaging center, a new same-day surgery area, new outpatient registration, and two new super surgery suites will also open.

The last phase of construction will conclude in late 1995 and will add a cardiac catheterization lab. The lab will be the first for Metroplex and the greater Killeen area.

Rickey Seiler
Director of Marketing

Arkansas-Louisiana

PETER A. KOSTENKO, CORRESPONDENT

Adventurers and Pathfinders Hold Trash-a-thon

With a desire to do something constructive, the Adventurer Angels and Pathfinder Messengers of the Gentry Home Seventh-day Adventist Church planned a trash-a-thon for May 22. They discovered the city of Gentry had planned their annual cleanup week for the same time, so the Messengers decided to go out into the country around Gentry and pick up litter on the dirt roads. One man who lived in the area stopped to thank the Pathfinders for cleaning up his road.

The Adventurer Angels picked up trash in both city parks and at a construction site across from one of the parks. Everyone got dirty, tired, and thirsty, but they still had fun and felt rewarded for putting 62 bags of trash into the dumpster. Both clubs raised \$200. They still have a quantity of aluminum cans to be sold.

*Dolores Adams
Gentry Home Church*

Fort Smith Honors Its Women

The Fort Smith Seventh-day Adventist Church joined other churches in North America on



At a special Sabbath program three women were recognized for their ministry in the Fort Smith church. They are from left: Rose Hardin, Jan Rand, and Lynelle Swena

June 10 to pay tribute to the women who had made a contribution to the cause of God.

The Sabbath school program stressed the purpose and goals of women's ministries. Three leaders of local women's ministries received certificates of appreciation: Rose Hardin, Lynelle Swena, and Jan Rand, the pastor's wife. The pastor, Burnham Rand, preached on the widow of Zarephath, the third in his series on "Women of the Bible."

A vesper program entitled "Friendship," a social, and a farewell tribute to Dorothy Swena, long-time pianist for the church, concluded the special Sabbath.

*Janet Beason
Church Elder, Fort Smith*

Slidell Holds Prayer Breakfast

A family prayer breakfast, sponsored by the deaconesses of the Slidell church, was held on Sabbath morning, June 10, at 8:00 am. After a short devotional in the sanctuary which included scripture readings and prayer groups, the attenders gathered in the fellowship hall to enjoy a breakfast buffet and family fellowship.

Thirty members and friends attended the breakfast.

The deaconesses plan to make it a quarterly event.

*Vernella W. French
Communication Secretary
Slidell*

Michael Shumake Wins National Winner

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Michael Shumake has been named a United States National Award winner in science—a prestigious award very few students can ever hope to attain. The Academy presents awards to less than 10% of all American high school students.

Michael is a junior at Dardanelle High School and a member of the Russellville SDA Church. He is active in the programs of the church as an usher and a member of the social committee.

Michael will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Collegiate Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA win-

ners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Michael is one of only two Adventists in his school. Though the challenges seem unbelievable, Michael represents the character of Christ. Michael, we are all proud of you! May God continue to bless you and all of our young people.



Michael Shumake



Slidell members enjoy prayer breakfast.



Shane Fenasci, Adam Teal, Megan Estey, and Danielle Burton, from the Slidell church school, who were baptized by their pastor, Jerry Oster.



Women's Emphasis Day concluded with a social and a farewell tribute to Dorothy Swena who had been church pianist for many years at the Fort Smith church. Swena is moving to Oregon.

Community Services Gets Complimentary News Coverage

When Sharon Ann Smith called the *Texarkana Gazette* to place a classified advertisement for the Texarkana Adventist community service center, her phone call was misdirected to a reporter for the religious section.

The reporter apologized for the error. But then she mentioned that she hadn't known that a local church had become involved in this type of service. She asked Smith to tell her more and then requested an interview.

The result? A complimentary article in the June 26 edition of the *Texarkana Gazette* about the church and its dedication to clothing for the needy.

Lorretta Johnson
Communication Secretary
Texarkana

ASM Mission Endeavor

Africa, South America, Russia, India? No, it was Conway, Arkansas. On June 17 and 18, a group from Adventist Singles Ministry (ASM) enjoyed the spiritual fellowship offered by the Conway Adventist church. James Simmons, an Adventist single from Maumelle, Alaska, spoke at the worship service.

On Sunday morning an energetic group met early at the church to do some much needed improvements. Soon the air filled with the sounds of scraping old paint and swishing brushes applying the new. An occasional outburst of "you got paint on me" lightened the mood as the project got into full swing. All day, members of the Arkansas ASM and an out-of-state volunteer laughed, worked, and at last achieved their goal.

This is intended to be the be-



Texarkana Pathfinders Terry Birl, Michael White, Carrie Smith, Miranda Walls and April Schmiede took part in a skit entitled "Friends Forever" which ran for four consecutive nights during vacation Bible school.

ginning of mission activities for ASM here in Arkansas and, hopefully, throughout the Southwestern Union. Why don't you join us on the next project? We'll let you know when and where.

Christy Herring
Arkansas ASM president

Texarkana Pathfinders Assist With VBS

The Texarkana Mustang Pathfinder Club assisted eight adult staff members with a four-night vacation Bible school (VBS). Each evening the Pathfinders put on a skit taken from the "Friends

Forever" VBS program. They also assisted the adult teachers with their lessons, crafts, games and refreshments.

These young people worked as the safety patrol and the clean-up crew as well. At the close of VBS, they gave a party for those who had attended three out of the four nights.

The Pathfinders plan to invite VBS attenders of Pathfinder age to future club functions as well as other outreach projects. Eleven of the 33 in attendance were non-SDAs.

Lorretta Johnson
Communication Secretary
Texarkana

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION Prayer and Ministry Conference

A call to Prayer and Spiritual Revival

Gentry, AR — Gentry SDA Church

October 31 - November 4, 1995

Registration Fee: \$55.00

(fee includes needed materials, 4 noon meals) Lodging not included

For more information please contact:

GENTRY SDA CHURCH

21090 Dawn Hill East Rd. • Gentry, AR 72734 • 501/736-8808

Oklahoma

JACK FRANCISCO, CORRESPONDENT

Stillwater Members Assist Conference Programs

The members of the Stillwater church were well represented both at the prayer conference and the summer camps held at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center in June.

Robin Sagel and Audrey Sandvik, both from Stillwater, taught the combined Cradle Roll/Kindergarten division at the prayer conference, with the assistance of Aaron Gates, a Parkview Adventist Academy student, who also attends the Stillwater church. A number of church members also helped as time allowed.

Sagel and Gates stayed on at camp after the prayer conference as camp counselors, Robin for two weeks, and Aaron for the entire month. In addition, Marilyn Gates served as camp nurse for Friendship Camp, held June 4-11, and Joseph Gates served on the camp staff from June 4-18.

Robin Sagel

Landlady's Prayers Answered

The baptism of Roger Gonzalez, May 13, into the Oklahoma City SDA Spanish Church, was the realization of his landlady's hopes and prayers for 12 years.

Myrtle Tipton, now 91 years
Oklahoma continued on page 17



Aaron Gates and his cabin of Friendship campers.

SunDigest

Adventist healthcare keeps on growing

To better fulfill their mission, Adventist hospitals in the Southern and Southwestern unions are expanding facilities and services.

BY PAT HORNING BENTON

Put on your hard hat—you're entering a construction zone! It's an area stretching from Central Florida to Central Texas and from North Carolina to Nashville.

Adventist Health System Sunbelt (Sunbelt) hospitals are building physician office buildings and one of the nation's most sophisticated cancer centers. They're expanding emergency centers and creating urgent-care centers. Around the system hospitals are adding a cadre of clinics to provide primary care in rural

communities and small towns, some without any medical coverage.

As technology explodes, hospitals are adding advanced diagnostic equipment with complicated names frequently shortened to initials: CT scanners, SPECT cameras and MRIs. These machines provide physicians with various kinds of internal views, enabling them to pinpoint problem areas.

From the small 50-bed facilities to the 1,478-bed flagship hospital in Central Florida, Sunbelt organizations are growing. All of this reflects their commitment to meet the healthcare needs of their communities.

Treating the whole person at Metroplex

"In order to be completely healed, the whole person must be treated, and that includes physical, spiritual and emotional needs," says Ernie Sadau, president of Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, Texas.

Metroplex's new emergency center was

designed to promote healthy minds and spirits, as well as healthy bodies. Even the interior designer considered the hospital's philosophy before she ordered paint and wallpaper. "I'm trying to create a healing environment," says Kay House. "Warmth and sunshine help people get well faster."

Sadau explains the necessity of expanding the emergency center. In 1988 the emergency staff typically treated 20 to 30 patients a day; now they treat 60 to 80 a day.

Metroplex Hospital reflects another trend. The

type of care patients need is changing. A decade ago patients stayed in the hospital for several days following major surgery. Today many surgical procedures can be done on an outpatient basis, and recuperation takes place at home.

This trend demands rethinking of hospital space. Instead of more patient rooms, hospitals now need specialized areas for outpatient treatment, surgery and therapy.

Sometimes existing space can be remodeled to serve new needs; in other instances it's more



The now completed Moncrief Radiation Center built in collaboration with Huguley Memorial Medical Center brings state-of-the-art radiation therapy to residents of south Tarrant and surrounding counties.

efficient to build an addition.

For example, Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, N.C., recently completed a 5,239-square-foot addition, housing two operating rooms and a storage area that can be converted to an operating suite in the future.

"A number of new physicians are choosing to use Park Ridge for their surgical cases," says Robert Burchard, president. "This is an economical way to serve new patients."

Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Ky., dedicated its second major surgical suite on May 16. This rural hospital is also expanding its outreach with clinics in Annville and Inez, Ky.

Sharing Huguley's vision for wellness

Huguley Memorial Medical Center, Fort Worth, Texas, is expanding in three areas which have enormous potential for sharing the hospital's vision of whole-person wellness.

Huguley is often credited with introducing the preventive approach to healthcare in the Fort Worth/Dallas market. Its fitness center promotes exercise as one method of maintaining good health. Now Huguley is

broadening its appeal as the largest single-site health and fitness center in the area by opening a new pool and aquatic center.

February 14 ground was broken for the Huguley Hospice House. "Groundbreaking" is actually a misnomer—instead of shovels turning

home-like atmosphere. Patients will be able to have their pet dog or cat with them, and will be able to make other lifestyle choices.

Earlier this year the Marian Miller Chapel—honoring the deceased wife of Southwestern Union Conference

room to another as labor progresses to delivery and recovery. In many hospitals, including several in Sunbelt, they labor, deliver and recover in one beautifully appointed room.

Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Ga., recently unveiled its New Beginnings maternity center with six LDRP (labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum) suites. Each custom-decorated suite also has its own private family waiting area.

Takoma Adventist Hospital in Greeneville, Tenn., wants to keep patients with routine health problems out of their emergency center, freeing it for true emergencies. They worked with Johnson City Medical Center, and the two facilities jointly opened First Assist, an urgent-care center next to the local Holiday Inn.

Florida Hospital East Orlando celebrated the first birthday of its adolescent/pediatric outpatient rehabilitation program by opening a special outdoor area to help integrate children in their program back into a normal lifestyle.

The playground serves as a bridge for children to relearn play skills. "It's important to note that this



Only a few months ago electricians were installing lights in the new Center for Women and Infants at Central Texas Medical Center. On April 25 the first baby was born in the home-like environment of the new facility.

over dirt, white doves were released to signify the love and peace Huguley Hospice staff share with each of their patients and family members. Theme of the event, Wings of a Dove, was suggested by the text of Psalms 55:6: "Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest."

The facility with six bedrooms, each with a private entrance for family and guests, will house terminally ill patients in a

president Cyril Miller—was dedicated at Huguley. The 750-square-foot chapel features a cross formed by 132 blue glass blocks in a curved clear glass wall. The cross is highlighted at night when lights play on the chapel.

Designing special care for mom and baby

Another trend in American healthcare is to keep mom and her newborn together during their brief hospital stay. No longer are pregnant women wheeled from one

is not a handicapped playground,” says Candy Alfano, program coordinator. “Because the playgrounds at schools are not made for disabled children, we did not build this one as such.”

An 18-wheeler recently rolled up to Florida Hospital Waterman in Eustis to deliver state-of-the-art equipment for its cardiovascular special imaging center. In addition to cardiac catheterizations, the center also specializes in invasive radiologic procedures.

Unprecedented growth triggered four major expansion and upgrading projects at Central Texas Medical Center (CTMC) in San Marcos, Texas. Ten years ago CTMC served an area with 42,000 residents; today its market covers more than 200,000 persons in the surrounding communities.

CTMC became one of the most technically advanced hospitals in Central Texas with the acquisition of a new CT scanner and MRI unit, the remodeling of the maternity unit, and completion of a cardiac catheterization lab.

Groundbreaking for cancer center

When Florida Hospital began taking action to

make a dream come true (the building of the Walt Disney Memorial Cancer Institute at Florida Hospital), they first shared the vision with employees. The response was overwhelming; 86 percent chose to participate. Instead of giving just their goal of \$600,000,



With construction completed, the next step is moving day. The Center for Women and Infants at Central Texas Medical Center houses five labor/delivery/recovery rooms (one is also equipped for postpartum) and 15 patient rooms.

employees pledged nearly twice that much!

“The employees recognized that this is not just building rooms and beds. They clearly know how the research and educational aspects of the institute will touch people’s lives, including their own,” says Beverly Schweizer-Gurtis, chairman of the employee campaign. “They have seen for themselves how patients and their loved ones are affected by cancer and they wanted to

do something about it.”

Now the community has completed its \$32 million fund-raising project, and the new eight-story building is underway.

By early 1998 the 174,000 square-foot facility will bring together all phases of cancer treatment, support and

activities, including the construction of a new medical office building.

The medical plaza will be located adjacent to the main TCMC hospital in Madison. This five-story, nearly 100,000 square-foot facility will make it easier for both patients and physicians to access the services they need. The construction also revamps the TCMC lobby area to improve the traffic flow within the hospital and physician office complex.

Another medical office complex is planned for the satellite hospital, TCMC-Portland. The new 18,235-square-foot facility adjacent to the hospital is scheduled for completion in December.

Unveiling expanded hospital facilities

Two Sunbelt hospitals had grown to the point where they needed extensive expansion and remodeling of their facilities. Recently Jellico Community Hospital, Jellico, Tenn., and East Pasco Medical Center, Zephyrhills, Fla., unveiled their “new” hospitals.

Since 1974, when Jellico joined the system, it has experienced growth, with more patients, additional physicians and new services, such as a home health agency. More

research. Another feature of the new building will be a 20-room suite-type hotel for out-of-town patients and their families.

Tennessee Christian Medical Center (TCMC) recently signed a unique affiliation agreement with Baptist Hospital in Nashville which will capitalize on the strengths of both organizations while maintaining the independence and ownership of each hospital. The agreement initiates numerous

than two years ago ground was broken for a \$4.5 million expansion, and the two-story addition officially opened June 4.

The expansion project includes a new emergency center with eight beds, expanded surgery suites and recovery room, larger lab and diagnostic imaging facilities, a new gift shop, a modern maternity unit featuring four LDRP rooms, a chapel, larger waiting areas and a lobby.

In 1985 East Pasco Medical Center (EPMC) opened with 78,000 square feet. Every year since then the facility has been remodeled or expanded. On May 7 the hospital family and community took part in the grand opening for a major addition, which triples the size of the original building.

The expansion provides larger or improved areas for physical, occupational and speech therapy, echocardiology, a chapel, medical records, physicians' lounge, nurse-server stations, gift shop and a conference room to accommodate 55.

Central to the remodeling is the spacious atrium entrance in which a mural and series of bronze sculptures called "The EPMC Hands"

depict East Pasco's mission. As visitors and patients come through the front entrance, they see an image of Christ with His hand pointed upward.

"Christ's right hand is the hand of support for each of us just as He is supporting the young person who appears in need of comfort," says Dodd.

Moving the earth for a brand new hospital

They're moving the earth for the new Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring, Fla. This new facility will replace Walker Memorial Medical Center, which has served Highlands County for nearly 50 years. The hospital could not expand on its present site in Avon Park, so it was decided to build a whole new facility in nearby Sebring.

The new \$50 million medical complex, which will take an estimated two years to complete, will offer state-of-the-art medical services, the latest technology and an exciting new approach to medical care. It features:

- All private rooms.
- 12-bed cardiac and intensive care unit, with 16-bed step-down unit.
- Maternity center with 11 birthing suites, C-section surgical suite and newborn



A ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the official opening of Huguley Medical Associates Family Practice in Forest Hill, one of several medical offices affiliated with the hospital.

nursery.

- 12-bed pediatric unit, including a special playroom.
- Three surgical suites with microsurgery and laser capabilities, two endoscopy rooms and cystoscopy room.
- Comprehensive diagnostic and treatment facilities, including CT scanner, MRI, radiation therapy and chemotherapy for cancer patients, cardiac and pulmonary diagnostics and peripheral vascular studies.
- Sophisticated emergency department.
- Area's largest hospital-based laboratory and radiology services.
- Outdoor fitness trail and comprehensive fitness center for community programs, and stroke and cardiac rehabilitation.
- Community education center and library, offering

free and low-cost classes and screenings.

In a new advertising campaign, Florida Hospital Heartland Division is sharing an important message with its community using the familiar OK symbol of the curled thumb and index finger. "It's OK. We're here to help" is their message.

And that applies to all Sunbelt hospitals. They may be experiencing growing pains right now, but they're forging their future. A future dedicated to continuing to "be there" for the community, providing quality healthcare with Christian compassion.

Pat Horning Benton is a freelance writer who specializes in writing on healthcare topics.



Landlady Myrtle Tipton is thrilled to see her tenant, Roger Gonzalez, being baptized by the pastor, Victor Felipe.

Oklahoma continued from page 12

old, first met Roger after he and his sister came to the United States from Cuba. Two years later, he applied for rental lodging from Tipton.

She introduced him to the Seventh-day Adventist message, and, although she did not speak Spanish, she accompanied her renter to the Spanish church service.

Although Tipton has been a member of the Oklahoma City Central church for over 50 years, she continued visiting the Spanish church with her renter and attended the English class held in the rear of the church.

A few days before his baptism, Gonzalez told her, "I've made up my mind. I'll never work on another Sabbath. If they fire me, they fire me."

Roger did not get fired, and with joyful tears he was baptized by the pastor, Victor Felipe. He now rejoices with his fellow believers.

Marion Seeley

Members Comment On Oklahoma's First Prayer Conference

Summit Ridge Church: Gladys Willits

When we were told that we wouldn't be having a regular camp meeting this summer, that we would be having a prayer conference instead, I thought this will be dry, dry, dry; but we went anyway. And it was anything but dry. It was lively, interesting, in-

formative (God's promises are sure) and, best of all, it was Spirit-filled. I realize now more than ever that prayer must be the most important part of my life. Without prayer there will be no revival, no pouring out of the latter rain. I long to be ready when Jesus comes. I long for

the church to be ready when He comes. I am so glad we went.

Dora Mae Pedersen

I listened to the Holy Spirit, or I would not have been at the prayer conference. When I heard about it, I decided I would not go. Later the Holy Spirit talked to me, and I called to ask for a bed in a cabin. What a blessing people missed who did not attend! They are the best meetings I have ever attended. Those of us who went are spending much more time in prayer and study of God's Word.

Ketchum Church:

Ruth DeWees

To perceive God's presence was an inspiring experience. The youth especially enjoyed the fellowship. They told of a mountain top of love and sharing.

Muskogee Church:

Judi Stout

The prayer conference helped me to realize even more the importance of prayer—real heart-felt, meaningful prayer.

Susan Castillo

It was a unique and inspiring experience to gather with a group of Christian believers whose desire was to know God better and to learn from others and share like needs.

Ardmore Church:

Kenneth Hutson

I was very much impressed with what the prayer conference did for the young people. What

a blessing it would be to have meetings like this often—and to think I almost didn't go!

Jennie Drumm

What a rare privilege to attend the recent prayer conference. Life will never be the same. My only regret is that this didn't happen years ago in my life. It was worth a dozen camp meetings. Do it again.

Okmulgee Church:

Nancy Palmer

I attended the prayer conference with mixed emotions. But in the small group in which I was included I realized that a problem that I had had for 25 years could be healed. I learned from the experiences of others that I didn't need to carry a grudge. Thank you for the "Time of Refreshing."

Wagoner Church:

Ruby Roush

I'd been studying the subject of prayer, reading all the books I could get, and studying the Bible, but I had not made that commitment to get up one hour earlier for prayer and quiet time with God. It meant I would have to get up at 3:00 a.m., since I get up 4:00 a.m. now. I'm so glad I came. Miracles took place there, but best of all, my walk with Jesus is peace, joy and happiness. I'm now getting up at 3:00 a.m. and feel greatly blessed.

Chandler District:

H. B. Petry, pastor

I can't speak for others, but for me the prayer conference has changed my life. I



Todd Collson (center), son-in-law of John Neff, pastor of the Oklahoma City Central Church, was ordained an elder in the Elgin, Texas church on Sabbath July 8. Pastors Robert Costa and John Neff participated in the service.

have preached for the church for 44 years, yet I have never experienced anything like this. It truly is the beginning of a great revival in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.



Upon returning to the church-conference complex after the Oklahoma prayer conference, office staff found a mother duck sitting on 10 eggs in the flower bed at the front entrance. She soon became a pet and was given water and food every day. On July 4 the ducklings hatched and mama duck took her babies for walks around the church building. Just as the pastor was trying to decide whether or not to dedicate the new babies, mama duck marched her family across the four-lane highway, stopping traffic while they found their way to the nearest pond. Mama duck has returned for a visit since she left with her family.

Southwest Region

B. E. WRIGHT, CORRESPONDENT

Luke Wallace Speaks At Bethel

Luke Wallace, Southwest Region Conference associate publishing director, spoke to the Bethel SDA congregation on Sabbath, June 24. Wallace based his sermon, "Wake-up Call," from Romans 13:11, 12 and urged his listeners to observe the signs of the times. "Each professing Christian," he said, "should be actively involved in witnessing and saving souls for Christ."

Following a fellowship meal, Wallace conducted a seminar in which he showed a video tape about publishing work. He had with him nine students who were spending their summer in active literature evangelism. Three of the students were from Oakwood College and were working in the Shreveport, Louisiana area.

Singles Sponsor Parents' Night Out

The idea of a Parents' Night Out came as a suggestion from Trudy Williams, Baton Rouge Berean church's singles coordinator. The singles felt this would be a service that would be appreciated by couples who would like some uninterrupted quality time together.

As the Sabbath sun faded into the horizon, cars, vans, and trucks began arriving at the church bringing children for the Berean singles to watch for the evening. Parents brought infants—some crying, others asleep. But every child, whether in carry-all or stroller, was labeled with its name and all the necessary instructions for baby-sitting survival.

Next came the older kids. They were pushed in, tugged at, pleaded with—some even promised punishment or reward by loving parents anx-



Some of the children who were taken care of by the singles on Parents' Night Out.

ious for an evening to themselves.

Under the vigilant eyes of the Berean singles, the babies drank, ate, cooed, and slept while the older children played, watched videos, challenged each other at Sega, and enjoyed wholesome snacks until their parents arrived.

The evening realized such success that parents are already asking, "When will you do this again?"

*Evelyn M. Edwards
Communication Secretary
Baton Rouge Berean Church*

The Power of Prayer

It all began on January 6 and 7, when the Bethesda Seventh-day Adventist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, participated in the North American Division 24-hour prayer vigil. The women led out in the first segment from 7:15 p.m. until 12:15 a.m., while the men led out during the rest of the time. Church members, their families, and friends all received a great bless-

ing for taking part.

We came together to pray for more love and unity among believers everywhere. We asked God's forgiveness for our sins and for spiritual healing. We prayed especially for our missing members and for our unbelieving children, that God would bring them back into the fold.

Knowing that prayer and faith will open heaven's doors to our petitions, Bethesda's church members propose to hold a similar prayer vigil every quarter.

*Alice Harry
Prayer Vigil Coordinator*

Hebron CS Repairs Members Roof

The Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Services (CS) in Houston, Texas, launched a program in April called "The Good Neighbor." The project involved helping some needy person in the area surrounding the church.

A senior citizen and member of the church whose roof needed major repairs was selected for this project.

Local contractors were contacted to assist with the job. Many were busy at the time the church launched the project and unable to help.

Our CS leader, Noel Chandler, and the CS committee began immediately with those who were



Bethesda church members who are part of the prayer vigil to be held on a quarterly basis.



Pictures of the house before (above) and after (below) repairs were made by "The Good Neighbors." Photo: Mozelle L. Williams



willing to work. Some of the ladies brought meals to the volunteers and the job got under way.

Through the help of the CS and volunteer contractors, the job was completed in less than two months. The CS workers are now placing the finishing touches on the building.

*Dr. Monzelle L. Williams
Communication Secretary*

Hebron Feeds 80 Homeless People

The Hebron SDA Church in Houston, Texas has begun to feed at least 80 homeless persons in the downtown area. Twice a month meals are prepared by Sandra Fair, Joyce Wells, Linda Owens, and Noel Chandler. Many others assist in packaging and



Some of the men working on the roof were, from left: Ralston Dixon, Noel Chandler and Steve Jones. Not pictured is Brother Castello, the main contractor on the job. Photo: Mozelle L. Williams

delivering the food.

Each time a delivery is made, it seems more food is needed. More and more we find that additional meals are needed to feed the homeless.

The community service department is exploring other avenues to increase the number of meals that are prepared each time.

*Dr. Monzelle L.
Williams
Communication
Secretary*



Three volunteers helping package food for the homeless are Brother Foster, Charles Johnson and Steve Jones. Both Foster and Jones are faithful community volunteers.

(Right) Guests at the Smyrna Junior Academy graduation of 8th grade and kindergarten students. Baccalaureate and commencement speaker was Marvin Jemison, pastor of the Berean church in Baton Rouge, and Charles Barber from Ozark Academy who presented a scholarship to graduate Jermaine Proshee. Top row from left: Charles Barber, Wilbert Hudson, M.A. Jemison and J. R. Ellis, pastor. Center from left: Carey Walker and Jermaine Proshee. Front row from left: Teacher Lynette Jefferson, kindergartners Garrick Cesar, Frankie Marsland, Latrell Smith and teacher Juliette Cesar.



Texas

FRANK TOCHTERMAN, CORRESPONDENT

Killeen VBS Hosts 150 Children

Using the theme "Friends for Jesus," the Killeen church completed another successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) series.

Over 150 children from ages four to 17 participated in this year's event that was held on the

campus of the Killeen Adventist Junior Academy from June 12 through 23.

Phyllis Mitchell, Killeen VBS director, says that much of the success to this year's VBS is credited to the many members who volunteered their time as group leaders and who assisted with daily activities for the children.

Young people from all over

the greater Killeen area spent three hours each morning at VBS. Of the 150 children in attendance, Mitchell estimated that 125 were non-church members. "Through our VBS program," explained Mitchell, "it is our goal to reach children who do not know, or have little knowledge about, Jesus and how He can make a positive difference in their

lives. We tried to make VBS available for any child who had a desire to come. We provided round trip transportation to and from school for a number of children. It's always pleasing to have children participate in VBS and become excited over learning new things about Jesus."

In connection with the theme "Friends for Jesus," this year's



Snack time at the Killeen VBS program.

VBS concentrated on teaching children how to make friends, how to keep friends, and how Jesus is a child's best friend.

Following the two-week school, a concluding program took place during the church service on Sabbath, June 24. Area residents, church members, and nearly 100 students participated in the worship service. During the service VBS children were given certificates of completion, received awards, recited memory verses, performed skits, and shared songs they had learned during the two weeks.

In his morning sermon, Killeen pastor, Jonathan Leach, spoke about how Jesus made us different and how we need to celebrate our uniqueness and be more accepting of each other.

*Ricky Seiler
Communication Director*

Brownwood VBS Program Draws 26 Children

The Brownwood church has only two children of Vacation Bible School (VBS) age, but we

always have a VBS program. Besides the director, Susan Stepp, her helpers Margaret Majors, Pastor Bob Stumph, and his wife Gail, there were no other adults to assist. The church youth who didn't work at regular jobs volunteered to become the rest of the staff. And some who worked took their days off and their lunch breaks to lend a hand.

On the first day we had 12 children. We asked them all to bring a friend, and the next day's attendance almost doubled to 21. By the time we completed the week we had registered 26 children.

The children enjoyed the skits, songs, Bible stories, recreation, snacks, crafts, learning center, and the puppet shows every day. We have several who attend Sabbath school whose first contact came from VBS.

Susan Stepp, VBS Director

Three New Members Join Brownwood

The Brownwood church added three new members at a baptism on July 8. Ross and Joy Gerking from Cross Plains and Crystal Sanders from Comanche sealed their commitment to Christ by a public demonstration of their new birth.

Crystal is a junior at Comanche High School. About a year ago she was invited to the church and its youth functions by her friends at school, Shelley and



The pastor, Bob Stumph, with newly baptized members of the Brownwood church, Crystal Sanders, Joy and Ross Gerking.

Shawna Stepp. Before long she became a regular member of our youth group. She has attended TYLA, the Pathfinder Camporee at Nameless Valley Ranch as a counselor-in-training, and worked as recreation director for Vacation Bible School.

Susan Stepp, Youth Director

VGA's Increased Enrollment Stretches School Resources

The increasing enrollment at Valley Grande Academy (VGA) stretches the resources of the school's physical plant to the bursting point. In response to this, a number of changes occurred during the summer to prepare for a new school year.

Two new buildings help ease the pressure. A new classroom building accommodates the increase in enrollment in the licensed vocational nursing (LVN) program. The LVN program began three years ago with 11 students. Now 60 have been accepted for the 1995-96 school year.

The other building houses the new stained glass factory. The management of the creative stained glass industry and the classes in art fall under the direction of Clinton Conley. Students may work and take classes in art and stained glass creation. Orders from churches and others around the country keep the factory workers busy.

A new addition to the staff, Jake Fortney, comes to us from Canada and Rwanda where he was a missionary for five years. He stayed in the African country until the fighting made evacuation imperative. His stories of the tragedy are faith-building for students and staff alike. Fortney

heads up a new program in automotive technology while coordinating the maintenance work of the school. He brings many years of technical teaching experience to his new challenges here.

Both dorms received improvements during the summer. The ceilings were raised and work done on the air conditioning in the boys' dorm, as well as other renovation. The girls dorm received its share of remodeling attention as well.

VGA continues to pursue the vision that we should become all that God sees our school should be.

The staff believes that not only is the following quote applicable to individuals, but also applies to VGA: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children."

*Corrie Whitney
Vice Principal for Admissions*

Denton Wolverines Have Five Master Guides

When the Denton Wolverines Pathfinder club awarded many merit badges to the Pathfinders and Adventurers on June 17, the leaders discovered that the club has five Master Guides.

The Wolverines have had an outstanding record in doing youth evangelism and have three new members as a result. Their interests in reaching the community and in witnessing stimulates growth within the club.

"The Wolverines are outgoing and adventurous in all scheduled activities," reports Chris Martie, Wolverine leader. "They eagerly work at fund raising jobs, because they know that it will result in 'fun' activities such as skating and camping trips."

Sanger and Denton have re-



Brownwood church VBS staff, back, from left: Koby Majors, Josh Stumph, Jonas Hernandez, Pastor Bob Stumph, Crystal Sanders and Gail Stumph. Front from left: Genia Majors, Shawna Stepp, Susan Stepp, and Shelle Stepp. Not pictured are Margaret Majors, Paige Smith and James Buffington.



Denton Wolverine Pathfinder Club members include (back left) Chris Martie, Uche Evulukwu, Jerry Linn, and Danny Linn. Middle: Electra Martie holding son, Paul, Collins Evulukwu, Treva Peterson, Stella Evulukwu and Jim Petersen. In front are Melody Lindsey and Kevin Evulukwu.

cently joined together for the purpose of serious evangelism in North Texas, and the Wolverines plan to be involved as well.

Allen Kirtley

Communication Secretary

Annual Services at the Clifton Church

The Clifton/Norse Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is the oldest standing Seventh-day Adventist church in the Texas Conference, will have its annual service October 7, 1995.

Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. followed by a potluck dinner. To find the church, those traveling through Meridian should go south on Highway 6 toward Clifton about eight miles. Turn right on FM 2136, then turn left on the second gravel road. The church is located about one mile on the left.

Those traveling through Clifton take Highway 6 north about four miles, then turn left on FM 2136 and follow the above instructions.

Burleson VBS Trains Youth Leaders

The Burleson Vacation Bible School set a goal to train as many youth as possible in the art of working with children. Because of this, Pastors Bryan Aalborg and Roy Lowe elected to take the leadership themselves.

While pursuing their chief aim, Aalborg and Lowe still wanted to give the children who attended an exciting and rewarding experience. So, with 16 adults from the church, they launched into their program which was held during the morning hours to best suit the volunteer staff schedule.

The 86 children, staff, and the youth who assisted as "staff-in-training" stretched the building facilities to the maximum. Everyone seemed happy and well-organized as they moved from one location to the next with each new aspect of the program.

"We were happy with the outcome, as there were 15 non-Adventists who attended," commented Aalborg, "and we were able to train 18 youth in the details of how to work with children. They will make good future VBS and Sabbath school leaders."

Thurman C. Petty, Jr.
Communication Secretary

New Branch Sabbath School in Jasper

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is once again represented in Jasper County. In September, 1994, seven Seventh-day Adventists living in the area began meeting at the home of Harold and Sue Beebe. The Hemphill church agreed to sponsor the group as a branch Sabbath school, and the group started meeting regularly on Sabbath afternoons. Jim Graves, the pastor, agreed to meet with the group after conducting services at Hemphill on the second Sabbath of each month.

In February the group arranged with a small Lutheran church to rent their building for Sabbath services. The branch Sabbath school had a new home. They now meet every Sabbath afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church, 430 State St., Jasper, Texas.

The Jasper branch Sabbath school has already begun their evangelistic outreach. They are using the Kenneth Cox video series as a means of setting the groundwork for a future video crusade. Currently, seven families are viewing the videos. The

group plans a bulk mailing of the "Something Special" invitation cards in August.

The city of Jasper is a growing area of approximately 8,000 population and is located in the "Lakes" region of deep East Texas. All Seventh-day Adventists living in or visiting the area are invited to attend services any Sabbath to enjoy the fellowship of our small group.

For more information, contact: Harold Beebe at 409-384-3430 or J. G. Graves at 409-569-0166.

J. G. Graves
District Pastor

Niculescu Speaks at Denton

Emilian Niculescu, president of the South Transylvanian Conference of Romania, spoke at the Denton Seventh-day Adventist Church June 10. He gave a special report on the spiritual and economic growth conditions in Romania since World War II, with emphasis on the time following the collapse of communism.

Niculescu and his wife, Nellie, were visiting the United States for the first time. They came to North Texas as a result of the visit of a group of students from Southwestern Adventist College and several local academies to Romania in March. Sixty-six stu-



Jasper branch Sabbath school which meets Sabbath afternoons in the Lutheran church are from left: Pastor Jim Graves, Francis Wessel, Margaret Cochran, Gary Cochran, Sue Beebe, Leah Cochran, Gary Kevin Cochran, Hubert Gilson, Harold Beebe, a boy visitor and Caleb DeVost.



Nellie and Emilian Niculescu

dents and teachers helped Adventists in Brashov, Romania, build their church.

During the students' visit, President Niculescu got down into the foundation trench and wielded a shovel along with the other workers, thus becoming personally acquainted with many of the group.

When the students left Romania, they said "La Revedere,—Til we meet again"—not realizing that the time would be so short.

Niculescu's visit was recorded in the *Lewisville Leader*, Saturday, June 10, 1995.

Allen G. Kirtley
Communication Secretary

South Austin Church Returns to Ciudad Victoria

After the South Austin Church completed their work last spring on the November church in the Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, the local members were overjoyed. Wanting to share their joy with the members of South Austin, they invited the workers to return in June for the dedication of the church.

When the South Austin work crew left Ciudad Victoria, the church was not yet finished. The cinder block wall had been erected, but as yet it had not been plastered or painted. The inside, too, had not been finished, and the building had no pews.

On June 15, a group of nine members of the original group made their way to McAllen, Texas. They were met at the Mexican border by a member of the November church, who helped facilitate their entrance into Mexico.

When the group arrived in Ciudad Victoria, they were pleasantly surprised to see that the church had been completed. It is now plastered, newly painted, and attractively fenced. Inside, the people had placed attractive pews built by a local carpenter. The church was ready to be dedicated to the glory of God.

The members of the Novem-

SDA Marriage Encounter Weekend

September 29-October 1

At the heart of the family is a healthy marriage. Since the family is the basic unit of society and good marriages are the heart of a stable family, we find Satan working overtime to destroy family relationships in order to bring dishonor to God and discouragement to His people.

With the ever-increasing pressure today on married couples to call it quits at the slightest sign of trouble, it becomes crucial to learn how to cope before the marriage crumbles, leaving painful scars and bitter memories for couples and their children.

Marriage Encounter (ME) is designed to help couples bring a new sparkle to their relationship. You can make your marriage joyfully rewarding and fulfilling as God intended it to be. You can experience love for a lifetime!

Any couple who has not attended an ME weekend is strongly advised to register for the next engagement. The program is scheduled for September 29-October 1 at the Harvey Hotel in Dallas and is limited to 20 couples. Early registration will assure you a place.

For applications and information call: 817-645-8146 or 817-558-1420. Or write: SDA Marriage Encounter, P.O. Box 812, Keene, TX 76059.

ber church welcomed the South Austin group. They spent the weekend rejoicing and praising God for making it possible for the members from the two countries to have a common goal:

letting the love of God shine out to a community that is hungering for the knowledge of God.

A strong bond has been established between the two churches.

Georgia Turney
Communication Secretary



The completed "November Church" in Ciudad Victoria which was started by the South Austin church.

CTA Alumni Reach Fund Raising Goal

Alumni volunteers called on former classmates on CTAs annual phonathon, resulting in \$14,660 from 287 donors. The goal set by the Philanthropic Service for Institutions was \$14,500 from 285 donors.

By reaching the goal set by PSI, CTA received an additional \$7000 in Challenge Grant money.

The CTA Alumni Association would like to thank the donors and volunteers for sharing the vision of Chisholm Trail Academy.

Henry Berkner
Director of Development

Texico

Gallup Buys and Remodels Church

A year ago the Gallup church bought a piece of property on which sat a double-wide, stuccoed mobile home. The house needed many repairs. Rain came in through the back door and rotted the kitchen and bathroom floors. The paneling had to be replaced with 5/8" wallboard and the electrical system rewired in order to meet building and fire codes. The church members voted to buy the property and remodel the building.

The work is nearly completed, and the church has moved into the structure. Besides a sanctuary, the restored building has space for children's divisions, a kitchen, and a recreation room for socials and youth activities.

The remodeling cost about twice as much as expected, but the Lord has helped the church overcome many hurdles. They plan to offer cooking classes, non-smoking seminars, and an evangelistic series in the near future.

Though the Gallup church is a small group, they have shown faith in the power of God and expect great things to happen in their area. *Jeannette Boyd*

Chaplain Ruiz Receives Captain's Bars

Chaplain Luis A. Ruiz, former pastor of the Deming district, was ordained on December 2, 1993, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, just before entering the armed services.

During the first few months of 1994 he attended chaplaincy school in New Jersey and then spent 45 days with the Army Reserve unit in Fort Knox, Kentucky. There he was promoted to First Lieutenant.

In February of this year Chaplain Ruiz received his Captain's bars and is currently assigned to active duty in Fort Hood, Texas. Besides holding religious services for all soldiers who wish to attend, his duties include counseling both single and married soldiers and their families. He



With most of the remodeling work complete, Gallup's church members rejoice in their newly acquired church facility.

also presents suicide prevention and "couples communication" classes and organizes prayer breakfasts and Bible study sessions.

Captain Ruiz lives with his wife and two children in Copperas Cove, about a 10-minute drive from Fort Hood.

Las Vegas Members See Results From Seminars

When "fishing along the shore" stopped bringing in many fish, the Las Vegas church decided to carry out the instructions of Christ to launch out into the deep. They let down three "nets": a Revelation seminar in the church on Sunday mornings and two more in private homes during the week.

The beginnings were less than promising, but on New Year's

Day a young couple walked into a seminar and received the materials with enthusiasm and interest. The following Sabbath they brought three of their friends and close relatives along with them to church! They were very enthusiastic about the logic of the message and were so deeply convicted by the Holy Spirit that they asked to go to the training session to learn how to conduct seminars. The church honored their request.

The promise of God's Holy Spirit is still valid today, even for a fledgling church surrounded by a Spanish community that is 70% Catholic "and proud of it."

Already God has given the first shower of the latter rain with three baptisms. Others, including the young couple who started to study on New Year's Day, are also preparing for baptism. One of those baptized had known the truth at one time and requested baptism the first time the pastor saw him.

David Rose, Pastor

Las Vegas Members Put Christianity into Action

When Phil and Renee found the inside of their new house in shambles after it was gutted by



First fruits of the Las Vegas seminars. From left: Monique Armijo, Naomi Steele, Rudy Martinez, and pastor, David Rose.

fire, they were bewildered. Where could they turn with their three children? They had no insurance. It seemed that most of their



Maria Ruiz pins the captain's bars on her husband, Chaplain Luis Ruiz.



Phil and Renee Jaramillo and their children smiling in appreciation for the kindness done to refurbish their burned out house.

neighbors and friends "passed by on the other side."

One of the community service leaders, Betty May Adjuziem, rallied the Las Vegas church members, and soon nine people appeared at the door of the gutted house. Two builders who were attending the Revelation seminar were among them. Armed with saws, hammers, power tools, trowels, cleaning materials and lots of enthusiasm, the group went to work. Before they left six hours later, the hallway and two rooms had been almost completely restored.

The family lost no time in

moving into the rooms. In fact, they slept there that very night!

Smiles replaced gloom upon the faces of those in the burned out family as they saw people who cared come to their rescue. The grandmother, who watched the progress and even prepared a nice lunch for the workers, was heard to remark to the parents, "This shows you who your friends really are!"

Las Vegas members have been taking training classes from both church and Red Cross instructors in order to prepare themselves for effective intervention in case of major disasters.

David Rose, Pastor



Las Vegas church members who helped a family in need. Jay Benline and Doug Heitrick (back row, 1st and 3rd from left) are builders who attended a Revelation seminar. Betty May Adjuziem (back row, 2nd from left) organized the group. David Rose, pastor, is at the far right.

Southwestern Adventist College

JENELL RUSK, CORRESPONDENT

SAC Students Study Biology in the Tropics

Every summer biology students and professors from Southwestern Adventist College rendezvous with exotic tropical plants and animals. And each time they return with stories of animal sightings and pictures of the beauty of the rain forest. But this is the first time they've come home talking about an erupting volcano.

The annual summer trip-BIOL470, Field Natural History-requires intensive pre-trip study, detailed assignments, two papers, and two exams. Students also keep field notebooks.

But this class is more than tests and assignments. It allows students to become field biologists, to travel, and to learn with all five senses. This experience becomes a crucial part of a scientific education: it teaches students to identify living organisms in their habitat and helps them learn to use

correct scientific terminology. On-site observation also solidifies scientific thought in ways no textbook could ever do.

SAC biology faculty stay active in research. That's why they spend three sweat-soaked weeks each year guiding students through forests and diving in the clear waters of the tropics. This year's trip, led by Art Chadwick and Dan Petr, included 11 SAC students and a doctoral student from the University of North

Texas—an expert in insect biology.

The group flew to Costa Rica, where they spent two weeks exploring the rain forests in the national parks. Fifty percent of all living species are found in tropical rain forests throughout the world. Scientists have gained a rich understanding of the inter-relationship of plants and animals, discovered many medicines, and learned important ecological principles through their study of the rain forests.

During the two weeks in Costa Rica students studied plants, birds, and insects. They traveled through Monteverde and Santa Rosa National Park, hiking trails and catching glimpses of monkeys, sloths, porcupines, and agouti. They also saw colorful insects and birds, including butterflies, beetles, and rare birds with iridescent green, blue, and red coloring.

As students hiked through the Costa Rican rain forest, just a few miles from the active volcano Volcan

Arenal, they listened to the sounds of escaping steam and the occasional crashing rocks. Students learned that these sounds are positive signs—the volcano was releasing pressure, which, if not released, could cause an eruption. So they were surprised one night, long after sunset, when the top of the mountain exploded in a blaze of hot red stone.

"It was incredible!" observed Heidi Fisher Hopps, senior biology major. "The mountain just blew. You could see the bright color and hear the falling rock."

The once-in-a-lifetime experience reminded them that studying volcanoes in a textbook could never compare with watching a live eruption—from a safe distance.

The group spent their last week at Roatan Island, off the coast of Honduras, snorkeling in the coral reefs. After the humidity of the forests, the cool water was a welcome break.

Year after year students speak of this trip as a changing point in their educational outlook. Here they stop learning just to pass a test or meet requirements. Here they discovered the excitement of biological discovery and the incredible gift of God's creation.

"I catch myself looking at bugs and birds a lot more now," observed Hopps. "It's a lot easier to learn in real life. And you'll remember and appreciate it forever."



SAC biology students Sandi Hicks and Ryan Laws prepare to scuba dive with tropical fish in the waters surrounding Roatan, an island off the coast of Honduras. Each year, SAC biology students have the opportunity to spend three weeks in the tropics studying plant and animal life. Photo: Dan Petr

Announcements

Upcoming programs and events that may be of interest to *Record* readers are announced here in brief. Additional information is available as indicated in each item.

College View Academy Announces Homecoming

The Union College Academy/College View Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska announces its alumni homecoming for the weekend of October 13-15. Honor classes are '45, '55, '65, '70, '75, '80, and '85. For more information call 402/486-2899.

NEMH Nursing Alumni Homecoming

New England Memorial Hospital has changed its name to Boston Regional Medical Center. The School of Nursing Alumni Weekend will be September 22-24, 1995. For reservations call Florence Wendell, 617/933-5387.



Position Available in Recreation Management Director, Drayson Center

Primary functions include: Leadership of the Drayson Center staff, facility, and programs; budget management, marketing, and membership acquisition.

Qualifications include: A Seventh-day Adventist with an advanced degree in Physical Education, Athletic Administration, Marketing, Health, Recreation, Fitness Management, or a related field. Minimum of two years professional experience in facility management or program supervision.

Interested individuals should send a curriculum vitae to

Dr. Ralph Perrin
Dean for Student Affairs
Loma Linda University
Student Services Center
Loma Linda, California 92350
(909) 824-4510
email rperrin@cemail.llu.edu
(Internet), or FAX (909) 824-0879

Loma Linda University is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified handicapped, minority, and women candidates are encouraged to apply.

GBA Plans Alumni Weekend

Alumni weekend for Greater Boston Academy will be held October 6-8 at Boston Regional Medical Center (formerly New England Memorial Hospital).

Former Teachers and Students Sought

Did you attend or teach at Rocky Knoll/Hudson Intermediate School or Meadowbrook Adventist Elementary School in Hudson, MA? Please contact Mary Drader, 442 Bigelow St., Marlboro, MA 01752 or leave message at 508/568-9044.

Austin First Announces Centennial Homecoming

The Austin First SDA Church invites former members and friends to join them in celebrating the church's centennial homecoming October 13 and 14. Guest speaker on Friday evening will be Gaston Wallace and on Sabbath, Myron Voegelé. There will be a potluck dinner on Sabbath followed by a concert. For more information call 512/459-8966.

Alaska Leisure Charters

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P.O. Box 7185 1-509-783-3652
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9-6t



Kate McLaughlin
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ILLNESS FORCES SALE. Ozarks home, 4-bedroom, 2 full baths plus 2 half baths, on 28 acres. Woods, stream, garden. 2-car garage with attic, carport. Basement apartment. Owner financing available, \$79,500 or with 160 additional acres \$150,000. Phone 209/369-9721 or 501/425-3525. 9-1t

MOVING? BUYING OR SELLING? For toll-free, no-cost, no obligation information on real estate anywhere in mainland USA, Hawaii, Alaska or Canada, call 800/523-2460, ext. T211-1. 8-6t

INTERESTED IN BUYING OR SELLING in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas? Contact the only real estate company in the Valley owned and operated by an SDA. Contact: Lou Ann Matlock, Broker, Matlock Realty, 2114 W. 6th St., Weslaco, TX 78596; phone 210/968-8317. 8-6t

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Family Practice position available for missionary-minded physician in Manchester KY. No OB; excellent benefits. Office at Memorial Hospital, a 63-bed Adventist Health System/Sunbelt facility. Lovely Appalachian mountain community of 25,000 between Lexington, KY and Knoxville, TN. SDA Church and elementary school nearby. Call 1-800/737-2647 or fax CV to 704/687-0792. 9-2t

URGENTLY NEEDED at small rural hospital in SE Utah: 1) Patient billing supervisor with 3-5 years of patient billing experience. 2) Commercial/residential electrician with general knowledge of plumbing and building maintenance/remodel. Some personnel supervisory experience is preferable. Job has potential of hospital plant services directorship. 3) RNs with OB, Med/surg, OR and Home Health experience. 4) Data processing coordinator/network manager, IBM AS/400 and Novell experience preferred to oversee computer systems conversion. Call Monument Valley Hospital at 800/546-2825 or send resume to P.O. Box 360004, Monument Valley, UT 84536-0004. 9-1t

WEIMAR INSTITUTE needs experienced, devoted workers for its growing health and education facility—a rewarding ministry, not just a job. Positions open include: chief financial officer, industries coordinator, development/marketing director, pre-pressman (5 years experience in camera, stripping and plate making), desktop publishing/graphic designer with 5 years experience, telemarketing supervisor, food service director, food service shift supervisor, program director for Newstart Lifestyle Program, medical director for Newstart Lifestyle Program, RN for Newstart, exercise therapist for Newstart (RN or other allied health professional preferred), academy registrar/secretary, and outreach/worked director. Phone 916/637-4111 or write: Weimar Institute Personnel, P.O. Box 486, Weimar, CA 95736. 9-1t

DIRECTOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: CareMark Behavioral Health, a leading

provider of behavioral health programs in the Pacific Northwest, is seeking a seasoned behavioral health experienced executive. This individual will provide leadership and be responsible for a full range of across-system programs including provider and negotiated health plan relationships. 10 years of successful management experience in multi-hospital system responsible for integrated programs encompassing delivery and managed care. Knowledge of capitated market is essential. Masters in health-related business administration required. Must have excellent fiscal and operating skills, knowledge of marketing, public relations, physician collaboration and community health. Send resume to: Dale R. Wendt, Human Resources Director, Portland Adventist Medical Center, 10123 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216; 503/251-6130. 9-1t

MUSIC TEACHER sought by Andrews University. Required doctoral preparation and expertise in one or more of the following areas: music history, orchestral conducting, organ. Department offers graduate and undergraduate majors in NASM-accredited program. Adventists send resume to: Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of Music, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0230. 9-1t

Andrews University seeks a **DEAN FOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.** The School offers graduate and undergraduate programs and is candidate for AACSB accreditation. Doctorate in a business field required. Teaching/administrative experience desirable. Interested Adventists send resume to Dr. Raymond Paden, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0360. 9-1t

SOCIOLOGIST, FALL 1995. Requirements: PhD in sociology and commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Interested Adventists contact Wilma Hepker, Chair, Dept. of Sociology, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. 509/527-2273; fax 509/527-2253. 9-1t

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS TEACHER, Fall 1995. Doctorate in CIS or related field and teaching experience preferred. Masters with teaching and/or work experience required. Commitment to excellent Adventist education. Interested Adventists contact Norman Anderson, Business Dept., Walla Walla College, College Place, WA 99324. 509/527-2952; fax 509/527-2253; Internet: andeno@www.edu. 9-1t

IMMEDIATE OPENING For OR Charge Nurse. Min. 3-5 years experience including PACU and CS. Flexibility to float to other areas as needed, required. Monument Valley Hospital, Utah. Call Marcie Boomsliet, Clinical Nurse Manager, 801/727-3241 or fax resume to 801/727-3349. 9-1t

MISSION MINDED NURSES NEEDED: Monument Valley Hospital, Utah on Navajo Indian Reservation. Flexibility required to work all areas. OR, OB, ER, Peds, etc. Call Marcie Boomsliet, Clinical Nurse Mgr, 801/727-3241 or fax resume to 801/727-3349. 9-1t

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks PhD in organic or bio-organic chemistry to teach undergraduate general and organic chemistry classes, direct laboratories, and other related duties starting fall 1995 or 1996. Position open until filled. Send

letter of application, resume, transcript(s) and references to Dr. Bill Hemmerlin, Pacific Union College Chemistry Dept., Angwin, CA 94508. 8-2t

URGENTLY NEEDED: MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA. College graduates with bachelors degrees or higher to teach conversational English and Bible for one year or more at the SDA Language Institutes of Korea (teaching experience not necessary—we train you). Retirees welcome. Benefits include: airfare, housing, utilities, stipend and severance pay. For more information contact Ray James, 40 Pleasant Dr., Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Phone 209/267-0416 or fax 209/267-0342. 7-12t

ATTENTION OWNER/OPERATORS: Montana Conference Transportation is looking for owner/operators to join our team of transportation professionals. Naturally, our drivers never work on Sabbath and when you drive under our authority, we can supply you with profitable loads and timely pay. If you want to join a quality team of Christian driving professionals, we want to hear from you. Montana Conference Transportation, 1201 Franklin Blvd., Nampa, ID 83687, 1-800-525-1777; fax 208-463-1788. 9-4t

COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE seeks seasoned development officer for Associate Vice President for Advancement. Requirements: successful record in fund development, experience in public relations and alumni administration. Contact: President Charles Scriven, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; phone 301/891-4151; fax 301/891-4022. 9-1t

MISCELLANEOUS

USED SDA BOOK SALE, Urbandale, Michigan Fellowship Hall. Over 10,000 used SDA books, vegetarian cookbooks, songbooks. Oct. 11, 12, 13, 15; 10-5 Sat. 1/2 hour after sundown. Questions, 800/732-2664; home 616/781-6379. Also want to buy used SDA books. 9-2t

ARE YOU SINGLE, OVER 50 years of age, would like to meet or correspond with Adventists in your age group who also are single, widowed or divorced? For information on monthly newsletter of members, photo album, send self-addressed stamped envelope to Adventist Singles, P.O. Box 527, Canyonville, OR 97469. 9-1t

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1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC HOUSING at Southern College of SDA, Collegedale, TN, 90 minutes from Atlanta. Transportation available. Vegetarian cafeteria. For reasonable rates and reservations call 800/277-7273. Sorry, no pets. 8-2t

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6-4t

SOUTHWESTERN UNION Record

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COPY DEADLINES

Announcement for Events on Weekend of	Should Be in Local Conference Office by
November 4, 11, 18 and 25	September 15
December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30	October 20
January 6, 13, 20 and 27	November 17

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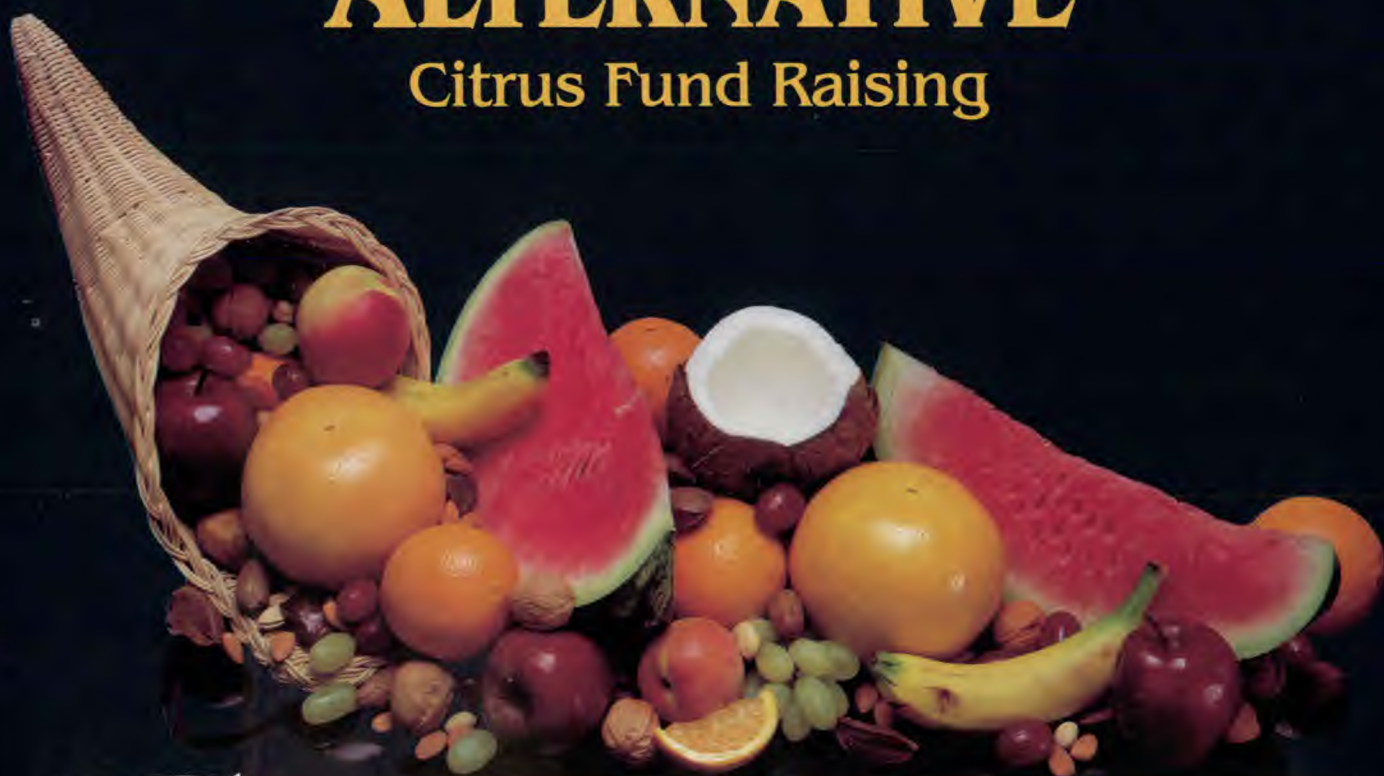
September 1995

Sunset Calendar

	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13
Abilene, Texas	7:55	7:45	7:36	7:27	7:18	7:09
Amarillo, Texas	8:04	7:54	7:44	7:34	7:25	7:15
Brownsville, Texas	7:42	7:34	7:26	7:19	7:11	7:04
Dallas, Texas	7:43	7:34	7:24	7:15	7:05	6:57
El Paso, Texas	7:22	7:12	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:36
Fort Worth/Keene, Texas	7:45	7:36	7:26	7:17	7:07	6:59
Galveston/Houston, Texas	7:33	7:25	7:16	7:08	6:59	6:52
Gentry, Arkansas	7:36	7:26	7:15	7:05	6:55	6:45
Little Rock, Arkansas	7:26	7:16	7:06	6:56	6:47	6:37
Muskogee, Oklahoma	7:38	7:28	7:18	7:08	6:59	6:49
New Orleans, Louisiana	7:14	7:06	6:57	6:48	6:40	6:32
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	7:47	7:37	7:27	7:17	7:08	6:58
San Antonio, Texas	7:48	7:39	7:31	7:23	7:14	7:07
Santa Fe, New Mexico	7:22	7:12	7:01	6:51	6:41	6:31
Shreveport, Louisiana	7:31	7:22	7:12	7:03	6:53	6:45
Tulsa, Oklahoma	7:42	7:32	7:21	7:11	7:01	6:51

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