

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

RECORD

MARCH 1996



OUR CHILDREN - They are a most treasured possession

EDITORIAL

CHILDREN

They're a precious heritage — A gift from God.

*Margaret Taglavore, Children's Ministries Director
Southwestern Union Conference*

CHILDREN are the most valuable asset God has entrusted to us. The way we take care of our children indicates our faithfulness as individuals and as an organization. Our children are our future.

One of the greatest gifts we can give to children is the knowledge that they are unique children of God. Because we are made in God's image, we are valuable, loved by God Himself. Yet there are children who, through no fault of their own, do not *feel* valued and may seem to others to be most unlovable. However, all of us—parents, teachers, church leaders, community leaders and next-door neighbors—have a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with the children we come in contact with. The way we treat a child reflects on our own self-assurance of God's merciful, unbounded love.

The most important thing a child can learn is that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to save them from the results of



sin. To believe this is to be grounded in healthy self-esteem and wholesome self-worth. When we adults share this concept of love with a child, the child will judge what we say by the way we act toward others.

When we say "God loves you," the child interprets that statement on the basis of how he perceives our love and actions toward others.

By spending time with children, we let them know they are important to us. But even if we do not have much contact with them, there are ways to build a good relationship with them—and this works with adults as well!

*** Eye Contact.** In North American culture, this is a fundamental part of working with anyone. When you talk to a child, look at him/her. Bend down if necessary. Ask questions in a kind and friendly manner. Give the child time to answer. Do not tease. You can create a bond with a child by talking and listening. This is true even with the smallest child.

*** Involvement.** Whenever possible, involve the child in the activity around you. Allow the child to become a part of what is happening. With your guidance and interest, children can become valuable assets to the home, church and community.

*** Praise.** Everyone blooms when someone compliments or praises them. Look for opportunities to do this, especially with children who seem to lack self-confidence.

*** Touch.** Touch is an important part of nurturing relationships. We usually feel the closest to the people we touch. An appropriate touch or hug at the right time often speaks louder than words.

As God's stewards, we must value the children He has put in our midst. We must care for them and teach them and give them back to Him. We do not own the children. We are only caring for them for a short time. Let us make the most of this time.

The following are five examples of faith messages that uphold a child's self-worth and help build self-esteem. See how many ways **you** can convey these messages to the children around you.

1. God loves you and so do I.
2. God believes in you and so do I.
3. God listens to you and so will I.
4. God cares for you and so do I.
5. You are unique and important to God, and I think you are unique and important too.



ABOUT THE COVER: The illustration on the cover was created by artist Marye McKenney for the 1996 Christian Record Services/National Camps for Blind Children (CRS/NCBC) calendar. She used pen, ink, and colored pencils. Marye feels a special closeness to CRS/NCBC because she met Jesus as a camper at "blind camp." With a contact lens in her good eye, Marye's vision is corrected to 20/1000. That means she has to be within two to three inches of the paper to see what she's drawing. "I'd get closer, but I'd have to cut off my nose to do it," she comments jokingly. "It's like trying to look through waxed paper."

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What I've learned from dealing with children.



Ellen Thomas, co-owner and director of The Little

Green Caboose Childhood Learning Center, Inc., in Burleson, Texas shares some insights.

You and your helpers interact with 170 children every day at your early childhood learning center. You must deal with children whose backgrounds vary a great deal. All together, you have worked with children in

several day care settings and Sabbath schools for the past 19 years. By now you must have some firm convictions regarding child development and training. Could you share some insights regarding child training?

Yes. I have dealt with all types of children, from those who are the sweetest and easiest to work with to those who try our patience to the utmost!

What do you consider to be the most important aspect a child is to learn from their parents, guardians or teachers?

To me, a child should know without a doubt that their parents love them and value them as individuals in their own right and that they are an important part of the family—not only their earthly family, but also the heavenly. By giving unconditional love in the earthly family, children develop a greater understanding of how much God, their Father in heaven, loves them.

What do you see as one of the most glaring mistakes a person can make in training a child?

Well, actually there are several bad mistakes that can be made. One is irresponsible parenting. It is very unfortunate that individuals become



It's always fun when everyone pulls together!

parents when they have no training or understanding of how to rear children. Today our society is full of teenage parents who are not mature, nor do they have experience or any idea of the responsibility they have taken on—just wanting or having a baby does not give them the wisdom they need to care for and train it. And what is worse, these teenagers often come from homes where there has been no training and discipline. Another unfortunate mistake is to give children feelings of insecurity and little self-esteem by the way they are treated at home and at school. Criticizing them, belittling their achievements and taking no interest in their activities

sends them a message that they are of little worth. Inconsistency in training and discipline are other glaring mistakes that are made.

When a child is told to do something but there is no follow-through on that command, what message does this send the child?

First of all, it sends a message to the child that

the parent/guardian/teacher really doesn't mean what he/she has said, and the more inconsistent they are, the less a child obeys. By not following through with the request or command, the child loses respect for the individual, for in a sense, they have been lied to.

When the parent/guardian/teacher overreacts and then has to back down, what message does the child get?

Sometimes in their exasperation, parents/guardians/teachers make a threat like "I'll never take you shopping again!" or some such thing. But then they relent and allow the child to do what was to be denied anyway! This tells the child that it is not important to obey—that what was said really didn't matter. Children are very smart and soon learn that this individual does not follow through with their commands, so it's not important to obey.

Is confrontation with a child necessary, and can it be avoided?

Some children have a placid disposition and find it easy to obey, while others have strong wills that bump against restrictions placed on them. How can confrontation be avoided? To me, the most effective way is to offer the child one of two choices, "Either you do this or do



Children feel secure when they know they are expected to follow rules and obey orders.

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ParentTalk? What is it?

It's a new bimonthly magazine for parents.

ParentTalk is a new publication designed specifically to help Adventist parents, grandparents, and caregivers raise happy and spiritually healthy children.

"Right now is the most important time parents have with their children," says Randy Maxwell, who co-edits the magazine with Glen Robinson. "We want the best of everything for our kids, and we intend for ParentTalk to be a practical resource to help parents out."

ParentTalk is dedicated to affirming Seventh-day Adventist parents in today's world. The editorial focus of the magazine will cover topics related to health, values, relationships, discipline, and spirituality. Beginning with its premier issue in May, ParentTalk will be packed full of encouragement and ideas to help parents make their own child-rearing decisions.

This magazine has also been created to present realistic approaches to sensitive lifestyle and spiritual issues such as diet and the Sabbath. Objective reviews of popular videos, music, and computer games will help parents decide what their children should or should not be seeing or hearing.

ParentTalk is the new source in which Adventist parents can find the answers. You are invited to try a complementary copy of ParentTalk simply by calling 1-800-765-6955.

that." Then it is important to follow through to make sure the child does what he/she has chosen. Consistency is key to dealing with children. They should always know that their parents/guardians/teachers will follow through with their words.

Why do some children have temper tantrums, and what can be done to avoid them?

Most children will throw a few tantrums. It depends on the reaction they get as to how they will behave in the future. There are times when children are neglected, and they will throw a tantrum to be noticed. Other children know that when they throw a tantrum they will get what they want. It is important to understand what is going on in the child's life and try to bring about a resolution.

Do you feel that a religious orientation helps give the child a good perspective on life, or does it give them a guilt complex?

Knowing that God in heaven loves them and that they have a guardian angel who cares for them is very comforting, especially to smaller children. As they grow older, having a knowledge of good and evil and how they can trust God in both good times and bad, will give direction and stability. The concept of allowing a child to find out for themselves about what is right and what is wrong and whether God cares or doesn't care, causes a child to grow up confused, with little direction or guidance.

Do you feel that an adult's example is key to modeling behavior?

Definitely! Parents are the child's first role model, then come their teachers and others close to them. Little boys and girls emulate their parents and Sabbath school teachers, copying everything they see and hear. Parents in particular should want to be their child's most important teacher, and they should act that way.

In summary, what are the most important things parents/guardians/teachers should remember?

Children are very sensitive and easily pick up adults' feelings. If parents/guardians/teachers are loving, thoughtful, consistent and kind, children will grow up to be a blessing. On the other hand, if parents/guardians/teachers are unreasonable, unloving, and inconsistent and critical, children will develop problems with self-esteem and discipline, and often they will rebel as they grow older.



Let's Make Lasting Memories

Every family exudes a forceful spiritual atmosphere that surrounds each member and either draws him or her toward God or repels. This spiritual atmosphere is one of the most powerful influences on the growth of mature faith in children of Christian families. Many things contribute to such a spiritual atmosphere.

Let's Focus on the Positive.

As parents we feel burdened with correcting all the defects in our children's characters and making sure they grow up to be "good Christians." We talk about the terrible things happening in the church and wonder sometimes if anyone really knows what is "truth" or if it even matters. In the process we focus more and more on the negative things we see in our children and in our church, and we lose sight of the many wonderful blessings of having a relationship with God. Our children become confused and embittered adolescents who never know the joy of serving God and the specialness of being His child.

Let's Make a Scrapbook. If our children don't hear about God's blessings from us, who will tell them? Start a family tradition for the evening meal in which each member of the family, even the preschoolers, tells about something special God did for him or her that day. It might be a special blessing for you personally, an answered prayer, or how God helped someone you know. Prepare a "Thank You, God" scrapbook with your children. You might search for magazine pictures that would represent the special blessings God has bestowed on your family. The children could also draw pictures or select pictures on their computer, and you or your older children could write a little story to go with them.

Each week, perhaps for Friday or Sabbath evening worship, the children could select a special story from the scrapbook for retelling. In this way you will build a tradition of the many ways God has led your family. As you tell your children about how God directed your life in times past, include your stories in the scrapbook or record them on tape and collect a cassette library of personal experiences. Serving God is the most

What happened when Dad made his bed!

This past June my husband and oldest teenage son were home alone, and when Paul (then 17) arose from his bed in the morning, he looked into his father's room to see whether his dad had made his bed. When one glance confirmed that Dad had made his bed, Paul returned to his own room and made his bed. Whether consciously or unconsciously, Paul copied his father's bed making talents throughout the nine days of my absence.

Recently Paul's father told him that he had made his bed during my absence because he knew that he would be watching him! Do you know that your children are watching you? Often parents do not realize how far-reaching the influence of their words and acts is on their offspring. "The father may exert an influence over his children which shall be stronger than the allurements of the world." *Adventist Home*, page 221

Judith Getchell, Amity Communication Secretary

wonderful, joyous experience any child or adult can have.

Let's have daily worship

Daily family worship (or lack of it) makes such a powerful statement about the family's priorities that it cannot be ignored. Family worship is a key component of the family's spiritual atmosphere.

Maybe you grew up in a

way. Or maybe it's just the hectic life we all live. But taking a few minutes for worship will make a difference to everyone's day.

Here is good news for you! Worship need not be long, boring, or a lot of work. Family worship should really be short, simple, sweet, and, of course, spiritual. If you follow these four guidelines, your children will have pleasant memories of family worship,

and you will give them a tremendous

advantage in values and spiritual development.

First, make family worship **short**. Five to 10 minutes is long enough for preschoolers, while 15-20 minutes is about

right for children from 6-12 years old. Leave them wanting more; then they will eagerly anticipate tomorrow's worship time.

Second, keep family worship **simple**. Buy a plastic storage

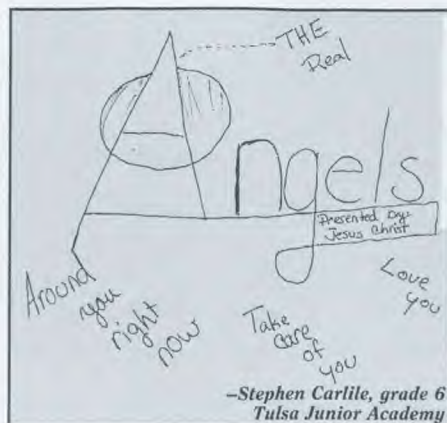
box (or prepare your own from a cardboard box covered with attractive paper or cloth) in which you will put worship materials. In your box put a Bible, the Sabbath school quarterlies, the current copy of your children's church papers, and a book (or

audiotape) of children's religious songs. This will get you started. Once you have stocked your box with needed supplies, decide on a convenient storage place. That way your worship box will always be ready. Remember, keep it simple: a song, a Bible story, a family activity, and a short prayer.

Third, keeping it **sweet** assures that your children will look forward to worship time. It is not an occasion for scolding, handing out chores, or reminding children of their homework. Worship is the time to come to God with our joys and our concerns, to listen to and to learn from Him, and to draw family members closer together. Cuddling while you read or tell the Bible story and holding hands for prayer create a special feeling of love and togetherness. Your own "theme song" that calls everyone to worship will build fond memories.

Fun-to-do activities add to the joy of worship. Preschoolers love to sing action songs, act out a Bible story, make a scrapbook of pictures about Bible stories, or find nature objects during the day that they can use as "surprises" for worship time. Older children love to be "in charge" of worship sometimes. Worship can be the most joyous time of the day.

Family worship can also be especially pleasant if it is the time to right wrongs with each other and ask forgiveness. Kiss



and make up.

The last guideline, keep it **spiritual**, differentiates worship from other daily activities. The family has many other times to sing secular songs and play games, but worship is reserved for spiritual activities. It is our time to bring God into our homes in a focused way, to let our children know that His Word is our guide for life, and that we love Him and want to live forever with Him.

Condensed from How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus, by Donna J. Habenicht, Ed.D., chapter 14, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1994.



Ways to win children to Christ:

Children's Church

As parents of young children in the Arlington, Texas church, we felt we needed to do something special for the 4 to 10 year-



home without family worship, so you don't know what to do, or you have terrible memories of the long, boring sessions you endured as a child. You'd rather not inflict that memory on your children. Maybe you know in your heart it is important, but your spouse doesn't see it that

olds, and thus was born our children's church program.

By Della Robertson

Our stated mission was to instill in our children a positive sense about church worship that will remain with them through life.

A proposal was submitted by sponsoring parents to the church board prior to the development of the program. Then with the church board's approval, the program development began, using the

following guidelines:

1. Identify the theme for the program (i.e. thankfulness, forgiveness, friendship, etc.).
2. Select a Bible story which illustrates the program theme.
3. Determine at least four ways in which the Bible story will be illustrated. This should include a story-teller telling the story in a "just-the-facts" manner. Additionally, we always illustrate the same story using a live-action skit. Other methods of presenting the story include puppet theater, modern-day applica-

tion skits, group games (i.e. crossword puzzles using an overhead projector, Bible "Wheel of Fortune", etc.) and, if time allows, a theme-oriented craft.

4. Dynamic music involving the children is always an important part of the children's church service.



KidSabbath

In a move to consolidate our new members and make them feel a part of our congregation, we began KidSabbath.

*Esther Shaneyfelt
Zachary SDA Church*

Almost every Sabbath we hear, "Is today KidSabbath?" Our children enjoy it so much it seems to be on their minds most of the time!

What is KidSabbath and how did it start? The idea first came to me while attending a prayer conference held in Gentry in October, 1994, but it

did not develop into anything until

NET '95. And oh, how excited I am about this ministry!

Our little church group, meeting in a temporary metal building, seemed to burst at the seams as new people came to the NET '95 meetings. A cradle roll class with few in attendance met in a little storage room, but attendance grew to nine children. The kindergarten-primary Sabbath school and junior class more than doubled in size. A teen class was formed and had to meet on the front porch. A young adult class was added as well, filling every inch of our church building. To accommodate everyone, a Morgan (prefabricated) building has been added to the meeting complex while we wait for our new church to be completed.

I volunteered to meet with the children during the NET '95 series, and I used the *Forever Stories* series as a resource. Rewards were offered for points gained in attendance and participation. Often we had as many as 25 children. Parents said their children kept them coming to the meetings. One junior, Blaze Wheat, made a decision for baptism.

KidSabbath was an outgrowth of this experience. We began with about 18 young people ranging in age from

What We Learned that Enhanced Children's Church

1. Adult supervision must be provided by specifically designated adults working as a part of the children's church service.
2. Involve children in the service as much as possible to include:
 - Reading the morning text and having the opening prayer
 - Assisting with leading the song service
 - Assisting with taking up the offering
 - Doing the special music for the church service
 - Getting audience participation whenever possible. An example of this is having the entire children's congregation march around the room as the tribes of Israel at Jericho.
 - Participating in simple parts of plays
3. Song service is a very important part of the service, and an enthusiastic song leader who can get the children involved in the songs is essential.
4. To ensure the success of the program, there needs to be a small core group of dedicated leaders who share the responsibility for the monthly programs. Other individuals can then be asked to assist in the programs on an as-needed basis to round out the staff and skit personnel.
5. Having several people write programs adds interest and variety to the programs.
6. It is important to involve people with a wide variety of talents to ensure the success of the programs. We needed people with talents in the following areas:
 - Sewing—costumes and puppets
 - Construction—making props
 - Writing—program development
 - Acting—skits and puppet shows. It is amazing how individuals' personalities change when they put on a costume and are asked to be someone else!
 - Music—piano, song service, special music
 - Supervision—assuring children remain under control
 - Crafts

A POSTSCRIPT: It has been interesting to see how children's church has attracted a number of young families back to church after being absent for a period of years. Seeing the church take a special interest in their children has been an affirming experience.



Song leaders at KidSabbath

My parents have had a positive influence on me.



Since my childhood, I've compared the relationship I have with my parents to the relationship between God and His children. Like my heavenly Father, they have shown me unconditional love. Their positive influence on me has shaped and directed my life. Without their support I would not be where I am today.

Rising early to prepare for school, I would see my father gearing up for his day by Bible study and communion with God. This is one of the many examples my father set that has motivated me to have a closer relationship with God.

My mother also has had a positive influence on me. Her kind and loving personality has inspired me. And besides, with her irresistible cooking, who could go wrong?

*Gary Wayne Pundt, Killeen, Texas
SAC Sophomore, Business Management*



Both my parents have been a positive influence in my life. They have instilled in me everything from a strong work ethic to a genuine love for God. My dad especially has shown by his example the importance of hard work and long-term goals.

When my father was growing up in the Philippines, he was not well off. Throughout high school, he would pay his school bill by raising chickens and tending a garden. He sold fruit, vegetables and eggs to the school cafeteria. He would tend his garden in the morning before class and work in a sawmill after school. In spite of his busy work schedule, he managed to keep his grades high enough to be given a full scholarship to college. He took that opportunity to earn a pre-med bachelor's degree in only three years.

Hearing this story about my father's hard work to achieve good results has inspired me to pursue my own goals. Although I may not have to grow vegetables and raise chickens, I still have to work hard to get what I want out of life.

Lorena Gayao, Arlington, Texas, SAC Freshman

four through earlites. It meant for a lot of teamwork, with the older children helping the younger ones. Even the parents became excited and offered their help.

The purpose of KidSabbath is to have special Sabbath activities that are enjoyable and spiritual and service-oriented. The program begins following fellowship lunch on the third Sabbath of each month. Activities such as scripture songs, praise singing, testimonies, story telling, drama, and interviews are part of the program. Visiting the nursing home is one of the

outreach activities. Fun activities include Bible games, videos, nature scavenger hunts, crafts and preparing the evening meal.

Our favorite game is Bible hot potato. This is played like musical arms or chairs where everyone forms a circle and moves around until the music stops. The child who is caught out must quote a Bible verse in order to stay in the game. Eventually the circle gets smaller and smaller. The last one to stay in gets a prize. Recently the Last Day Quiz ended in a three-way tie with juniors Blake Gordon, Jonathan

Anderson and Cody Graves. With only one prize left, I tried my best to eliminate two, but they were all too knowledgeable. Yes, I had to get two more prizes!

Outreach has been an important factor in the growth of our church. These children have invited family and friends to join them for KidSabbath. Our "little" Zachary church now has a Pathfinder and an Adventurer club, both begun in September, 1995, and we are looking forward to a two-week Vacation Bible School as well as a teen Revelation Seminar and a puppet ministry in our community. The young people plan to sponsor a one-mile and 5K "Walk/Run For Your Life" program to publicize our VBS and teen seminar.

Because our young people are excited about these activities, we keep hearing, "Is today KidSabbath?"



Vacation Bible School –

Cutting, glueing, and writing is what I do as I travel to and from children's workshops and camp meetings.

*Mary Martinez
Jarales, New Mexico*

On a recent flight between Albuquerque and Dallas with my husband, I was preparing and illustrating a children's song book. The flight attendants were busy serving the passengers, when one of them stopped to ask me what I was doing.

"I've been watching you

DOROTHY MORGAN, who is children's division leader at the New Hope church in Marietta, Texas, writes: "I've been told recently of a Sunday school teacher who is using our *Little Friends* journal as a teaching tool.

"I just want you to put this in the *Record* so that every reader will know how important beautifully colored and illustrated the *Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure* are. None of these little papers should be destroyed, but should be shared with others.

"Who is to say this is not one of God's ways children can spread the gospel by sharing their papers with their neighbors and friends."

with interest," she said. "When I'm through I'd like to come and talk to you."

When she had a free moment she came and told me she was a kindergarten leader in a certain church in Dallas.

Softly I sang her the song I was illustrating, "Everybody ought to keep smiling..." and illustrated it with a happy/sad face. I told her how the song had been a favorite in Europe, Russia, and now with the Native American children on the reservations. I gave her what I had, then later sent her a copy of the music.

A month or so went by and my husband was on another flight between Albuquerque and Phoenix. After everyone had been served, one of the flight attendants approached my husband saying, "Do you remember me?" Then she started singing, "Everybody ought to keep smiling..."

She sat down in the empty seat next to my husband and told him about some problems at her church. "Please pray for us," she said. My husband did. This was an outreach I could never have imagined! And it came as a result of my cutting, glueing and writing as I work for children.



As a multi-grade Sabbath school we're always prepared.

Located in the heart of the Arkansas Ozarks and the city known as the "Folk Music Capital of Arkansas," Mountain View church performs a unique ministry to the fluctuating tourism of the area.

**Bud Shermerhorn, Pastor
Mountain View, Arkansas**

The area's popularity as a good place to retire has brought us a number of retired members, but with the slow general economy, some families have been obliged to seek seasonal work elsewhere.

This all adds to the problem of drastic attendance fluctuation in addition to the problems normally inherent in a small church.

Our greatest asset is an adult membership who are committed to providing for our children's Sabbath school regardless of how many children are in attendance. There are not enough mothers who are able to care for the leadership of the children's divisions, and this challenge has been accepted by the grandmothers. In addition, there are a few youth who have found fulfillment working with the smaller children.

Our junior leader prepares her program every week regardless of how many juniors come—sometimes there is only one! At other times there are a number to cater for. It takes a special dedication to keep preparing programs that don't get used! It takes an awareness that our service is to God and every children's teacher can win children to Him.

I've noticed some special advantages of a small Sabbath school. Our junior leader always has special projects going.

It's a challenge to have sufficient Sabbath school papers on hand without experiencing great waste. All

Little Friends not used are saved. Then on a week of larger attendance, they are shared with the visitors. Sometimes the church copier is used to make extra pictures to color on a day with peak attendance.

There is that text in the Bible that gives special affirmation to a small Sabbath school . . . "In as much as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to Me."



Children's Sabbath school

Not yet a member, still I was attracted to the well-organized and attractive way the Richardson church was caring for its children.

**Jennifer Martinez,
Richardson, Texas**

Although during my pregnancy I had no problems, complications developed during delivery, and Michael, our son, had to spend the first two weeks of his life in intensive care. Although I was not a member of the Richardson church, upon learning of our problems, the pastor, Ray House, and other members of that church visited me in hospital. I learned that the entire church was praying for us, and through God's

grace these prayers were answered.

The miracle of Michael's birth and his remarkable recovery left me with a strong desire to renew my faith in God. I had been brought up in a Sunday-keeping church but for a number of years had attended infrequently. My husband's father and retired minister, Max Martinez, and his wife Mary, who is very involved in Sabbath school work, had exposed me to some of the church's teachings, and I had attended our local church occasionally.

However, as Michael began to grow, we felt it was time to attend Sabbath school on a regular basis. Michael enjoyed watching the teachers and older children participate in the program, and it wasn't long before he was clapping his little hands and ringing a bell as well. I was noticeably impressed by the dedication shown by the teachers and other helpers in cradle roll. All of these women were mothers with busy schedules like mine, and I felt grateful to them for their commitment to helping the children grow spiritually.

After some time I was asked if I would like to help but was hesitant, not knowing whether I could do what would be asked of me. However, in the end I agreed, and it was the

"I like my church because everybody is involved, even the younger children. The younger kids sing beautiful songs and everyone loves them. We just started a choir in the junior room when we come on time we get points. Another thing is that a lot of people have been baptized, even me."

Angelina D'Ambrosia, age 10

"I like my Sabbath school class because we get prizes when we learn our memory verse. I like the songs because they're fun."

Brad Toews, First Grade

These are students at Ketchum Junior Academy



Jennifer Martinez helping in the kindergarten division.

best thing I could have done. The more involved I became the greater my enthusiasm grew, as did my confidence and my faith.

With the exciting new programs, new songs, props and other visual aids each quarter, this Sabbath school experience became part of our daily lives. At home and in the car, we began singing the songs and praying little prayers. In fact, family prayer became a regular part of our day with Michael monitoring this ritual with a watchful eye. He is just learning to talk, but he can already pray, "Dear Jesus" and "Amen."

We are now regular members of the Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church. People greet us by name and show genuine concern for us. Our church family has become a very important part of our lives. We support and encourage each other and share God's love.

I've noticed that we're not unique in returning to church after the birth of our child. Many young couples have a desire to have Christian values instilled in their children, and they look for a church with a

strong ministry for children. They are also looking for spiritual guidance in caring for their children and in the demands made upon them in the new parent role in which they find themselves.



**My children—
How I
treasure
them.
They're my
most
precious
possession.**

**Too often we forget
how valuable and**

unique each of our children is.

**Tim Ponder, pastor
Beaver, Guymon and Hooker
churches, Oklahoma**

We sometimes have the tendency to focus on what's wrong with our kids, especially as they grow older. When they enter their pre-teen and teenage years, we discover that life with them can be a real challenge at times. However, when we step back and think about them, even with their flaws and imperfections, we can thank God for giving them to us—our most treasured earthly possession.

I came to a special realization of how valuable my children, Rachel and Matthew, are after an experience several months ago. After family worship one evening, I sat on Matthew's bed and read to him from the primary Sabbath school lesson. He snuggled in his warm covers as he propped his head up on his Mickey Mouse pillow.

Actually, Matt's room is not too conducive for either worship or study. A messy desk, full of the mementoes of a whirlwind nine-year-old's life, sit in one corner. Posters of the Flintstones, Taz, a hound dog, the Grand Canyon, and Six Flags are his idea of interior decoration. However, some of my best memories of being his dad have been reading to him just before he goes to sleep.

The lesson for this particular Sabbath was about Abraham's great test on Mount Moriah, when God called him to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son of promise. I read the story's poignant moments—Abraham and Isaac leaving their home early in the morning; Abraham not telling Sarah what he was about to do; Abraham's agony within



Rachel Ponder



Matthew Ponder

his soul as he travelled for three days to reach Mount Moriah. Then I read the dramatic climax of the story—Abraham telling Isaac he was to be the sacrifice; Isaac allowing himself to be bound; God sparing Isaac's life and providing a ram as a substitute sacrifice.

As I read that lesson to Matt, a puzzled look came over his face. Then he asked a simple, yet profound question: "Daddy, why did Abraham have to do that?" I tried my best to give a theological answer that a nine-year-old could understand. "Well, Matt, the Lord told him to do this so He could determine whether Abraham really loved and trusted Him." But I don't know if I really answered the question to his satisfaction.

When Matt finally drifted off to sleep that evening, I sat there for a while thinking about how much I loved him and his sister. I thought about the most important priority in my life: seeing them someday in the New Earth beside the river of life with their mother and me. I imagined what it will be like to spend eternity with my family.

I might not be able to accomplish some of the seemingly important goals in my life, but this is a top priority for me. With God's help and my cooperation, this hope can become a reality.

I left Matt's bedroom that evening with a deeper love for our children and a desire to possess a deeper faith in the Lord. And I thanked Him for that wonderful heritage He has given us, our children.



I think my mom is the greatest because she helps me if I have a problem. And because she helps me to find things I loose. And because she will always love me. And because she gives me food and water. And because she helps me get well if I'm sick.—Whitney Lauer

My dad is the greatest because he takes me to the bike trails. He also takes me to Wal-Mart. He goes to Braums with me. He goes for long rides with me.—Austin Bickford



My mom is the greatest because she does not yell at me and she's nice. I think she's the greatest because once at night she had a pillow fight with me for about five minutes. Then we went to bed.—Andy Seiler

These are students at Burleson Adventist School.



Making Jesus First in Everything Brings Special Joy to Kindergartners

The kindergarten class at Ozark Elementary School (OES) has a central location in a 40' x 40' classroom, once an outdoor courtyard now enclosed by glass. Its location is symbolic of its importance to the OES K-8 academic program.

"I believe a student's first year of school should be a

happy, successful experience," says Linda Aalborg, the teacher. Her philosophy of teaching is simple but profound, "Jesus + Me = Happy Successful Students." Each year we see how well these kindergarten graduates move into first grade, well prepared to excel both spiritually and academically.

To help students learn Bible principles, Teacher Aalborg strives to present Jesus through every activity in the classroom. Her students participate in hundreds of activities each year that teach them that learning can be fun. Bible parades, floats, arts and craft activities, phonics, hands-on math, and lots of music are all part of the learning experience.

In addition these kindergartners and first graders are involved in the "adopt a kid" program in which 120 Ozark Academy students act as a big brother or sister and spend time with them. They also eat lunch together each week and share a Christmas banquet. This program has helped both groups develop friendships with different age groups that has brought confidence and understanding between them.

Do parents appreciate this active kindergarten program? Linda Wambaugh writes, "Although my family is not

Why I love my mom
I think my mom is the best
because she has soft brown eyes
that look happy. When I don't
understand she doesn't yell at me.
Instead she works with me until
I do. I love my mother

Written by: Chloe
Aalborg



ADOPT A SPECIAL KID/TEXAS, INC.

AASK America was the first adoption agency in the country founded by adoptive parents to ensure a means of finding adoptive families for special needs children. The founders of AASK America, Robert and Dorothy DeBolt, are the adoptive parents of 14 special needs children in addition to having six biological children. They received calls from all over the country from various agencies and institutions pleading the case of special needs children needing a permanent home. The DeBolts knew they personally could not solve the problem for every child, and decided to form an agency in 1973 in San Francisco, California which now has affiliates and chapters in many parts of the country. Many thousands of special needs children have a permanent family due to the tireless efforts of AASK.

AASK/Texas was incorporated as an affiliate of AASK America on October 30, 1991. AASK/Texas was formed as a means of finding families for the thousands of children in Texas foster care needing permanency through adoptive placement. Many of these children have suffered abuse and neglect; others were pre-natally exposed to drugs, alcohol, or HIV impacted. Children are also considered special needs if they are members of an ethnic minority group or members of a sibling group. Many of the special needs children have several medical problems brought on by physical abuse, substance abuse on the part of the biological mother, or lack of prenatal care. All require adoptive families who are trained to cope with the many losses, attachment difficulties, abuse issues, and medical needs the children may have. AASK/Texas has a goal to place these children in adoptive families by training these families to meet the children's special needs.

If you believe that you and your family possess the special love, concern, and courage required to parent a child who has begun life with the added burden of drug exposure or some other mental or physical handicap, please contact this agency to obtain further information. A growing body of research tells us that good early life experiences can do much to overcome the problems these children might otherwise encounter.

Please call 817/595-0497 or write to Adopt a Special Kid/Texas, Inc., 10560 West Pipeline Road, Suite 106, Hurst, TX 76053.



Kindergartners have fun while they are learning at Ozark Elementary School.

Adventist, I'm happy to say that my son, Jeffrey, had no problems adjusting to the program. Not only is he learning academically, but he is getting along well with his peers, and best of all, he is learning about our Savior and many Bible teachings. I believe Jeffrey has an advantage over public school kindergartners because of his spiritual training."

Perhaps the effectiveness of Aalborg's program can best be

summarized by Carolyn Ellis, who says, "Our family was excited to have Dougie in the OES kindergarten program. I know he is getting a wonderful start. Dougie has the love of Jesus in his heart. I can see it in the way he sings and conducts himself every day."

*Don Hevener,
former Ozark Elementary
School principal and newly
elected superintendent of
schools for the Arkansas-
Louisiana Conference*

Resources for Children's Church Ideas

1. Christian bookstores for other denominations (ie., the Baptist Bookstore).
2. Talk with other churches for ideas (both Adventist and other denominations).
3. Keep your eyes open for ideas.
4. Contact the conference office and ABCs for other ideas.

Southwestern Union

SW Union Moves Ahead with Seminars and Workshops

It has been heartening to listen to the enthusiastic reports our union departmental personnel give as they tell of the workshops they have held over the past two months.

"We didn't know what to expect," says Margaret Taglavore, reporting on her first children's ministries workshop of the year held in Oklahoma. "We thought about 30 women would come, but we planned for 50 just in case. Imagine our surprise when 88 women turned up for the day."



Max A. Trevino

Walter Wright reported an overwhelming turnout for the Marriage Maintenance Seminar he and his wife, Jackie, conducted in the Keene Spanish church in January. "The response far exceeded our expectations," reported Wright. "The entire seminar was conducted with Spanish translation. We are now in the process of preparing our Marriage Maintenance Seminar materials in Spanish, so that we can meet the needs of all our Hispanic congregations."

Dem Robles, who is covering personal ministries and NET '96 lay training every weekend, is

just as enthusiastic. "I think the positive results from NET '95 have generated a lot of enthusiasm, and our people are looking forward to NET '96. Many more churches will be involved this year."

To prepare the Southwestern Union territory for NET '96, a plan has been worked out by conference and union personnel whereby training seminars will be held at designated areas across the union to provide detailed information and expertise. Ray Hubbart, stewardship and evangelism coordinator, has been assigned to work with the pastors, while Dem Robles will coordinate lay training. We are pleased with the response our church members have shown thus far in attending these church ministries services seminars. We encourage everyone who holds a responsibility in a local church to attend the seminars/workshops when they are held in your area. The *Record* will continue to publish the schedule each quarter.

The goal of the Southwestern Union is to serve the needs of the local churches in every way possible. To facilitate this, at the end of each workshop or seminar an evaluation form will be passed out soliciting your comments. This will help our presenters fine-tune their skills and provide material that will be of maximum value to the local church.

*Max A. Trevino
President*

Lay Training Has Begun for NET '96

The first NET '96 lay training workshop was held on January 20 at the Olsen Park church in Amarillo. David Sitler, the pastor, and his church hosted more than 50 workshop participants who had come from Hereford, Borger, Pampa, and the Amarillo Regional church.

The second NET '96 training event was at the Austin First church on January 27 with Steve Snow, the pastor, being coordinator. About 40 participants attended from Alpha, Austin First, Austin South, Elgin, Dallas Fellowship, Hillsboro, Fredericksburg/Kerrville, San Marcos, Temple and Waco.

The objectives of the seminar are (1) to encourage people to become serious about prayer and to seek and receive the transforming power of the Holy Spirit;

(2) to listen to testimonies of those who were converted through NET '95; (3) to learn ways and means of reaching more people for Christ; and (4) to make a commitment to be personally involved in NET '96 evangelism.

Many churches are already preparing for NET '96, gathering new interests, and training their members for greater involvement.

*Dem Robles
Personal Ministries and
Community Services*

SWU Holds its First Children's Workshop

Oklahoma City Central church was host to the first union-sponsored children's workshop to be held in the Southwestern Union. Eighty-eight representatives came from 14 different churches: Choctaw, Edmond, El Reno, (Continued on page 15)



Eager to learn new methods for working with children, 88 representatives from churches around the conference attended the children's workshop in Oklahoma City.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTIONS

Training in all areas of Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School - 1996 Curriculum

Children's Church

Sabbath School

Stewardship

Evangelism

Community Services

Family Life

Church Life



Fun

Adventist Book Center Sales

**Training presented in Spanish by Sofia Miguel
from Pasco, Washington**

Missions On Parade

Create a Missions awareness in your church

Guest Speakers

Fellowship

Texas March 1-3 Nameless Valley Ranch 23421 Nameless Rd. Leander, TX 78641	Oklahoma April 26-28 Wewoka Woods Rt 1 Box 78-B Wewoka, OK 74884	Arkansas-Louisiana May 3-5 Camp Yorktown Bay 361 Camp Yorktown Lane Mountain Pine, AR 71956	Texico May 17-19 Sandia View Acad. 65 Sandia View Ln. Corrales, NM 87048
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Southwestern Union

Church Ministries Services Calendar of Events

for April - June, 1996



- ◆ During the next 24 months the seven departments will be holding training seminars and workshops in the 22 programming and training regions of the Southwestern Union Conference.
- ◆ Amendments to this quarter's schedule may be necessary. Watch your church bulletin or notices in the Southwestern Union RECORD for any announced changes.



Ray Hubbartt
Stewardship
Evangelism
NET '96 Coordinator



Dem Robles
Personal Ministries
ACS Coordinator
NET '96 Evangelism



Margaret Taglavore
Children's Ministries



Walter Wright
Family Ministries
Sabbath School

Date	Event	Location	Director	A/L	OK	TX	TXC
April	6, '96	Children's Sabbath School Training	Amarillo	Taglavore			X
	6	SWR Stewardship Training	Albuquerque	Hubbartt			X
	13	Stewardship Training	Shreveport	Hubbartt	X		
	13	Family Ministries Training	Amarillo	Wright			X
	19-20	SWR Family Ministries Training	Round Rock	Wright		X	
	20	Personal Ministries Net '96	San Antonio	Robles		X	
	20	ASI Rally	Oklahoma City	Hubbartt	X		
	22-23	Net '96 Pastors Training	Oklahoma City	Hubbartt	X		
	26-28	Children's Ministries Convention	Wewoka Woods	Taglavore	X		
	27	Stewardship Training	Weslaco	Hubbartt		X	
May	3-5	Children's Ministries Convention	Yorktown Bay	Taglavore	X		
	3-4	SWR Family Ministries Training	Dallas	Wright		X	
	4	Personal Ministries Net '96	Ardmore	Robles	X		
	11	Sabbath School Training	Austin	Wright		X	
	11-18	Stewardship Training	Amarillo	Hubbartt			X
	17-19	Children's Ministries Convention	Sandia View	Taglavore			X
	25	Personal Ministries Net '96	Midland	Robles			X
	25-31	Stewardship Training	Santa Fe	Hubbartt			X
June	1	Personal Ministries Net '96	El Paso	Robles			X
	1	Sabbath School Training	Keene	Wright		X	
	1	Children's Sabbath School Training	Arlington	Taglavore		X	
	1	Stewardship Training	Santa Fe	Hubbartt			X
	8	Children's Sabbath School Training	Houston	Taglavore		X	
	8	Stewardship Training	Oklahoma City	Hubbartt	X		
	8	Sabbath School Training	Tyler	Wright		X	
	10	Net '96 Pastors Training	Oklahoma City	Hubbartt	X		
	15	Personal Ministries Net '96	Valley	Robles		X	
	15	Children's Sabbath School Training	Albuquerque	Taglavore			X
	15	Stewardship Training	San Antonio	Hubbartt		X	
	17-21	Children's Sabbath School Training	Native Am Res	Taglavore			X
	21-22	Family Ministries Training	El Paso	Wright			X
	22	Stewardship Training	Houston	Hubbartt		X	
	28-30	Family Ministries Training	Fort Worth	Wright		X	
	29	Personal Ministries Net '96	Tyler	Robles		X	
	29	Stewardship Training	Fort Smith	Hubbartt	X		

Enid, Lawton, Midwest City, Norman, Oklahoma City Central, Okeene, Oklahoma Academy, Seminole, Shawnee, 10th Street church and Weatherford.

To encourage prompt attendance, door prizes were offered. Winners were Tina Cowden and Holly Veroneau both from Oklahoma City Central and Jason Earl from Oklahoma Academy.

The workshop attendees were divided into five groups. Each group was given two questions to discuss. Questions such as, "A kindergarten child needs variety. Should this be accomplished by rotating teachers and leaders?" and "Should parents of a Cradle Roll child remain in the class with the child?" formed the basis for many lively discussions. It did not take long for the groups to come up with the answers which they shared when the whole group came together.



In action—Margaret Taglavore makes a presentation at the children's Sabbath school workshop.

Later everyone was divided into two groups; cradle roll and junior leaders went to one room while kindergarten and primary went to another. The how's and why's were discussed with examples being shared from each point.

Everyone went home encouraged by the good ideas and sound advice they had received from the presenters, Margaret Taglavore and Dennis and Shirley Lauterbach. *Rose Ann Grove*
Oklahoma Children's Ministries Coordinator



TRUST SERVICE Security for Those We Love

"ALL OF IT"

When John D. Rockefeller died, one man was curious about how much he left behind. Determined to find out, he set up an appointment with one of Rockefeller's highest aides and asked, "How much did Rockefeller leave behind?" The aide answered, "All of it."

None of us will probably ever be as rich as Mr. Rockefeller, but we will leave "all of it." The big question for each of us to answer is, To whom or what shall I leave it? God expects us to manage His possessions entrusted to us during our life to be properly cared for after death. Only about 15% of the United States population make provision for their estate to be properly managed after they are gone. This can be cared for by simply making a Will. We all need to protect the assets God has allowed us to manage during life. One of the most important assets is our children. Do you have a guardian appointed through your Will?

Contact the trust service department in your conference, and they will be happy to assist you.

Harvey J. Byram
Trust Director

Oklahoma

JACK FRANCISCO, CORRESPONDENT

Oklahoma City Central Anticipates Action-packed Year

The 1995 Ingathering goal of \$9,900 for Oklahoma City Central church was raised through donations, offerings and Ingathering band solicitations. The goal was large, but the Lord blessed and the goal was reached. Central Church is now working with a church budget that remains in the black while maintaining tithe levels. God has touched the hearts of our church family and has led a large number to structure their financial resources to care for both tithes and offerings, thus helping spread the message of Christ and hastening His second coming.

Over the past few months Central Church members have been busy. The cradle roll, primary, kindergarten and junior Sabbath school classes presented the story of Jesus' birth for the

Christmas program.

Three new members have recently been added. The last Sabbath of December Stephanie

Sanderson joined through baptism, while Misti and Cole Brackin joined through profession of faith the first Sabbath of

January.

A candlelight communion service held December 15, 1995 was led by the pastor, John Neff. The



Proud to belong to the Trailblazer Pathfinder Club, seven new members were invested and three baptized on Pathfinder Sabbath at the Oklahoma City Central Church.



Playing "dress-up" was a fun time for Christy Jones when she went to "The Day in Sweden" function at the Oklahoma Central Church on November 19, 1995.

service was enhanced by the pastor and his wife Birgitta's musical talents, and the testimony sharing time. The crimson poinsettias added to the blessings the participants received.

The Friendship Club met at Norma Jean and Bob Ivey's home for a Christmas luncheon on December 17, 1995. Potluck-style food was served, and a welcome visit was made by a red-suited, white-bearded, jolly man bearing gifts (who turned out to be Pastor Neff). Entertainment was provided by Shane Gilman and his violin, Carol Fankhouser on the piano, and a vocal duet by Pastor John and Birgitta Neff.

Earlier in the year the church had held "A Day in Sweden" with all the trimmings. Swedish food, music and "things" from Sweden made Sweden come to life for an afternoon in Oklahoma City.



Not only was it enjoyable making up the fruit baskets for shut-ins, but Pam Wilson (L), Joan Jones, Cindy Howell, Leta Mae Jones and Brigetta Neff had fun being together.

Birgitta Neff shared life and songs about her homeland of Sweden. Carl Fankhouser played a piano solo, "Aftonklockor," and Shirley Schnell recited "Keeping Daddy's Office." Authentic items from Sweden decorated the tables and fellowship hall. Christy Jones, the hostess, wore a Swedish wedding dress that belonged to Birgitta Neff.

To celebrate Thanksgiving, fruit baskets containing fruit, nuts and hand-decorated wash cloths were prepared by some of the deaconesses for members of the church family who had been unable to attend church because of health reasons.

It is with eagerness and anticipation that Oklahoma City Central church members look forward to another year filled with activities which will bring glory to God's name.

Leta Mae Jones
Communication Leader

Shattuck Church Float Receives First Prize

Once again the Shattuck church has captured the attention of the community with a first prize-winning float in the annual Christmas parade. Community leaders, aware of Adventist belief in the time and sacredness of the Sabbath hours, graciously schedule the parade after sundown on Saturday night. And consistently we respond with a float that wins the first prize.

The theme of this year's parade was "The Night Before Christmas." Our float, designed by Marilyn Dersch, was the scene of a girl's old fashioned bedroom. An angel watched over Britany Williams, age 8, who was seated in the canopy bed. Completing the scene were dolls, furniture, and stuffed animals from years gone by. The float was outlined with hundreds of tiny white lights, and as it proceeded along the parade route the beautiful music of the Austrian Christ-

mas carol, "Still, Still, Still," floated out into the evening air.

Helping Marilyn were Judy Abbott, Tim Abbott, Dan and Phillis Ballew, Palmer Steinert, Marion and Pat Stock, and Pastor Vialo Weis.

Virginia Burton
Shattuck Communication Leader

Cincinnati Hills Donates Funds to Help

We are a small church in membership, and we ask the Lord to direct our hearts into the love of

God and into the patient waiting for Christ to appear in person.

Jesus asks us to help others, and lead them to know Him. Through Sabbath school investment dollars, we can do this. Our investment leader, Bertha Hill, and the Holy Spirit have helped us reach \$3,000 for 1995. In addition, our ingathering donation was also reached. We are strong in faith and thankful for our church and the message of the Bible that has been left to us. This is another way to say "Thank you, Jesus".

Mildred Murphy
Cincinnati Hills
Communication Leader

1996 Spring Book & Food Displays

Your Adventist Book Center is looking forward to serving you this Spring. Look at the schedule below and plan to attend the **DISPLAY** in your area:

Shattuck SDA Ch	Sat Mar 30	After Sabbath
Lawton SDA Ch	Sun Mar 31	2 pm - 4 pm
Ardmore SDA Ch	Mon Apr 8	5 pm - 7 pm
Tulsa SDA Sch	Sat Apr 13	After Sabbath

(balance of schedule will appear in April issue)

Pre-orders are important. Call us with your pre-order 5 days in advance of the **DISPLAY**. **LOOK** for the food price list in your church bulletin & **SAVE BY THE CASE!!**

YOUR ABC - GOOD SERVICE & GOOD PRICES
CALL 1-800/522-2665



It was with gratefulness to the community for scheduling the parade after sundown on Saturday night that the Shattuck church entered their prize-winning float.



With 11 war veterans in the Muskogee church, it was fitting that the church pay special tribute to them and all other veterans on November 11, 1995. Veterans present on that day were, from left: Van Martin, Merchant Marine, WWII; Gerald Collins, Army Infantry, WWII; W. M. McClendon, Infantry, Army Air Corps, US Airforce, WWII & Korea; Pete Hagan, Infantry, Korea, Vietnam, Granada, & Panama; and T. A. Gilliam, Infantry, WWII & Europe. The six other veterans not present when picture was taken are: Luke Clark, Tex Gilliam, David Morris, Ralph Stepp, Dalford Walter and Steve Whiteside.

Curtis Thurber, Muskogee Communication Leader

Southwest Region

B. E. WRIGHT, CORRESPONDENT

21st Annual Thanksgiving Youth Retreat at Lone Star Camp

Youth from throughout Louisiana and Texas, as well as from Georgia, recently convened at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Texas, for the 21st Annual Thanksgiving Youth Retreat.

Nature cooperated with the gathering, which took place November 22-26, 1995. The retreat couldn't boast a record attendance, yet most of those who came said this year's retreat will not be easily forgotten.

In addition to the speaker, Oakwood College graduate Tiffany Willis, Eric Thomas of Huntsville, Alabama—a current student of Oakwood College—also presented a seminar. Eric is noted for his GED school for



Evelyn Edwards of Baton Rouge listening to one of the attendees at the youth retreat explain why she had come to Lone Star Camp for the weekend.

former addicts, prostitutes, etc. He travels around the country as a motivational speaker, encouraging youth to seek a better life.

When Ketra Fuller of Mansfield, Louisiana was asked why she had come, her reply was, "This is the fourth time I have attended a retreat like this. I came here to get a spiritual blessing, to help others learn how to change and how I could change. We all need a better understanding of right and wrong so we'll not get caught up in the crowd."

Donald Jasmine of New Orleans said, "This retreat changed my views on music and improved my relationship with others. No more rap music for me."

And Maurice Gaines of Georgia had this to say: "It was at this retreat that the Lord touched me. I learned how to wait on the Lord and to be patient. Young people need to ask God to enter their lives..."

Evelyn M. Edwards

Baton Rouge Communication Leader



Having gained a greater understanding of God's purpose for youth, these young people determined to go home from the retreat to make a difference in their home churches.



Excitement mounts as Southwest Region Conference treasury staff try out their newly installed accounting program. From left are Nancy Jones, assistant treasurer; Casalnne Henry, auditor; Theodore Brown, treasurer; and seated, Maggie Moore, accountant. Photo: Bill Wright

Arkansas-Louisiana

PETER A. KOSTENKO, CORRESPONDENT

Gentry Home Church's Children Visit the Elderly

Once again this year the Gentry Home Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs visited the church's elderly in the town of Gentry. They took a loaf of sweet bread and sang two carols at each of the 29 homes they visited. The women in the Gentry Home church baked the bread.

Each year it seems too cold to go out, but everyone has so much fun that they know they will go again. The elderly look forward to seeing the young people. During the year their families and friends talk about how much the young people's efforts are appreciated.

New names are obtained from the local IGA Food Store, which offers food delivery to the elderly, and from the Gentry Medical Clinic.

The Pathfinders enjoy the visits and consider them a great missionary outreach.

Dolores J. Adams

Senior Citizens Form a Club

Several members in the Texarkana church decided to organize a service club for those 55 and older in March of 1987. Marie Prindle, club president, suggested that they call the club the Alpha Club, since they didn't know when there would be an Omega, or end.

The club's goal is to serve senior citizens, according to Prindle. "We visit the sick at home and in nursing homes," she said. "We keep up with birthdays and anniversaries."

Club activities have included a "secret pals" project in which participants would send gifts to their secret pal to remind them that they are loved and thought of. The club has also held banquets on various holidays.

The Alpha Club eventually merged with the church's social committee and discontinued its monthly meetings. The club continued, however, to plan the



When a Gentry Home Pathfinder knocked on an elderly woman's door, she surprised her with a gift from the club.

church's Christmas banquet.

Alpha plans to return to its original operations and would like to see other Alpha Clubs organized throughout the Union.

Loretta Johnson
Communication Secretary

Ukraine Meetings Bring Blessings

The evangelistic meetings held in October, 1995 in the 1000-year-old city of Lubny, Ukraine, illustrate our dependence on God's Spirit for results. The team was made up of Glenn and Mary Alice Hill, retired pastoral team from Gentry; Dr. Neil Mullins, who gave health talks for the first two weeks; and Anna Hartfield, a teenage girl from Gentry, who told stories to the children during the first two weeks.

Since that region of the Ukraine, which had been closed to foreign evangelists, had just opened up, the Central Ukraine Conference was eager for a group to hold an evangelistic campaign there. Since our original plans were to return to the Poltava region where we had worked previously, this sudden change left insufficient time

to advertise and prepare for the meetings in Lubny.

Opening night was a disappointment with only 350 attending our first meeting in the Palace of Culture which seats 650. In addition, there was disunity in the local church and few members attended the meetings. Physical difficulties regarding the building and times for

our meetings made positive communication difficult. However, in spite of the difficulties, God's Spirit was at work. Twenty-eight people were baptized, with 79 more registering their decision to be baptized later. Some are waiting for spring, so they can be baptized in the beautiful Sula River.

We learned later that authorities in Poltava had ordered our meetings to be closed, but apparently the Lubny officials refused to comply. A Jewish man, director of the hall we rented, attended some of the meetings, and as he watched a video on the crucifixion of Jesus, tears streamed down his cheeks.



This ornate loaf was presented to Glenn Hill in honor of the first baptism and in appreciation for the evangelistic series.

The Lubny officials voted to let our new church group use the land and buildings at a kindergarten complex for the next five years without rent. They have been allowed to remodel where needed and can buy the property if they wish for \$10,000 U.S. Some Gentry members plan to give funds to help buy this property.

Nadia, who used to be a kindergarten teacher at this complex, was baptized during our series. She has given her piano to the church for use in their "new" facilities. I have a beautiful memory of eight men carrying that upright piano from her sixth floor flat and down a slippery hill in a gentle rain to its new church home. Then Pastor Oleg played a praise hymn which



Joy and excitement filled the onlookers as 28 new members were baptized at the end of the Lubny evangelistic series in Ukraine.



On some nights 70 Ukrainian children crowded into a 16 foot square room to listen to stories and sing new gospel songs.

was swelled by the voices of workers and watchers.

Five of the new believers were at the new church site helping clean buildings and grounds the day after their baptisms. Vladimir was one of the five. He had had such major problems in his life that I had lacked faith to believe he would choose to be baptized. But here he was showing evidence that with God's grace he was conquering those problems. My last memory of him was seeing him lay bricks for a new wall in the sanctuary.

We were denied permission to hold meetings in two other places, but we left funds for a Ukrainian pastor to hold a campaign in Drobov, a village of 10,000 where there was no Seventh-day Adventist presence. Twelve were baptized and 60 others are attending the weekly services. It is our plan to return to the Ukraine in 1996 with other Gentry members to bless and be blessed. And, once again, we will experience how the Holy Spirit causes the seed to develop and produce a harvest.

Glenn H. Hill

Retired pastor from Gentry

New Orleans Central Church Closes Its Doors

The final chapter of the New Orleans Central Church came to a close on December 30, 1995. The church originated as the New Orleans Italian Church in 1920. In the spring of 1952 construction began for a new church. In August of 1957 the

name was changed to Franklin Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, and in December of that year the church was dedicated by then conference president, I. M. Evans.

In 1971 the church was at its

peak with a membership of 230, and it became necessary to hold two Sabbath services. However, as other new churches and companies were formed in the New Orleans area, members transferred out to Slidell, Houma, Chalmette and Westbank. In May, 1977 the church's name was changed to New Orleans Central. However, as the membership continued to decline it became difficult to support a viable program. The church was finally sold in June, 1995 to the New Genesis Bible Church.

December 30, 1995 was "Commemoration" Sabbath with the theme "Lest We Forget." Guest speaker was the former pastor from 1979 - 1981, Marwood Hallett, currently church ministries director for the Ohio Conference. His sermon focused on remembering our past as we move forward helping to strengthen other Adventist churches in the area.

Invitations were sent to area churches, past ministers, former members and the conference office. A special Sabbath school program had been prepared, followed by the worship hour and a lunch. A special "Commemoration" service was held at 2:00 p.m. which included member recognition, reminiscing by members and former members, reading of the church history, a slide presentation of photographs from the past and messages from pastors Hallett and Will McCall. Each member received a special book marker on which were the three different names of the church and a copy of the church history. Each family was given a church hymnal.

This memory will live on as we, former Central members, help finish the Lord's work in other areas.

Richard Manzella

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Presents

"Women of Spirit"

A RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP BETHANY, LOUISIANA

Southwest of Shreveport

APRIL 19-21, 1996

Come enjoy a weekend in the country. Hear Ruthie Jacobsen and Kristin Geddis speak during four sessions. Attend six workshops to enhance your spiritual growth, one especially designed for Hispanics.

Motel - Two queen beds in each room. (All linens furnished.)

Cabins - Cabins sleep 8, 16 or 32. (No linens furnished.) Cabins have adequate bath facilities. You choose your roommates. Please send group registrations together.

"Woman of Spirit" Retreat Registration Form

Name _____ Home Church _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Motel roommate preference _____

Check: Make payable to Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, WM Retreat

Mail to: 2001 Star Drive, West Monroe, LA 71291

**Deduct \$10 if paid in full
by April 1, 1996**

**Place a check mark
beside preference**

<input type="checkbox"/> Motel Unit - 1	person	\$100.00 ea.
<input type="checkbox"/> Motel Unit - 2	persons	81.00 ea.
<input type="checkbox"/> Motel Unit - 3	persons	77.50 ea.
<input type="checkbox"/> Motel Unit - 4	persons	75.00 ea.
<input type="checkbox"/> Cabins 8;16;32	persons	65.00 ea.
<input type="checkbox"/> Commuters - 3	meals	40.00 ea.

Texas

Austin South Church Witnesses Through Technology

The Austin South church has begun using several aspects of modern technology in its efforts to reach the people who live in the area.

On November 16, 1995, the Austin South church became the first church in the Southwestern Union to have its own WEB page on the Internet. Internet access was obtained by local church member Lester Wan's company, Sunscape Technologies. By year's end, 275 people had accessed the page from as far away as Singapore, Chile, Canada, and New York. The church's WEB address is: [HTTP://WWW.SUNSCAPE.COM/SDA/](http://WWW.SUNSCAPE.COM/SDA/)

The church plans to begin broadcasting the worship service on a local cable channel in 1996. The church's communication director, Joe Sloan, was news director for a local TV station before joining the Adventist church.

Austin South also plans to begin publishing its own outreach magazine. Hank Forde, outreach journal editor, created and published a magazine as part of his master's thesis at the University of Texas.

By harnessing the talents and skills of church members, the church hopes to undertake these and other inventive methods of sharing their faith.

*Rhonda Tomlinson
Communication Leader*



Interest is piqued as church members watch William Ng access Austin South church's home page on the World Wide Web.

International Sabbath at Austin South

Membership at the Austin South church is composed of a multi-cultural mix. On November 18, 1995, the congregation had its first International Sabbath to celebrate their unique diversity and the worldwide work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Members wore clothing and brought foods from their ancestral lands. The church sent 150 invitations to denominational and state dignitaries and to former members, inviting them to fellowship with the church on this special Sabbath. The sanctuary had so many worshipers that deacons had to bring in folding chairs for late arrivals.

Members and guests came on Sabbath morning dressed in their kimonos, kilts, tweeds, saris and other national costumes.

Following the sermon, members and guests enjoyed a fellowship luncheon of food from Brazil, China, the Caribbean, Greece, India and Scotland.

*Rhonda Tomlinson
Communication Leader*

Texas Conference Holds Lay Spanish Festival

The first Texas Conference Spanish lay festival was held December 15-16, 1995, at Nameless Valley Ranch. One hundred



Retired missionary Fred Hardin with daughter Linda Peckham (right) and granddaughters Joliette and Tiffany in Indian dress at Austin First church's international Sabbath.

fifteen lay members and 15 pastors attended.

At the meeting each lay member was given recognition for his or her work during 1995. Thirty lay members received a certificate of appreciation for being the layperson of the year in their respective districts, while five received plaques for being layperson of the year in the Texas Conference.

During 1995, 1,100 people were added to the Hispanic churches in Texas. At the end of the festival those in attendance set a goal to win 832 new members to Christ in 1996.

Two of the guest speakers were Amasias Justiniano and Carlos Pardeiro, director of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries for the Southwestern Union Conference.

*Jose A. Piantini
Texas Conference Hispanic
Coordinator*

VGA Faculty Attend Professional Seminars

Valley Grande Academy's principal, Andrew Leonie, has set up a liaison relationship with Andrews University resulting in seminars for the academy's faculty.

Shirley Freed, professor in the education department at AU, went to VGA in January to con-

duct seminars entitled "Active Learning Strategies" and "Teaching in the Content Areas." She plans to return to VGA in early June to continue inservice seminars for the teachers.

Freed emphasized collaborative learning. She backed up her theory with educational research and quotes from Ellen White, including this one:

"There should be most faithful teachers, who strive to make the students understand their lessons, not by explaining everything themselves but by letting the students explain thoroughly



How many congregations can boast of getting two new 16-year-old Master Guides in one year? Juliette Peckham was invested by Van Hurst, youth director, at the Texas Conference Pathfinder camporee this past summer, and Jerry Vrba was invested in December by Walter Wright, Southwestern Union Conference youth coordinator. Both are members of Austin First church.

every passage which they read." *Fundamentals of Education*, p. 390

Students learn faster, remember more and retain more when they work together, Freed said.

Many studies show that people remember more when they listen to, verbalize, read and write what they are attempting to learn. They retain it even longer if they teach it to someone else. This is the premise on which collaborative learning is based.

With collaborative learning students help each other. But different from group learning, each person is individually and collectively responsible to learn the materials. No one can succeed unless everyone succeeds, and each student must be individually accountable for the materials covered.

More than theory and background, Freed taught by modeling the strategies she discussed. She presented the staff with learning activities at which they could not succeed unless their entire team was successful. She modeled a variety of different types of collaborative learning activities and demonstrated that while raising the learning potential of students, these techniques do not add to teacher-prep time.

The seminar was successful, according to VGA students. About three days after Freed's visit, a student asked a teacher, "Did all of you attend a class or something? All of our teachers are using these team activities!"

When the teacher explained the reason, the student replied, "Yes. It makes sense! We do remember better when we learn together."

*Corrie Whitney
Vice Principal, Marketing*

Burton Students Celebrate "Christmas Around the World"

Over 100 students at Burton Adventist Academy traveled to five foreign countries on December 8 without leaving their building. This was made possible by teachers in grades K-4 who transformed their classrooms into the countries of Mexico, Germany, Italy, Russia and India.

As children "journeyed" between the different countries,



Santa Anna Adventist School students spend some of their time assisting at the local nursing home. Sometimes they sing and read the Bible to the elderly. At Christmas time they put on a program and passed out Christmas cards. Last spring they helped with an area-wide nursing home olympics. Asenath Horne, one of Santa Anna's church school students standing in the center of the photo above, is demonstrating how to play horseshoes at the olympics.

they had to carry "passports" which were stamped to identify the country they were entering. One little first grade boy burst into tears upon discovering he had left his passport behind in Russia where he had last visited. A parent was hastily dispatched to retrieve it!

Each teacher had prepared a table laden with a multitude of items which best represented that country, and the students surveyed these with great interest. In each "country" visitors were able to make a craft, munch on traditional foods, listen to music and a short lecture from either the room teacher or a guest with roots from one of the countries.

One such guest, Susan Hivale, whose two sons attend Burton, told of moving from India at the

age of 23. Her colorful costume and presentation held the students captive as she passed out traditional "biskuts" and mango juice.

Another guest, Olga Burgos, represented Italy. As students nibbled on "panettone" and created "pasta pots," she told about life in her home country. Ms. Burgos is the mother of two former Burton students who are now practicing doctors.

By the end of the morning the children's "suitcases" designed by the teachers were filled with crafts, translation books, and passports to take home and share with their families. Teachers who took part in the morning's activities were Debra Belz, Kindergarten-Mexico; Carol Campbell, first grade-Germany; Debra Simons,

second grade-Italy; Betty Trevino, third grade-Russia; Vicky Calkins, fourth grade-India.

*Sandra Cole
Burton Communications*

Burton Homecoming Weekend

The 10-year alumni class of 1986 is planning a spectacular homecoming celebration for the weekend of April 20 at Burton Academy. Key-note speaker for the 11:00 hour at the Arlington church will be Wayne Shepperd, Pacific Union Conference vice president. He has special ties to Burton, as he spoke at the first academy graduation ceremony 10 years ago. At that time he held the position of youth director at the Southwestern Union Conference. The academy choir will perform under the direction of Paul Tucker.

The class of 1986 planning committee welcomes everyone to this all-day event which will end with the traditional "varsity/alumni" basketball game Saturday evening in the Floyd Harrell Gymnasium. Plan now to attend and visit with present and former students of Burton Academy as well as faculty and friends. For further information, contact the school office at 817/572-0081.



Dressed in Russian costume, Betty Trevino, third grade teacher, holds her students attention as she displays the tiniest "matryoshka" doll.



Thirty lay persons attending the first Spanish lay festival at Nameless Valley Ranch received the Laity of the Year award for being active soul-winners.

Texico

Amarillo Church Brings in '96 with Chili Cook-off

The Olsen Park church in Amarillo hosted its annual chili cook-off and talent show the evening of December 31, 1995 in the school gym.

Although the chili was not judged and no prizes were given, all present seemed to agree that of the half-dozen or more pots of chili, P. Harlan Wilson's was the hottest. It left nearly everyone with watery eyes as they searched for something to put out the fire in their mouths!

Talent was provided by young and old alike, and included vocal solos, piano solos, poem recitations and more.

*Donna Songy-Wilson
Communication Secretary*

Amarillo Students Share the Reason for the Season

The students of Amarillo Adventist Academy were busy during the holiday season.

One of the students' projects was a special Christmas program during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sabbath, December 9, at the Olsen Park church. The program was entitled "It's the Thought That Counts; A Modern Christmas Play." Fellowship and a potluck lunch of soup, salad and sandwiches took place in the school gym immediately following the service.

Students also contributed a total of \$69 to help buy clothes for "Jimmy." Jimmy, whose name was taken off an Angel Tree at the mall, received a coat, two shirts, jeans, socks and shoes which the students helped shop for. Joanna



Graduates from the Spanish Revelation seminar held in Midland, Texas.

Herr, principal, was asked how the students felt about the experience. "They seemed very happy to do it. They remembered him in prayer throughout the day, too."

Finally, on the last day of school for 1995, students spread more Christmas cheer by hand-delivering "cheer plates" to church members who are homebound or in nursing homes. They distributed 18 plates filled with fruits, breads and cookies.

*Donna Songy-Wilson
Communication Secretary*

Midland Holds Spanish Revelation Seminar

Diplomas were distributed during graduation services to the 36 individuals who had completed the first Spanish Revelation Seminar held in Midland, Texas.

Church members rejoiced as two of the students were married and baptized that same day. The church celebrated the event



Please meet Gustavo and Maria Sorola, who changed not only their beliefs and habits at the Revelation Seminar, but also from living singly to being united to each other and to Christ.



As part of the Christmas festivities, the Amarillo Adventist Academy students pictured here during the Sabbath morning "Christmas Is for Sharing" play, provided gifts such as a coat, shirts, and jeans for Jimmy, whose name had been taken off the Angel Tree at the mall.

with a reception for the newlyweds, Gustavo and Maria Sorola. They had already won the hearts of the Midland members, who welcomed them into the Midland Spanish Church family.

Peter Weber, Pastor

Long-time Members Bid Goodbye

Members of the Olsen Park church in Amarillo bade farewell to Max and Juanita Utt during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sabbath, December 2, 1995.

Ralph Harmon, head elder, gave the couple an ink drawing of a shepherd sitting under a tree, reading a scroll with the text of Psalm 1:1-3 printed on it. George Lloyd, director of education for the Texico Conference,



Olsen Park church bids farewell to long-time members, Juanita and Max Utt, whose contribution to the church program has been meaningful.

presented them with a plaque in appreciation of their commitment to community service and disaster relief, as well as their support of Christian education.

Juanita, a member of the church since 1955, and her husband have moved to Arlington, Texas, to be near their children.

*Donna Songy-Wilson
Communication Secretary*

1996 Spring Book & Food Displays

Your Adventist Book Center is looking forward to serving you this Spring. Look at the schedule below and plan to attend the **DISPLAY** in your area:

Amarillo SDA Ch	Tue Mar 19	4:30 pm - 7 pm
*Clovis SDA Ch	Wed Mar 20	9 am - 10 am
Alb. Heights Ch	Wed Mar 20	4:30 pm - 7 pm
*Socorro SDA Ch	Thu Mar 21	8 am - 9 am
*T or C SDA Ch	Thu Mar 21	10:30 am - 11:30 am
*Las Cruces Ch	Thu Mar 21	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Deming SDA Ch	Thu Mar 21	5 pm - 7 pm
El Paso SDA Eng	Sat Mar 23	After Sabbath
*Pecos SDA Ch	Sun Mar 24	10:30 am - 11:30 am
Midland SDA Ch	Sun Mar 24	3 pm - 5 pm
*Signifies Drop Only		

Pre-orders are important, especially on the "DROPS". Call us with your pre-order by **March 18. LOOK** for the food price list in your church bulletin & **SAVE BY THE CASE!!**

**YOUR ABC - GOOD SERVICE &
GOOD PRICES
CALL 1-800/522-2665**

Southwestern Adventist College

JENELL RUSK, CORRESPONDENT

Southwestern Adventist College Receives Accreditation

Southwestern Adventist College has received reaffirmation of its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in Atlanta. The school was first accredited in 1958.

SACS provides standards for schools throughout the southern region of the United States assuring institutional quality for students, parents and employers. The accreditation is evidence that SAC is following the guidelines set up by the association.

Educational institutions are required to produce an extensive self-study prior to a visit from a reaffirmation committee made up of academic and administrative peers from other colleges. After the visit, the institution must show evidence that it is following the recommendations of the committee. The association reviews the response and decides whether or not it will reaffirm accreditation.

But, it doesn't end there. "Ac-

creditation is an endless cycle," said academic vice president, Marie Redwine. "We assess our programs on a continuing basis to assure quality."

SAC enjoys many benefits from accreditation, including credibility with its public, and the fact that student credits are easily transferable between accredited institutions.

Sarah St. Clair/Sharon Leach

SAC's Radio Station Updates Format

Southwestern Adventist College's Christian radio station, KJCR 88.3 FM, has updated its format and freshened the station's programming. Listeners can now enjoy a wider variety of new Christian artists and songs, played in 15-minute music sweeps.

The new format also includes live coverage of 13 SAC Knights basketball games, including road games at colleges and universities in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Newscasts have been updated by broadcasting two 3-minute News 88 broadcasts at 12 noon and 1 p.m., rather than one 15-minute mid-

day report.

Although KJCR has made a number of changes, it will retain many favorite programs. Listeners can tune in to "The Voice of Prophecy" with Lonnie Melashenko at 6:45 p.m. every evening; "Focus on the Family" with Dr. James Dobson, at 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; "Joni and Friends" with Joni Earickson Tada at 3:30 p.m., Monday.-Friday.; "Nightsounds" with Bill Pearce at 10:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; "Got a Minute for Your Family" with Dr. Kay Kuzma at 2:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; "Hour of Decision" with Dr. Billy Graham at 9:30 a.m. Thursday; and "Ranger Bill" at 8 a.m. Saturday.

"We've had many positive responses to the new format," said station manager Bob Mendenhall. "Listeners appreciate the variety of

music available today. Our new format is fresh and up-to-date, yet we have not lost our traditional focus."

Sarah St. Clair



The 1995 College Bowl tournament at Southwestern Adventist College ended on December 6 with a victory by Atman. The team won every game it played during the semester-long tournament. Seven teams participated in the academic challenge sponsored by the First State Bank of Keene. The winning team members are, from left to right: Klaus Kowarsch, senior chemistry major; Scott Miller, junior chemistry major; Dennis Haslam, junior biology major; Glenn Guarin, senior biology major; and (pictured center with trophy presented by First State Bank of Keene), Lova Randriamahela, sophomore medical technology major. Photo: Tobe Watts

Healthcare

Tucker Promoted to Associate Vice President

Kent Tucker has been named as Huguley Memorial Medical Center's associate vice president of clinical services.

For the last three years Tucker has served as Huguley's director of wellness and therapy services and has been responsible for the Huguley Fitness Centers in Fort Worth, Cleburne and Mansfield. Tucker's responsibilities also include the assessment laboratory, physical therapy for in- and outpatients, and occupational therapy.

As associate vice president of clinical services, Tucker will have the laboratory, radiology and occupational medicine added to his area of responsibilities.

Tucker earned a master's degree in health science from the University of Florida and has over 14 years of experience in healthcare.

Tucker, wife Beth, and two children, Ben and Sarah, reside in Burleson.

*Keith Dobbs
Public Relations*

Moler Receives President's Award for Excellence

Huguley Health System's president and CEO, A. David Jimenez, presented the President's Award for Excellence to Shirley Moler, RN, of the intensive care unit. The award was in recognition of Moler's ability to maintain a positive, professional and Christian presence, while providing quality care for intensive care patients, and meeting demands from patient families, staff and physicians.

Moler started working at Huguley three years ago and has



Shirley Moler

worked in intensive care since 1985, with the exception of being a floor charge nurse for two years. She serves as chairman of the peer review committee and presents classes for the education department. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver.

Moler and her two children, Bobbie Jean and Timothy, live in Fort Worth.

*Keith Dobbs
Public Relations*

Physician Begins New Family Practice

Mike Polski, M.D., is the newest board certified family practice physician with Huguley Medical Associates located in the Huguley Professional Building in Cleburne, Texas. For the past three years, Polski has practiced family medicine and obstetrics at the Monument Valley Adventist Hospital in Utah.



Mike Polski

Polski graduated with a bachelor's degree in molecular biology from the University of Colorado and completed his medical school training at the University of California. After a pediatric internship at Gundersen Clinic in Wisconsin, Polski completed his family practice residency at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas, in 1992 and became board certified.

In 1994, Polski received a recognition award as Active Teacher in Family Practice by the American Academy of Family Practice.

"I enjoy interacting with all ages," states Polski. "I believe that preventive medicine needs as strong an emphasis as the corrective aspects of medical care."

Polski's field of medicine will include pediatrics, adolescent, sports-related injuries, women's health, adult and geriatric care.

*Keith Dobbs
Public Relations*

Metroplex Opens Final Phase of \$6 Million Addition

Two hundred Central Texans braved the blustery cold wind to get a glimpse of the final phase of a new \$6 million expansion at Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, Texas, on January 18.

Guests were invited to spend the evening touring the new imaging/x-ray and surgery areas at Metroplex. The new addition includes over 29,000 square feet and is equipped with over \$4 million in new medical technology.

The grand opening gave the community a first-hand look at some areas within the hospital not normally accessible to the general public, including tours through one of the new super surgery suites.

Construction on the new addition began in August of 1993 and tripled the size of the hospital's imaging/x-ray area as well as adding a 14-bed same-day surgery area, special procedures area, two super surgery suites and recovery area.

Metroplex president/CEO Ernie Sadau says the new addition was important in meeting the health care needs of patients now and in the years to come.

"We have seen a tremendous increase in all of our outpatient services and focused this entire addition on centralizing outpatient care for patients, their families and hospital staff," Sadau said.

In the past four years, Metroplex has seen a 45 percent increase in outpatient visits, from 35,000 in 1991, to nearly 51,000 in 1995. Same-day surgery procedures have seen the most dramatic growth, with an increase of 81 percent during the same time period, from 1,200 to 2,200.

Within the expansion process Metroplex has added new services that had not been available at the hospital. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), located in the imaging/x-ray area, is now available at the hospital. MRI gives doctors the ability to detect a variety of health problems



Mother helps daughter slip on surgical scrubs during the grand opening tours of Metroplex Hospital's \$6 million addition. As part of the tour, visitors were invited to "scrub up" to get a first-hand look at one of the hospital's new super surgery suites. The new addition tripled the size of the hospital's operating rooms and recovery area, same-day surgery area, and imaging/x-ray area.

at their earliest stages through very clear and precise computer processed pictures.

Another new service is a heart cath/angio room that is able to show the arteries of the heart to determine blockage. Other procedures that can be performed are biopsies, stone removals, abscess drainage and opening of obstructed arteries and veins.

The first phase of the expansion was opened in March, 1995, with the addition of a new emergency center that was three times the size of the previous one.

According to Sadau, the hospital's growth is keeping up with changes in the way health care is delivered and the unparalleled growth of the Killeen/Copperas Cove area, which over the past two years has been the fastest growing area in Texas.

"We have been blessed in the timing of the new expansion and are committed to continuing to serve the health care needs of thousands of Central Texans," Sadau said.

*Ricky Seiler
Director of Community
Relations*



Artist's rendering of the new Lake of the Arbuckles Lifestyle Center near Sulphur, Oklahoma

Health Reform—a New Language, a New Time

The pressure of health care costs, caused mostly by chronic degenerative diseases (coronary artery diseases, hypertension, diabetes, cancer and stroke), and the relentless pursuit for knowledge into the causes of these diseases has caused a dramatic change in how health care will be delivered.

Over the past 50 years the healthcare costs have exploded from \$2 billion a year to our present \$2 billion a day. Something had to be done to change the picture. The decade of the 80s brought us the MRFIT studies of Jeremiah Stamler, the Framingham studies of William Castelli, and the Cholesterol and Mortality Studies of K. M. Anderson, the Cholesterol and Cardiovascular Disease Study

of R. I. Levy and the Coronary Heart Study by the World Health Organization.

The 90s have brought even greater evidence that a vegetarian lifestyle could even reverse some of these diseases through the work of Dean Ornish, MD and G. G. Harrison, K. Lance Gould, and M. L. Armstrong. The evidence has shown us that if we reduce the risk factors for these diseases by changing lifestyles, we can dramatically reduce the incidence of these very diseases by as much as 80% in targeted populations.

Today we are learning a new vocabulary that includes such words as managed care and capitation. No longer is it likely that we will see our regular physician but an "approved" physician, if we need health care. Most of the heavily populated parts of the United States are under some form of managed care. As this

new paradigm shift in healthcare moves toward managed care and capitation, there is little question that early risk assessment and intervention can prevent serious heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer and should be part of the managed care package under capitation. Who knows more about prevention than Seventh-day Adventists?

To meet this new opportunity, an ultramodern preventive care center is nearing completion just outside of Sulphur, Oklahoma. This new 100,000 square foot, multimillion dollar health facility offers its guests 40 hotel-like rooms, a beautiful dining commons, a large medical suite with doctors' offices, exam rooms, a testing facility, and research center. Below the medical suite is a large physical therapy and hydrotherapy complex, complete with saunas, whirlpools, Jacuzzis, and treatment rooms.

Attached and enclosed is a 10,000 square foot fitness center which houses a large pool, Jacuzzi, aerobics floor, indoor walking track and the latest in exercise equipment.

Our mission is to share Jesus through our work and to present the health message in a language understood and accepted by this generation. God's truths never change, but time does change language and culture. By using the skills and talents God has entrusted to this generation of health-care professionals whose lives reflect their trust in His health message, it is our hope that we can inspire others to trust Him as well.

*Dennis Blum, DrPH, MPH
President/CEO of Lake of the
Arbuckles Lifestyle Center*

Immediate Openings

New preventive care center is seeking qualified, experienced Seventh-day Adventist professionals.

- Nursing supervisor (ACLS)
- Staff nurses
- Physical therapists
- Hydrotherapists
- Vegan food service director
- Vegan chef
- Bookkeeper
- Administrative secretary
- Farm/grounds manager
- Grounds keeper
- Laundry supervisor
- Kitchen workers
- Housekeepers

Send resume to:
Lake of the Arbuckles Lifestyle Center
Personnel Department
Rt. 1 Box 295
Sulphur, OK 73086

General News

Andrews Establishes Masters of Social Work Program

To meet the growing need for Christian social workers, Andrews University has established a master's of social work degree (M.S.W.). Classes will begin in June, 1996.

Sharon Pittman, program director, said the AU master's degree will help social workers upgrade their skills and marketability. Changes in both governmental policies and societal structure are transforming the

demands on the profession. Pittman said the structure of the new Andrews program will enable social workers to weather these changes.

Beyond rigorous academics and extensive field training, the program's underlying strength will be the spiritual emphasis that a Christian university offers.

"With the intense social dilemmas of families today, there is an increased need for social workers who can address people's spiritual issues," Pittman said. "We need professional social workers who can give spiritual comfort and spirit-influenced solutions."

The extensive AU curriculum (the university offers more than 100 degrees) will enhance the M.S.W. degree program. "This environment offers a broad variety of practicum and research opportunities," Pittman said.

Students wanting experience in drug counseling could perform practicums at AU's Institute for Prevention of Addictions. Also, a recent agreement between AU and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to establish academic programs for ADRA workers could give social work students opportunities for practicums on an international level.

Pitman comes to AU from the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She received her doctorate in social work from the University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, in 1993, and taught social work on a graduate level at Walla Walla College for two years.

AU joins Loma Linda University and Walla Walla College as the only Adventist colleges which offer an M.S.W. degree.

Call the AU Department of Social Work for information about the undergraduate or graduate programs, (616) 471-6196, (800) 252-2874.

AU, with more than 3,000 stu-

dents, is a comprehensive, doctoral-degree granting institution of higher learning located in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

PSI Announces Development Incentive Program for SDA Academies

If someone guaranteed that every time you handed them a dime they would, a little later, hand you a dollar, would you ever run out of dimes?

Exchanging dimes for dollars is what a development program does. Yes, you have to invest your dime right now, and you won't get a dollar for awhile. But if the program is run correctly, there is no question that your dollar will come.

Seventh-day Adventist academies now have a way to get a development office started and functioning. Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI) has announced a new program, the Model for Academy Philanthropy (MAP).

MAP is specifically designed to place a full-time director of development in 18 to 20 Adventist academies.

To accomplish this, PSI has solicited support from several private donors to help fund pilot programs at different academies across the United States and Canada. The SDA union offices have also agreed to sponsor a share of the program, and each academy will carry a share as well.

The MAP program outlines specific goals to be reached with a high degree of accountability during the three years that an academy participates. The goals are difficult, but achievable.

After three years, when the academies have well-rounded development programs based on the Model for Academy Philanthropy, PSI will use that model to inspire development programs in other Adventist academies.

PSI is a department of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which provides philanthropic services to Adventist academies, colleges, universities and healthcare institutions across North America.

Jeff Scoggins
Communication Coordinator

Adventist Communication Network

Adventist Communication Network is the North American Division's method of providing the most up-to-date information, training and evangelism to local churches via satellite transmission. Each month it provides quality programming which can be viewed by churches with downlinks. By October, 1996, it is hoped that 2000 churches will have downlinks ready to participate in NET '96 which is being described as an 18-month systematic approach evangelism.



ACN Schedule for March

March 1-8:30-9 p.m. (Eastern Time [ET]): **People of Hope:** Galaxy 4 Channel 5

Introduces people to SDA church and inspires members.

March 3-1:3 p.m. (ET) **Vacation Bible School Workshop:** Galaxy 4 Channel 11

Interactive VBS training with Noeline Johnson and other children's ministries professionals.

March 6-7:30-8:30 p.m. (ET and Central time [CT]): **First Wednesday:** Galaxy 4 Channel 5

News and mission reports of the SDA church around the world.

March 9-4:6 p.m. (ET): **Visitation Skills for Nurture and Outreach:** Galaxy 4 Channel 7

Interactive training workshop by Leslie Bumgardner and Ben Maxson.

March 17-7:9 p.m. (ET): **Regaining Your Health:** Galaxy 4 Channel 7

Interactive health outreach seminar by Dr. Richard Neil.

March 23-4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. (ET) **Hands Across the World Rally:** Galaxy 4 Channel 9

March 30-10 a.m.-1 p.m. (ET) **A Faith That Works.** Satellite TBA

April 3-7:30-8:30 p.m. (ET & CT) **First Wednesday—News and Mission Reports**

April 5-8:30-9:30 p.m. (ET) **People of Hope/Global Mission Frontiers**

April 13-4 to 6 p.m. (ET) **How to Conduct Revelation Seminars**

April 21-7:9 p.m. (ET) **How to present Daniel and Revelation Seminars**

Adventist Media Center

The Adventist Media Center which has now moved to its new location at 101 East Cochran, Simi Valley 93065 has three different ways to reach people for Christ. These are through the various television and radio programs produced at the center. Each week thousands of lives are touched. The results of investing in the Adventist television and radio ministries may never be known until we meet those whose lives have been changed through watching or hearing the messages of hope and salvation produced at the Adventist Media Center.

Weekend of March 3

Faith For Today: **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME.** *Lifestyle Magazine.*

How do you get your life back after disaster strikes?

It Is Written: **HOPE IN THE LONG RUN**

Newlyweds during World War II find hope when they learn about Christ's second coming.

Voice of Prophecy:

Sun.: GOD'S WEDDING RING

Modern parables illustrates the meaning of God's special day.

Mon.-Fri., Mar. 4-8: "LIKE A ROCK" - A Visit With Peter

One of the most colorful figures in the Bible.

Weekend of March 10

Faith For Today: **ORGAN DONORS: STORIES OF SAVED LIVES.** *Lifestyle Magazine.*

Meet some amazing "miracle workers" who have donated organs so that others might live.

It Is Written: **FROM SKEPTIC TO ADVOCATE**

Josh McDowell tells of his conversion while writing a book to refute Christianity.

Voice of Prophecy:

Sun.: WORDS FROM THE CROSS - 2

Paradise Guaranteed: Good news for people who have ruined their lives.

Mon.-Fri., Mar. 11-15: A KID NAMED JOE

His name was Zaphnath-paaneah... but everyone called him Joe. God used this unique young man to save His people.

Weekend of March 17

Faith For Today: **GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.** *Lifestyle Magazine*

How to cope with becoming a parent the second time around.

It Is Written: **GOD IN THE RAIN FOREST**

New evidence that Jesus is the Son of God—from deep within the rain forest of Colombia.

Voice of Prophecy:

Sun.: WORDS FROM THE CROSS - 3

"My God, why have you forsaken me?" Terrifying words that offer us hope.

Mon.-Fri., Mar. 18-22: WHEN DOES THE TRUMPET BLOW?

What happens when? A careful tour of the doctrine of the Resurrection.

Weekend of March 24

Faith For Today: **OLD REMEDIES DOCTORS USE THEMSELVES.** *Lifestyle Magazine.*

When is folk medicine safe, and when should you consult your doctor?

It Is Written: **ENCOUNTERS OF ANOTHER KIND**

Pastor Finley looks at apparitions and shows viewers how to experience a divine "Encounter of Another Kind."

Voice of Prophecy:

Sun.: WORDS FROM THE CROSS - 4

"I'm thirsty." Being spiritual doesn't make us less human.

Mon.-Fri., Mar. 25-29: BATHSHEBA-GATE

Lonnie Melashenko explores the good news to be found even in the Bible's most sordid tale.

Weekend of March 31

Faith For Today: **DRUG ABUSE RECOVERY.** *Lifestyle Magazine*

Actress Mackenzie Phillips talks about her drug abuse and her long road back to health.

It Is Written: **BASHER 52—WHERE ARE YOU?**

How faith and love played a key part in Captain Scott O'Grady's miraculous rescue.

Voice of Prophecy:

Sun.: WORDS FROM THE CROSS - 5

"It is finished." Jesus ultimately triumphed because He lived for God.

Mon.-Fri., Apr. 1-5: WINNING THE PARENTING HOME WARS

Five brand-new messages for today's battle-worn moms and dads.

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Fr. Chik'n w/Gravy	12/13 oz	35.15		
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Vege-Burger	12/19 oz	39.47		
Redi-Burger	12/19 oz	42.90		
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Linketts	12/20 oz	40.79		
Big Franks	12/20 oz	40.79		
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Flax Seeds	2 lb	1.96		
Nutritional Yeast Flakes	1 lb	5.05		
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Bacon Like Bits	14 oz	1.75		
Emes Kosher Jel Unflavored	1 lb	6.06		
Emes Kosher Marshmallows Mini or Large	1 lb	2.42		
TVP Unflavored Minced or Chunk	10 lb	17.49		
McKay's Beef or Chicken Style Seasoning No MSG	2 lb	10.76		
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Announcements

Burton Academy Announces Homecoming

Burton Adventist Academy's alumni Sabbath will be April 20, 1996 at the Arlington SDA Church, 4409 Pleasantview Dr., Arlington, TX. Guest speaker will be Elder Wayne Shepperd. A potluck dinner and alumni meeting will be held in the afternoon, with a basketball game and class parties after sundown. It is the 10-year reunion of the class of 1986. Everyone is welcome.

Jefferson Academy Plans Alumni Weekend

Jefferson Academy's annual alumni weekend will be April 19-21. The first meeting begins Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Academy church. For more information, call Tammy Wagner at 903-665-3867.

Middle East Fellowship to Convene

All Middle East Division/Union members and workers (past and present) in North America, please arrange your schedules to attend the Middle East Fellowship to convene March 28-30, 1997 at Leoni Meadows, California. Details for reservations and costs will be sent in a master mailing list. For further information, contact Thomas Geraty at Linda Valley Villa, 11075 Benton St., Loma Linda, CA 92354.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement for Seventh-day Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, program and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarships or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE - 1995-96

Bentonville SDA School	P.O. Box 298, Bentonville AR 72712	501-273-5757
Bonnerdale SDA School	Rt. 1 Box 42, Bonnerdale AR 71933	501-356-2780
Clarksville SDA School	P.O. Box 569, Clarksville AR 72803	
Clinton SDA School	HC 63 Box 23, Clinton AR 72031	501-745-4532

PSI to Hold Conference of Philanthropy

Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI) announces its 7th annual conference on philanthropy at Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort in Colorado Springs, CO. The conference, targeted for SDA educational and healthcare institutions, will be held June 29-July 2, 1996. For information contact Jeff Scoggins at 301-680-6134.

Andrews University Plans Homecoming

The Andrews University homecoming will be April 25-28, 1996. The annual meeting of the association will convene Thursday evening after the gala banquet. Honor classes are 1936, 1946, 1956, 1966, 1971, 1976 and 1986. Special reunions include WAUS 25th anniversary and music department alums. For information contact the Alumni House, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104; 616-471-3591; fax 616-471-3690; or E-mail alumni@andrews.edu.

Highland View Academy Alumni Weekend

March 29-31 is the date of Highland View Academy's alumni weekend featuring former Bible teacher Merle Rouse, former vice principal William Jackson and 1992 graduate Paula Weisner Woodruff. Honor classes are 1951, 1956, 1966, 1971, 1976 and 1986.

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Dallas Adv. Jr. Academy
Elgin SDA Jr. Academy
Fredericksburg SDA School
Gulftown Adventist School
Harlingen Adv. Elementary
Houston Jr. Academy
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Miller Adventist School
North Houston SDA School
Paris SDA School
Richardson Adventist School
Rusk SDA School
San Antonio SDA Junior Academy
San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy
Santa Anna SDA School
Scenic Hills SDA School
Triangle Adventist School
Tyler SDA School
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March 30	Asia Pacific Division 13th Sabbath Offering
April 13	Andrews University Offering
April 27	Hands Across the World Offering
May 11	Disaster and Famine Relief Offering
June 1	Men's Day of Prayer
June 8	Chaplaincy Ministries Offering
June 29	Africa-Indian Ocean Division 13th Sabbath Offering
August 10	Oakwood College Offering
September 14	Mission Extension Offering
September 28	South American Division 13th Sabbath Offering
October 12	Voice of Prophecy Offering
November 9	Annual Sacrifice Offering
December 14	Health and Temperance Offering
December 21	South Pacific Division 13th Sabbath Offering

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3-1t

Andrews University seeks **COMMUNICATION TEACHER** for public relations, journalism/mass media and communication classes. Prefer doctorate or ABD and prior teaching experience. Requires master's degree plus extensive professional experience. Adventists send resume/vita ASAP to: Chair/Search Committee, Communication Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 4904-0050.

3-1t

Andrews University seeks **NURSING TEACHERS.** Minimum requirement: Master's degree, experience and licensable in Michigan and Indiana. Doctor's degree desirable. Immediate need: Maternal child instructor. Interested Adventists contact: Dr. Patricia Scott, Chair, Nursing Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 4904-0020.

3-1t

Andrews University seeks **CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY TEACHER.** Also supervises clinical students at affiliated sites. Minimum requirement: Bachelor's degree, teaching/clinical experience, MT(ASCP)/CLS(NCA) or categorical in microbiology. Desirable: graduate degree, specialty in microbiology. Adventists contact: Search Committee, Allied Health Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 4904-0400. Fax: 616-471-6218. E-mail: medtech@andrews.edu.

3-1t

WWC MARINE STATION MANAGER. Requires interpersonal skills, strong background and abilities in electrical, plumbing, carpentry and other construction skills. Innkeeping, bookkeeping and computer skills a plus. Be a self starter. Contact Carolyn Dickinson, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. 509-527-2202. 3-1t

WWC MARINE STATION ASSISTANT. Part-time. Needs good interpersonal, housekeeping, money handling skills. Be a self-starter. Bookkeeping, computer and innkeeping skills a plus. Cleans cabins and other facilities, assists guests. Contact Carolyn Dickinson, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. 509-527-2202. 3-1t

Andrews University seeks **HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATOR.** Responsibilities include salary and benefits administration, maintenance of employment records and compliance with employment laws. Graduate degree and/or several years experience required. Adventists contact Edward Wines, Vice President for Financial Administration, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104. 3-1t

Andrews University seeks **COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER.** Minimum requirement: Master's degree. Desirable: Doctorate and/or teaching or industrial experience or research. Interested Adventists send resume to Dr. Raymond Paden, Computing Science Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0360. Internet: paden@andrews.edu. 3-1t

RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR. Requires risk management or administrative experience, preferably with college or law degree. Needs writing, interpersonal, communication skills. Coordinates insurance policies, labor and industry issues, worker's compensation, campus safety. Develops policies and contracts. Contact Carolyn Dickinson, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324; 509-527-2202. 3-1t

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3-1t

CANADIAN UNION COLLEGE seeks applications for a faculty position in the Business and Economics Dept to begin Sept 1, 1996. Applicant must have doctorate in business or related field, be

prepared to undertake research, possess strong skills in current information technologies and management science, and be committed to the mission of the college and the SDA church. Send curriculum vitae to: Vice President for Academic Administration, Canadian Union College, 235 College Ave., College Heights, AB, T4L 2E5.

2-3t

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Announcement for Events on Weekend of

May 4, 11, 18 and 25	March 15
June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29	April 19
July 6, 13, 20 and 27	May 17

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Should Be in Local Conference Office by

Volume 95, Number 3

March 1996

Sunset Calendar

	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	*Apr. 5	*Apr. 12
Abilene, Texas	6:42	6:47	6:52	6:57	8:01	8:06
Amarillo, Texas	6:49	6:54	7:00	7:06	8:11	8:17
Brownsville, Texas	6:35	6:38	6:42	6:45	7:48	7:52
Dallas, Texas	6:29	6:35	6:40	6:45	7:50	7:55
El Paso, Texas	6:09	6:14	6:19	6:24	7:28	7:33
Fort Worth/Keene, Texas	6:31	6:37	6:42	6:47	7:51	7:57
Galveston/Houston, Texas	6:23	6:28	6:32	6:36	7:40	7:44
Gentry, Arkansas	6:20	6:26	6:31	6:37	7:43	7:49
Little Rock, Arkansas	6:11	6:16	6:22	6:28	7:33	7:39
Muskogee, Oklahoma	6:23	6:28	6:34	6:40	7:45	7:51
New Orleans, Louisiana	6:04	6:08	6:13	6:17	7:21	7:25
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	6:32	6:37	6:43	6:49	7:54	8:00
San Antonio, Texas	6:38	6:42	6:46	6:50	7:55	7:59
Santa Fe, New Mexico	6:05	6:11	6:17	6:23	7:29	7:35
Shreveport, Louisiana	6:17	6:23	6:28	6:33	7:38	7:43
Tulsa, Oklahoma	6:25	6:31	6:37	6:43	7:49	7:55

*Daylight Saving Time

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