

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

RECORD

JULY 1996



***We learned
a lot in school
this year***

**It wasn't always easy,
nor always fun,
But we did grow
physically, mentally,
and spiritually.**

The contribution Christian education

Christian Education

What makes it different? Is it worth the investment?

by **Max A. Trevino**
President
Southwestern Union
Conference



SO IMPELLING was his conviction that his conference needed a church-operated school that in 1892 W.S. Greer, Texas Conference president, traveled in a two-wheeled hammock cart to companies and churches around the state to present the educational challenges to his constituents. As a result of his commitment and that of several other dedicated individuals, all of whom gave personal notes to purchase the 800-acre piece of land, the Keene Industrial School opened in January 1894.

At the 1895 camp meeting in Dallas, an announcement was made of the purchase of a piece of land for a school and the availability of 10 to 25-acre tracts of this land for purchase by those wishing to move to the site. A mass exodus began. There were no roads on the 800-acre tract, only paths and trails, and no water system. There were no vehicles except horse-drawn carriages and no homes for the people who lived in tents until they could build living quarters.

School was held in a building that also served as a church. The mass exodus was so rapid that by the end of that year it became necessary to double the size of the school building.

By 1895 the General Conference assumed control of the school, and it became the principal Adventist educational center for the entire Southwest. By adding two more years of schooling, it became a junior college in 1916. And in 1963 it took on the name of Southwestern Union College, known today as Southwestern Adventist College.

In another part of the Southwest, Josephine Wilson (Tucker) began teaching in a small church school in Gentry in 1905. This school grew to become Ozark Adventist Academy. By 1938 it became a full academy with residences for students to live in.

A third school opened in Jefferson in 1913 to provide educational opportunities for the Adventist families who had moved into that area.

From these three educational centers and from others established later as the work expanded have come many loyal Seventh-day Adventists, both lay people and workers on the

church's payroll. Some who may be better known are (This is by no means an exclusive or comprehensive list!):

Tom Carter, attorney and director of the General Conference trust services

Steve Gifford, president, Texas Conference

James W. Gilley, president, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Charles Griffin, president, Greater New York Conference

Jim Hoehn, president, Kansas-Nebraska Conference

Clyde Kinder, with 40 years in publishing, now manager of the Potomac ABC in Takoma Park.

Nina Martinez, anchor/reporter KRLD

Marvin Moore, editor of many books as well as the *Signs of the Times*

Marvin Ponder, pastor and recording artist

Leon Sanders, undertreasurer, Pacific Union Conference

Carol Sample, retired educator and now head elder of Keene church

Gayle Tucker, first woman to be hired as full-time pastor in the Southwestern Union Conference

Mitchell Tyner, attorney for the General Conference

Penny Estes Wheeler, writer and editor of *Women of Spirit*

Southwestern Union Conference treasurers



Heather Dobbs, Oklahoma



Ross Harris and Heidi Schneider, Arkansas

as made in the Southwest



The first school building on the property purchased in Keene.

C.B. Hughes, first principal, Keene Industrial Academy



What motivates families to send their children to Adventist schools? It's not the cheap tuition nor any superior facilities, but rather the life-skills training they get from Christ-centered teaching. And that is never an expense—it's an investment in the future!

As one parent wrote, "Yes, Christian education is expensive; but not unaffordable. For 13 years I taught in Adventist schools and never saw a child go without a Christian education if the parents followed 'the triangle.' The triangle is faith, sacrifice, and work. But when one part is gone, the whole thing collapses.

"This past year our family had to use this formula when I became very sick and we relocated near my parents, but that left us out of work.

"By faith we enrolled our children in school. Did we sacrifice? Yes. Did we have faith? Fearfully, but yes. Did God provide? Yes! Our daughter has finished her first year in academy and our son graduated from eighth grade.

"Parents, use the formula!"

Deryl Knutson, awarded scholarships to the following students:



ington Horton, Southwest Region

PHOTO: Burton Academy students Eric Gifford and Brian Jobe learn new computer techniques with instructor Laura Smith to guide them when they get stuck.

Photo: Tobe Watts



Texas Conference, back row from left: Bryant Leinberger, David Holland, Barbara Miller, Deryl Knutson, Southwestern Union treasurer, and Liriane Ribeiro. Front row from left: Jennifer Zook, Colleen Thompson, Elizabeth Barcelona, Hye Sung, Marybel Estrada and Joshua Samaniego.

Should Christian schools have high standards?

by Douglas Walker
Director of Education



ONE OF THE REALLY DIVISIVE ISSUES that I often read and hear about today concerns the decline of standards within our churches and schools. "Things surely have gone downhill since I was in school years ago," I hear again and again. Recently a pastor came to me to share a parent's concern about "... those really short dresses that our academy is allowing all the girls, including my daughter, to wear to classes." Another parent buttonholed me, asking why another of our academies did not "kick out" day students, including her son, who were involved in an off campus weekend party involving the consumption of alcoholic beverages by some students.

Now I want you to know first off that I don't have solutions to all of these problems, and, quite frankly, I haven't heard any good, workable solutions to the setting of standards so as to please everyone. But I would like you to consider some suggestions.

First, lifestyle standards vary widely, even across our own Southwestern Union. I see acceptance of very different dress, makeup, music, food and even language as I travel from one school to another and one church to another. I still see and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in all of these locations. It is apparent to me that God is blessing a variety of lifestyles,

although I must admit that I am still personally slightly disturbed by some things such as students with brightly-colored nails that I did not grow up with. And I have come to the conclusion that nail color and many of the other lifestyle issues do not really have a great deal to do with one's relationship with Jesus Christ or with one's ability to serve Him fully and completely. As one draws closer to the Lord, these lifestyle areas may develop in a more conservative direction, but I am no longer able to so neatly judge a person's Christianity by his/her appearance or listening habits as I once was confident I could do.

Second, might I suggest that since lifestyle issues do vary, it might be well for those involved in a local school to set up a committee of level-headed adults and students to discuss just what the local standards are and/or should be. After prayerfully seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, this committee could then write down some lifestyle standards that the school could accept as its own. Notice that these are local standards for our own local school, not God's standards for everyone. It might be worth considering, however, that these standards could possibly fit our local churches and homes so that our young people would not be confused by differing standards. It might also be worth encouraging parents to

uphold these standards in their homes, in their purchases, and in their dealings with their children and youth, remembering that they are not upholding God's standards but that they are upholding what is locally held to be important in the area of lifestyle. Let's work together, not blaming others or expecting others to do our job for us.

All too often we as Seventh-day Adventist Christians seem to get swept away by lifestyle issues. I am certainly not suggesting that God does not have standards, because He certainly does have the very highest of expectations for His children. It is just that we can so very easily "major in minors" and spend so much of our time worrying about the details that we forget what our Christianity is all about. We forget to follow our Master Teacher's example.

Could I gently suggest that our homes, our churches and our schools must work together to lead each of our young people to Jesus Christ and to the wonderful joy that He offers? Would it be well that we spend much less time and energy accusing each other of "letting down the standards" and much more time laboring together for the salvation of the flock that God has entrusted to each of us? Let's pray for each other and for divine guidance in working with all those sticky lifestyle issues.



After studying the *Good News for Today* series at school and attending a children's evangelistic series, these Jones Creek Adventist Academy students all decided to follow Jesus through baptism. Standing from left: Jennifer Gautreaux, Michael Thomas, Jennifer Simmons, Aaron Guidry, Cody Prewitt, Joshua Causey, and Kevin Blount. Seated from left: Elizabeth Albers, Nicole Swaim, Kaitlyn Albers, David Carothers, Julia Talley, and Rebeca Salcedo.

What we learned in school this year

We learned that working together brings happiness and satisfaction



A new principal came to Keene Adventist Elementary School last year. Ron Scott left his job as superintendent of schools for the Washington Conference to be an elementary school principal. His many years of experience have been a great asset.

Scott picked a theme of "Service Spells Happiness" for the school year. A large banner proclaiming the words was hung in the gym for everyone to see. A monthly community service day was instituted this school year for students in grades five through eight. The program was organized by a volunteer, Shirley Halsell.

A cockatiel was purchased that became the school mascot. A school-wide contest

let the children pick the name of KAESy (pronounced Casey). The bird resides in Mr. Scott's office.

The Home and School Associations of KAES have been very active. Last school year enough funds were raised to completely recarpet the gymnasium, which also serves as an auditorium, and all the classrooms in the lower grade building. This carpet was installed during the first semester and improved the look of the school tremendously.

This year Home and School was instrumental in purchasing blinds for the library and seven classrooms, a binding machine, moving the intercom in the office and many other items. It has also been a project to show appreciation for our teachers each month with a small gift for them or their classroom.

Students were also encouraged to purchase a field trip T-shirt at the beginning of the school year. The shirts sported a large KAES logo on the back and were worn for field trips and school spirit days. The T-shirts were instituted to

foster school spirit and also for safety reasons when the children were away from school grounds.

Keene Adventist Elementary School takes education for the future seriously. Plans will be implemented soon to equip the computer lab with the latest equipment. The school also provides a teacher whose major job responsibility is teaching computer education for all students, pre-kindergarten through grade eight.

Parents really support KAES, not only with time, commitment to paying tuition and with their presence at the school, but also with their talents. One parent, Beth Halvorsen, has published a book with excerpts from her prayer journal. She has donated all profits from the book to KAES. All the artwork in the book was drawn by students and adds a special touch to the book. Harvest Market agreed to display *To My King, Open Letters to the God Who Hears* without keeping a portion of the sales for the store. The school is free to use the money where needed.

At the spring concert a new school song was presented complete with sound effects and motions. The words and music, written by music teacher Marlene Gillereth, sum up the spirit at KAES best:

"KAES our school so dear. KAES your name we cheer. KAES our guiding star. KAES the best by far. We study hard, we work, we play;

Our teachers guide us day by day.

We fill each day with happiness; We love our school—KAES!"

*Kristi Ampanan
Keene Church
Communication Leader*

We learned that studying history can be interesting



How long since you studied Vasco Nunez de Balboa's search for the Pacific Ocean, astronomer Amerigo Vespucci, Spanish explorer Vasquez de Coronado or frontiersman Daniel Boone? Probably too long!

As a way to promote the study of American history in the Tyler schools, the Mary Tyler chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has sponsored its annual writing contest. The subject this year was "Explorers of America." Of the four certificates awarded, two went to students at the Tyler Seventh-day Adventist School.

Each paper is to have a bibliography and receives a subjective evaluation for historic accuracy and adherence to the subject, originality, interest, grammar and overall neatness. Thirteen elementary and middle schools submitted 43 papers which were coded so judges could not identify the pupil or school.

Raul Valdemar Benitez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raul Benitez, is a sixth-grader who wrote a biography of Amerigo Vespucci, noting his fascination for maps, astronomy and interest in exploring the New World. It was in 1497 that the king of Spain asked him to explore the western ocean. Raul adds that in his research he learned that one German professor stated that instead of naming the new world "America," it would have been



Charlotte Larkin's students from the multi-grade classroom at Keene Adventist Elementary School.

simpler to name it Amerigo after its discoverer.

"All About Daniel Boone" was the subject for seventh-grader William Spencer. Written as a personal account of Boone's life, William writes, "My ma and pa were Quaker farmers. Oh yeah, I never learned how to read. I didn't get any formal schoolin' but I did learn about the wilderness, cattle, horses, and the blacksmithing trade. When Boone's family moved near the Yadkin River in North Carolina at age 12, Boone kept his family supplied with wild game and sold furs at the trading post..." William describes Boone's frontier clothes as "a fringed hunting shirt that came to my knees, deer skin pants, and moccasins on my feet. On my belt I carried a knife and tomahawk. I always wore my rifle on my shoulder and don't forget the black felt hat. I wore my hair in a pony tail."

Brenda Poe
Head Teacher, Tyler



The young people of Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene constantly remind me of the joy of living. It is such a privilege to see youth make a difference in the lives of others that I often remark, "And I even get paid for this!"

Outreach means many things, and its interpretation can be defined individually or by the group with whom we work. For the 1995-96 school year, Outreach class at CTA has personalized the saying, "God has no hands but ours."

Ten of our students deliver meals-on-wheels on Mondays. There are concerns for the



Devin Adams, a CTA junior, was recipient of the 1996 "Caring Heart" award. Devin has demonstrated leadership in planning outreach

activities that have taken CTA students to area schools and churches. She received a \$500 scholarship from the North American Division Office of Education.



Dayne Berkner, a senior at CTA, was among ten high school seniors recognized by the Nathaniel Winston Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution. The ceremony, held at the Cleburne Convention Center, marked the 36th year that DAR has recognized high school seniors for their leadership, dependability, service and patriotism. Dayne, the first student to ever represent CTA in the event, is the son of Henry and Donna Berkner of Keene. He is president of the senior class, a member of the honor roll and was selected to Who's Who in American High Schools.

health of those on our route. At each class period before we begin our delivery, we pray that the Holy Spirit will go with us and help us bring cheer to the lives of those whose homes we enter.

Our students frequent the Golden Age Manor Nursing Home in Cleburne on a regular basis. At the beginning of the year we adopted grandparents. Friendships were quickly made and relationships developed that have carried over into the personal lives of both the young and elderly. The students make cards and gifts or take magazines and books that are of interest to their grandparents.

Before Odyssey Harbor, the home for disadvantaged children, was closed down students would go to read to the special children who lived there. A strong bond developed between the two groups and often the children would run out to greet the students

as they arrived on campus.

As I listen to my students while we're returning to school on the van, my heart is warmed. They discuss individual needs and problems of their young friends and their faces shine with happiness.

Daina Adams, Language Arts
Instructor and Outreach
Director
Chisholm Trail Academy



Students at Conroe SDA School enjoyed having the teacher's pet hedgehog in their classroom for a day. They petted her and watched her sleep. They saw her raise and click her quills. It took a few brave students to touch the hedgehog the first time, but soon everyone wanted a turn. It was neat to see how the hedgehog enjoyed their attention.

Other creatures that have come to the classroom are snakes, lizards and a packman orange frog. These critter visits

have helped the children learn more about the many interesting creatures God has made for them to enjoy.

On another occasion they were enthralled by a visit from Dr. Sam Gammethaler, a cardiologist and uncle of two students. He talked about that superior pump that works night and day for as many years as a person lives.

To demonstrate how the circulatory system of the body works, he brought a large model of the human heart and showed the class how wonderfully the Creator has designed this amazing pump.

Dr. Sam also showed the students a pacemaker which had been used 20 years ago



Dr. Sam Gammethaler dissects an animal heart to show Conroe students how complicated the interior of a heart really is.



When the hedgehog first came to Conroe school with teacher Carolyn Early, the students were afraid to hold her until they found out how friendly she was—then there wasn't enough hedgehog to go around!

and one currently being used. The changes made in this technology, especially in the small size of the new pace-maker, are astounding. He also showed the students the tube used for angioplasty and how it works inside the veins.

In conclusion, Dr. Sam reminded the students of the importance of exercising regularly to keep the heart healthy. Then he dissected an animal heart to show the chambers and valves through which the blood flows.

*Carolyn Early
Conroe SDA School*



Ozark Elementary School spelling bee winners from left: Ross Dykes, kindergarten; Jared Williams, first grade; Jessica Robinson, second grade; Jessica Clegg, third/fourth grade; Brenda Paige, fifth-eighth grade.

Thurber, youth pastor, gave a devotional in which he encouraged the students to relate the mysteries and challenges of science to a loving Creator.

Bruce Aalborg, senior pastor of Gentry church, moderated an old-fashioned spelling bee for five students from each grade (K-8) who advanced to this level. Overall winners were given a bronze medallion for their accomplishments.

Following the spelling bee, students carried their 400 projects to the gymnasium where they arranged them on tables for judging. There were projects in science, social studies, Bible, art, and math. The students were dismissed to go home at noon.

While the students were at home a panel of judges read the students' reports about how the projects were developed and what they had learned from their research. Blue, red or white ribbons were placed on each project which had been judged by a set standard and not by comparison with other students' entries.

That evening students, family

and friends came from 6:00 to 8:00 to view and admire the displays. This annual event provides students with a challenge to expand their educational experience by exploring and developing areas of interest. It is also a great public awareness event which highlights the quality of the school's academic program.

*Don Hevener, Principal
Ozark Elementary School*



Ozark Adventist Academy has hired Charles Dart as principal for the 1996-97 school year.

Dart retired in 1993 after 42 years of ministry, yet continued serving as principal of Milo Adventist Academy in southern Oregon after his retirement.

Dart sees a bright future for OAA. He is impressed with the student body and staff, as well as the school's facilities. He is excited about plans for a new boys' dorm.

Dart believes that a school is not made up of one person, but of a team working together under the guidance of the Lord. He plans to maintain the strong spiritual and academic atmosphere already established on campus, while making it a fun, memorable time for the students as they develop into mature men and women.

Staff members will be encouraged to grow professionally and spiritually to provide students with an atmosphere that will encourage well-rounded development in every aspect. OAA will strive to meet Ellen White's ideal of "a harmonious development of the spiritual, the mental, the physical and the social."

Dart believes a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school should convey to staff, students and parents an understanding of how much God loves them. God's love shines through in how we deal with one another more than in what we do. Students remember the most and the longest how they were treated when they were in school. They will



The Midland-Odessa church school choir, under the direction of James Lister III, keeps busy. With the instruments and talents of the children, plus the support of the parents and the school principal, Burdette Millard, the choir has visited churches in Midland, Odessa and San Angelo. They also sing in nursing homes, sharing sympathy and hope with everyone.

*Peter Weber
District Pastor*



Ozark Elementary School held its annual education fair in Gentry on April 18, involving all 185 students. To set the tone for the day, Marty



Ozark Academy Royallaires performing at the Christmas concert.

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Reasons for Choosing Ozark Adventist Academy

1. Living in a Christian atmosphere where Jesus is the center focus
2. Taking advantage of opportunities for spiritual growth through inspiring Bible classes, worships, chapels and church services
3. Experiencing spiritual growth from special programs such as week of prayer, student association spiritual weekend, and prayer conference
4. Learning from Christian teachers who are credentialed in their areas of teaching
5. Choosing a college preparation program or a mainstream program with opportunities for scholarships in higher education
6. Participating in great music organizations: choir, band, or handbells
7. Developing physically in our gymnastics program or in a P.E. class
8. Playing on a team in intramurals during recreation time
9. Enjoying social occasions with friends that will last a lifetime
10. Living in a dormitory on a beautiful campus in the Ozarks



Dawnetta Fortner, Chris Evenson and unidentified student learn to study God's word without confusion or boredom.

remember this long after they have forgotten what they learned in class.



Valley Grande Academy staff and students recently celebrated a Hispanic heritage weekend titled "Unidos en Nuestra Raza," or "United in Our Race."

Students say they chose the title because they come from different Latin American countries and cultures but are all united as Hispanics. This is the first such weekend known to take place, according to Seventh-day Adventist Church officials around the country.

Weekend meetings featured Saul Flores, youth pastor for the Donna Spanish Church, who spoke in Spanish with a student translator. The Montemorelos University marimba group played Friday evening and Sabbath for church. They also gave a secular concert Saturday night.

The Sabbath evening concert was followed by "Sociedad de Jovenes," typical

of Spanish churches. Afterward, the students participated in "sociales," or recreational games.

Sunday morning three speakers addressed issues affecting Hispanics today. Dr. Edna Iris Garza-Escobedo spoke about the importance of

college education for success. Yolanda Matus, wife of a local

lay pastor, talked about the benefits of being bilingual. Luz Arauzo, Spanish professor at Southwestern Adventist College, spoke on the history of Hispanic culture.

A potluck lunch after the lectures featured foods from various Hispanic countries, and many students and visiting parents wore traditional costumes from their countries of origin. The countries of Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, El Salvador and Colombia were represented at booths decorated with flags, streamers and balloons. A literature display



Honor classes challenge the brightest students at Valley Grande Academy. Photo: Don Duncan



Vine-ripe veggies at VGA flavor campus meals. Photo: Don Duncan



(Left) Prayer is an important part of the day at VGA. Photo: Corrie Whitney

(Below) Attired in their native dress are Amy Montevilla from Puerto Rico, Cesiah Ramirez and Nora Cano from Mexico. Photo: Marvin Whitney



exhibited literature and brochures about Hispanic organizations. And a representative of each country spoke for about ten minutes during the luncheon.

The weekend was coordinated by Mabel Noverola, taskforce worker and student from Southwestern Adventist College. A student committee helped plan, organize and lead out in the weekend activities.

"I was delighted with the response of the total student body and parents," Noverola said. "It was intended to encourage, inspire, motivate and educate Hispanic students and help others understand Hispanic culture better. It integrated the students from various countries in a focus on heritage, culture and national pride."

Corrie Whitney, Vice President for Marketing Valley Grande Academy



Seven students at the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church have



Emmanuel church school students from left: Christian King, 9th grade; Patrick McConico, 5th grade; Mia McGriff and Rachel Mitchell, 4th grade; Erica Rusk, 11th grade. Not pictured are Micah Weech, 5th grade, and Marque Long, 4th grade.



Rebecka Sauls, class of 1996 at Valley Grande Academy, is a two-year member of Who's Who Among America's High School Students. Rebecka has also

been nominated for the National Caring Award presented by the Caring Institute in Washington, D.C. Becky has been active in Pathfinders, vacation Bible school and other children's ministries. She is presently completing her work as a Master Guide. She plans to attend Southwestern Adventist College in Keene.

excelled academically. Their goal was to be the best role models they could to all they meet. More than half of these youth attend public schools, but the light of Christ radiates in their actions among their peers and instructors. They are also diligent workers in the church and are always willing to give their time and talent to bring others to Christ.

Some of the activities they have been involved in this year are ingathering in the Wal-Mart Super Center parking lot, door-to-door Bible studies, nursing home ministry, youth choir, and literature distribution. They have also been active in youth meetings and as ushers for the church.

It would be wonderful to see all our youth in church school, but until that day comes we are grateful to God for our Christian youth who witness in public schools.

*Irmatean McConico
Communication Leader
Emmanuel Church*



The freedom to pray any time the need arises is at the center of Burton Academy's Christian educational program. On numerous occasions over the past few years, students and their teachers have seen how God has answered their prayers. Lives have been changed, programs have been successful, and miracles have taken place.

In reporting to the annual Burton Academy constituency both Dr. Randy Gilliam, principal of Burton Elementary School, and John Hopps, principal of Burton Academy, cited incidences during the past year that had been a positive influence on the student body.

Elementary school leadership has worked hard to bring about additions to the school program that enrich the curriculum. These include teaching Spanish in the elementary grades; a gymnastics program which has been popular even though it is taught before school hours; a computer keyboarding program involving grade 4; and a drug awareness program, "DARE", for grades 6, 8 and 9.

When the need was presented to the elementary student association and eighth-grade president, Blake Adams, for grades 5-8 to raise money for the muscular dystrophy Math-A-Thon, the association allocated \$125 of their S.A. funds, which had been earmarked for talent show prize money, to the muscular dystrophy drive instead. Because of student leadership, the Burton students were able



Traci Simpson, class president for the 1996 graduating class at Burton Academy, is a commended National Merit Scholar and co-valedictorian. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who and received the Presidential Academic Fitness Award. She has been offered scholarships to independent colleges and Texas colleges and universities.



Bethany Battles, now almost completely recovered from her unfortunate accident.

Hospital and put on dialysis. The mother was told that since she was unconscious it was not known whether she would ever come around and that there



Jason Renken and Ryan Long, two of Burton's four-year graduates.

was the possibility of her having irreparable brain damage.

The 12 days Bethany was in hospital, Burton students, along with her parents, prayed for a full recovery. Today she looks like any other kindergarten student and is expected to live a normal life even though her kidneys are not yet functioning fully. "This experience," relates Gilliam, "did something good for the school."

As part of the academy report, Principal Hopps called on two four-year academy seniors, Jason Renken and Ryan Long, who spoke proudly of what the school had meant to them. Hopps also paid tribute to the teachers who have performed well both within and without the classroom. Many of the students have scored very well on achievement profiles.

But the finale for the year was the spring week of prayer. Youth pastor Keith Gray from Burleson had told the students at the beginning of the week that he would have an altar call. On Friday, as he made the call, about 150 students rose and walked to the front of the church. Many teachers were moved to tears. "These young people are very special, and that's why I'm here at Burton Academy," were Principal Hopps closing remarks.

*Sandra Cole
Communication Leader
Burton Adventist Academy*



Burton Elementary School student association officers for grades five through eight are back row from left: Travis Simpson, Damon Gilliam, Mary Frances Spring, Rosario Hernandez and Blake Adams. Front Row from left: Justin Hansen, Laurel Walker, Lauren DeLong, Johnny Hopps and Gabriel Wade. Photo: Sandra Cole



Three years ago at the initiative of the Ozark Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Linda Aalborg, the Ozark Academy students joined the "big brother" and "big sister" program where they were paired up with a kindergarten from across the street. To make this appear "official," each child was given an adoption certificate on which



Benton Robinson with his "big sister," Tammy Jones, at the Christmas party.

were the names of their "big brother" and/or "big sister."

Once a week half the class would go on Tuesday and the other half on Thursday to eat with their older siblings at the academy. And then before returning to their classroom, they would have fun together on the playground. While some academy students have had a few scheduling problems, the program has run very smoothly and become so popular that it was expanded to include first graders this past year.

Tammy Jones, an academy student from Tulsa, said she joined the program because she "loves children, and this is a nice way to be around youngsters when there aren't many around the academy."

Every year the participants look forward to the annual Christmas party. Each child



Burton Adventist Academy's 1996 graduation class.

buys a gift for their "big brother" or "big sister" and the children get gifts in return. There are balloons, candy, lots of games and wholesome fun.

It is probably because of the persistence and perseverance of Linda Aalborg that this program has been so well accepted. She has encouraged parents of her kindergartners to invite the "big brother" or "big sister" home on occasion to give them a break from the academy. It has helped form a close bond between the children and youth as they have shared time together. Some close relationships have been established which have continued through the years. One student from the first year's program, who has now gone on to college, still writes to his "little brother."

*Charlotte Robinson
Gentry Communication
Leader*

**We learned that
God will bless
when we
persevere**



From its humble beginnings on South 14th Street to its

present location at 51000 Osborne Avenue, the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church School has survived 48 years of operation. It is now fully accredited. The 1996 eighth grade class share their thoughts about their school.

"We learned how to communicate with each other, and I liked the environment, the teachers and how they worked with us. If we had a problem we could always go to one of them. All of us will have a Christian background when we leave this school and I'm going to miss that," says Ashley.

Clyde says, "I liked my eighth grade friends and other schoolmates. I liked my teacher because he wants us to learn and to become somebody. Our principal, Mrs. Seales, is the best."

And Robert's comments are that "I liked the good environment, understanding teachers who can be counted on. They are patient with us. I also liked sharing my faith with my fellow Christians."

For the above reasons and more, Berean Church is proud to be able to operate its church school and to influence the lives of children and youth, some of whom are non-members.

Margaret B. Lawrence



Baton Rouge Berean church school students from left: Cody Redditt, principal Cherrie Seales, Ashley Sterling, Landrick Wilson, Eric Slaughter, and Robert Landry, Jr.

Excellence Has Its Rewards

Once again this year four excellent teachers were selected to receive the Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award. Nominations are sent from pastors, parents, and co-workers. These nominations contain four to ten pages of supporting statements and information about each teacher.

A committee of educators reviews the nominations and makes selections based on specific criteria. Teachers must be spiritual, work well with administrators and peers, show concern for students, demonstrate competency in teaching, be involved in church and community and be a full-time, certificated, denominational employee.

The committee this year decided to keep the names of those chosen to receive the award a secret until they were presented. Each Zapara Award winner receives a check for \$1,000.00, an engraved plaque and a certificate.

Teachers from the Southwestern Union Conference who received Zapara Awards this year are:



Dr. Carol Campbell—first grade teacher at Burton Adventist Academy

"I see Miss Campbell as an extremely qualified, gentle, inspirational teacher who treats her students with respect and care. Never have I heard her raise her voice, belittle a student or show favoritism. Her demeanor is steady and reassuring, and students can depend on the fact that she is consistent in her actions and expectations." Sandra Cole

Stan Detweiler—industrial arts, physical education and math teacher at Ozark Adventist Academy

"Stan is a good example of what a Christian teacher should be. His dedication to the Lord is evident in all his contacts. He regularly accepts assignments that are beyond the call of duty. He stimulates enthusiasm for his department by sponsoring student participation in regional workshops, by conducting a road race and by offering a gymnastics class that is open to the community." George Fisher



Patrice Osborne—principal and teacher at Sandia View Jr. Academy

"Her classroom is a beehive of activity. The decorations and bulletin boards are always first class. She is the most prepared and professional teacher I have ever worked with." Mike Gendke

Annette Park—teacher of grades four, five and six at Parkview Adventist Academy

"Annette enjoys teaching. She laughs as well as cries with her children. She can be found praying with them as well as lecturing them to make the most of their lives and give their hearts to the Lord Jesus. Many of her students have been baptized." Beverly Roberts.



The above comments were taken from nominations.

The 1996-97 school year will be the last year for Zapara Awards. Anyone who knows a deserving, qualified teacher who has not yet received the award should contact their local principal or superintendent of schools to get the nomination process started. All nominations will have to be completed by late 1996.



Students who attend Jefferson Adventist Academy will find a Christian environment in which to prepare for college and for life. In addition to the academic college preparatory program, students may choose

vocational training to help fit them for the job market when



Patrice A. Mathis

they leave Jefferson.

Tuition, which includes registration fees and book charges, will be \$395 per month for dorm students and \$295 per month for village students.

Vocational training will be offered in the following areas depending on student enrollment:

Computer skills—data entry, bookkeeping

Horticulture—landscaping, lawn care, pesticide and herbicide application, greenhouse operation

Construction/building trades—framing, roofing, electrical wiring, plumbing

Food service—food preparation, management and sanitation

Certified nurses aide—associated with Pine Hill Terrace Nursing Home

Patrice A. Mathis, Principal



A little more than two years ago the Corrales Church had no school and there was no thought of having one. But as families with small children began moving into the area and joining the church, a few members began to recognize the potential an elementary church school would have for church growth.

The vision grew and took root. Since the Corrales church had never undertaken the task of starting a school

from scratch, a church business meeting was called for February, 1994, to gauge the level of support from the congregation. A "fleece" was laid before the Lord: if by April 1 the church could raise \$15,000 for start-up costs, it would be taken as a sign that the church should proceed. The money was raised three weeks early and a second \$15,000 was donated or pledged by early May.

A newly-formed school board elected Leroy Baca as its chairman and proceeded with the necessary planning. Nearly the entire church embraced the vision of what could be done. By early May, not only had the members given \$30,000, but many indicated a willingness to give of their time and talents to support the new school.

The board hired teachers, not only for their academic qualifications, but also for their concern for the students' spiritual welfare. Patrice Osborne was chosen as principal. Books, desks and chairs were bought; partitions were moved in to create classrooms in the fellowship hall; fences were erected and playground equipment put in place. Selected individuals carried out recruiting.

The school obtained the necessary government licenses and approvals and in August 1994 opened its doors. Forty

What I've Learned in School this Year

"I learned to paint flowers. Next I learned multiplication and division. I really like art because it's fun, and I like math because it's complicated. I learned to spell bigger words than last year, and I learned to do other things like social studies, science, Bible and other things." —Roy Wilkerson, Grade 3

"I have learned how to use a computer and a calculator in math. I learned how to write questions in spelling and how to cooperate with my classmates. I learned how to color inside the line in art. In science I learned that molecules are everywhere. Last and most important of all, I learned in the Bible that Jesus loves me at all times, when I'm good and even when I'm bad. This has been a great year for me." —Nicole Gilmore, 4th grade

"I learned about King Henry the VIII. He had six wives and executed two of them! We learned how to paint and how to make pillows and keepsake boxes for Mother's Day. Today we learned Psalm 23. We learned how to play soccer and other stuff. We learned about how the Olympic Games started and about the first person to go into space. He was a Russian named Yuri Gagarin. We learned about the sphinx in Egypt. We learned about the Civil War and it is amazing. I learned why citizens pay taxes." Tristen Birl, 4th Grade —Bethel SDA Church School, Texarkana



Lisa Camarillo, Patty Osborne and Jason Osborne paint one of the classrooms in the Sandia View Academy administration building.



Hyla Fahsholtz and Mandy Sinks hard at work in SVJA's computer laboratory.

students from pre-school through eighth grade registered.

Soon it became apparent that classroom space was far too small for the expected increase in enrollment for the coming year. As the church prayed and pondered a new plan began to unfold.

Because of low enrollment and financial difficulties it became apparent that Sandia View Academy would not continue as a four-year boarding school the following school year. The Adventist community became concerned about where they would send their young people to school. But then people of vision once again found a solution. Why not move the elementary school into the Sandia View Academy administration building and add grades nine and ten to serve the needs of the Albuquerque community?

Thus it was that early in the summer of 1995 Sandia View Junior Academy (SVJA) was born. Donations continued to come. In addition the school borrowed \$43,00 from the Southwestern Union Conference revolving fund. Volunteers put in hundreds of hours of work to help prepare the building and campus. More books and equipment were purchased, the entire inside of the building was painted and the ceilings lowered. Electrical wiring was installed for a new computer laboratory to make use of the CD ROMs and local area network. Remodeling also included complete renovation

of the restrooms and building and fencing additional playground space. The new school year began with 80 students, including 20 in the ninth and tenth grades. Several parents from outside the Albuquerque area found boarding facilities in Corrales for their youth.

Now with the student count nearing 90, the Corrales church counts its blessings. Church membership has grown. There is a sense of unity and purpose to support the school. Tithe has grown substantially and the church regularly exceeds its budget. The loan from the revolving fund was paid off in just a few months after school started, and it is operating on a sound financial footing. New members have joined the church through baptism.

Sandia View Junior Academy has just completed a successful first year. Corrales church members and SVJA students praise God for what has been accomplished with His help and guidance

Jerry L. Evans

Communication Secretary

My Testimony

I was baptized because I wanted everyone, including Jesus, to know how much I want a relationship with Him, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Every day I want to spend time with Him.

I continue to study with my pastor and have personal devotions every morning. Our family has morning and evening worship. All of this is helping me get closer to God, and it's giving me a better understanding of His plan for my life.

Things that have happened to me prove how real God is. Some of us use a prayer journal. We write down our prayer requests, and then when the prayers are answered we highlight those items. There are so many answered prayers!

I really feel that God called me and brought everything



Sandia View Junior Academy student, Nancy Wilson, the day she was baptized by Pastor Mike Gendke.

together for my baptism. God impressed my family to move from Oregon to New Mexico last year. This made it possible for my grandpa, grandma, aunt, uncle and cousins to come to my baptism. Before we moved last July we attended the Oregon camp meeting, and God impressed my mom to buy a music tape. One of the songs was used at my baptism. It was just perfect.

I want everyone to understand that God needs all of us to help tell others of His love. I want to be one of those who shares that love.

Nancy Wilson, Student

Welcome and "Mabuhay"

To the

First Union-wide Asian Convocation

Southwestern Union Conference

Sponsors: Texas and Texico Conferences

AUGUST 3 and 4, 1996

"Uniting for Christ's Service"

EVANS HALL

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST COLLEGE

Special Speaker

Sabbath, August 3

9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Sabbath Worship Services
12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Fellowship Lunch in Keene church fellowship hall
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Musical Presentations
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Ethic Groups Evangelism Challenge
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	Closing Message
Sundown to Midnight	Gymnasium Activities

Sunday, August 4

Entire Morning	Tennis and Games
Afternoon	Home, Sweet Home!

NOTE:

1. Girls dormitory fee \$15. per room - no linen.
\$17. per room - with linen.
2. Special offering will be received for convocation expenses.
3. Donations for Ethnic Ministries will be accepted through the Southwestern Union.

Southwestern Union

New Women's Ministry Director Is Named



Carla Baker, who serves as administrative assistant to Samuel Green, Southwestern Union executive secretary, and as the *Record* editorial assistant, was elected women's ministry director for the Southwestern Union at the quinquennial session held in Keene, May 21.

Baker is well acquainted with the goals and objectives of women's ministry, since she served as director prior to Nola Horne's appointment four years ago. Union administrators have assured her that her work load at the office will be shifted to accommodate the demands that this new appointment will make on her time.

She has already accepted a number of appointments including two women's retreat which are scheduled for the fall.

Union-wide Prison Ministry to Be Held in Waco Church

Five different workshops dealing with aspects of prison ministries will be held at the Waco Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, July 13, 1996. David Moody, a certified prison chaplain at the Gatesville prisons where 3000 male and 600 female inmates are incarcerated,

tells of exciting opportunities for Christian witnessing.

Since the state of Texas has the second largest prison population in the country, it is important for Christians to learn how to relate to the inmates, but even more important is the need to know how to deal with converted inmates once they leave the prison.

Moody is eager for Seventh-day Adventists to learn how to accept prison converts if and when they visit Adventist churches. Sixty-two inmates have been baptized since September, 1995. This is the result of a concerted effort on the part of dedicated workers who volunteer their time to correct Bible lessons from the Discovery Bible School, from Christian pen pals who correspond with inmates, and from the hundreds and hundreds of Ellen G. White's books, *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy*, which have been distributed in prison.

The five workshops being offered are the following:

New Discovery Bible Schools and Pen Pals

Prison chaplaincy

How to start a prison ministry

Mentoring

Aftercare

Anyone wishing to join this exciting work should plan to attend the workshops in the Waco church which will begin at 2:30 Sabbath afternoon, July 13. For further information call David Moody at 817/865-8828.

CINDY STRAUSS, a 35-year-old, is in the Baylor Center for Restorative Care in Dallas, awaiting a heart and both lung transplant. Members of the Cleburne First Seventh-day Adventist Church have taken on the project of raising the \$50,000 needed for her after care. They have already raised \$12,500. Anyone wishing to help with funds may contact Harold Gentry at 817/641-6933 or fax to 817/556-9929. Cindy would welcome cards and letters of encouragement. Her address is Baylor Center for Restorative Care, 3504 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX 75246

A Wonderful Surprise

Several years ago a woman who became a Seventh-day Adventist while I was working as a conference trust director contacted the trust department with the request to help prepare her estate, not only to care for her family but also her church. A trust and estate plan were developed according to her specifications.



Part of her estate plan was to give her home property to the conference with a "life estate" which provided for her sister to live on the property until she either changed residence or died.

Not long after this, our faithful church member died. After the funeral, the trust representative explained to her sister that she could move into her sister's house and live there as long as she wished. Her only obligation would be to pay the taxes and normal repairs on the property. She was delighted with the arrangement.

About a year later the trust representative stopped to see how things were progressing. He was met at the door with an enthusiastic welcome and a comment from the woman, "I have a surprise for you!"

Then she related how she had become acquainted with her next door neighbor who was a Seventh-day Adventist and how she'd been invited to attend evangelistic meetings at the church. At the close of the meetings this lady was baptized and was now a member of her sister's church. Can you imagine the joy two sisters will have on resurrection morning?

This might never have happened had it not been that her sister had the wisdom to prepare a final estate plan which remembered her sister as well as the Lord's work.

If you should need any help preparing your estate, please contact your local conference trust office.

Harvey J. Byram, Trust Services Director



Camp Yorktown Bay to Host Union-wide Singles Retreat

The weekend of August 30-September 2 has been reserved at Camp Yorktown Bay for a singles retreat sponsored by the Southwestern Union Conference. This annual event will host guest speaker Walter Wright,

SWU vice president and family life director, and vocalist Matt Bittner.

The schedule for this Labor Day weekend includes a number of activities such as a Rook tournament, "The World's Greatest Canoe Race," and "Paddle Boat 500."

More information about this weekend can be obtained by calling 903/832-8069.

Oklahoma

JACK FRANCISCO, CORRESPONDENT

Stillwater Starts Eager Beaver and Adventurer Clubs

The Stillwater church began Eager Beaver and Adventurer Clubs at the end of March under the direction of Philip and Audrey Sandvik. The clubs meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. while the parents attend prayer meeting.

The seven club members range in age from four to eight. Each week they do crafts and learn about Jesus and the Bible through memorization and other activities. The children love their clubs and look forward eagerly to their weekly meeting.

Three of these children are from families who are not Seventh-day Adventists. The church finds this a wonderful way to reach out to the Stillwater community, and it provides a wholesome way for the church members' children to socialize, learn about Jesus and witness to others.

Robin Sagel
Assistant

Communication Secretary

50 Years of Marriage

Wesley and Virginia (Booth) Herber celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception hosted by their four children on December 16, 1995, in Shattuck.

Married in the Shattuck SDA Church parsonage on December 6, 1945, the young couple ex-



Stillwater Eager Beavers and Adventurers work on Mother's Day presents.

pected no one else but the pastor and witnesses to be present at the ceremony, but were surprised on their arrival to find his parents already there.

Many evidences of God's blessing have been with this devoted couple, not only in their 50 years of marriage, but also in the way they are loved and respected by the people of the small town of Shattuck. One hundred and one persons came to the reception to help them celebrate, and their memory book, in two volumes, contained 110 letters from family and friends. *Virginia Burton*



Wesley and Virginia Herber

Bristow Students Present Program on "Bees"

The vesper service at the Bristow church on March 30, was given by the elementary students. The theme was on "Bees"—be active, be not deceived, etc.

Some students gave readings, others recited pieces, and still others had special music. Luke Fisher brought a real beehive and bee hat. This added interest to the program, and if you listened you could hear the bees hum to

the tune of "Hallelujah Chorus".

About 30 people attended the program which was put on by grades one through seven with encouragement from their teacher, Mary Monteleone.

Rocksey Harrington
Communication
Leader

Mission Trip to Panama

Over a year ago, Tulsa church member Bill McClendon began promoting a Maranatha mission trip. At that time he didn't have a clue as

to where it might be, but he felt that the Tulsa church was capable of initiating and carrying through with a mission project of this kind.

As his idea caught hold, enthusiasm increased and efforts were initiated to raise the required \$30,000 for materials. The last few hundred dollars came in while the "missionaries" were in Panama building the church!

Maranatha International was contacted to see where the greatest need was. It turned out to be in Panama. The date was set for March 1996, and fund raising efforts began in earnest. Not only



Students from Bristow Junior Academy school who presented a vesper program on the Bees are, back row from left: Jordan Johns, David Gentry, Luke Fisher, Jennifer Johns, Elisa Fisher and Tuskanian Inlaw. Front row from left: Allyson Fisher, Emily Fisher and Alex Weber.



Friends and members of the Tulsa church who went to build a church in Panama.

was it necessary for the church to come up with \$30,000, but each person going was responsible for their own air fare. In addition, it was necessary to get immunizations and passports, to make arrangements for vacation time or be away from personally-owned businesses. It was felt that

an interpreter would be very useful, since most of the people they would meet would be Spanish-speaking.

Jane Brazell, a Sand Springs member, determined to go on the trip and took a course in conversational Spanish so she could talk to the natives. All year

long she practiced what she had learned in class.

Val Zuniga, a member of Cincinnati Hills church in Tulsa who speaks fluent Spanish, reports that one of his greatest joys was using his Spanish in vacation Bible school and watching children's eyes light up as they

heard stories about the creation and about Noah's ark.

One retired pastor, Chester Jordan, and his wife Betty, who live in Florida, heard about the trip from a relative in Oklahoma and decided to go along.

Four of those making the trip were students from Tulsa Adventist Academy who gave up their spring break and earned their own air fare. John Huff, a ninth grader, said, "Being in Panama made me feel closer to God . . . I was really sad when I had to leave".

Eighth grader Nathan Davis was part of the sand sifting crew and also helped his father, Dr. Jeff Davis, with the medical outreach work. Chad Ferguson, a tenth grader, said, "It felt good that we were able to help someone else and actually be in the mission field." Seventh grader Cristi Martin carried heavy cement blocks and applied mortar, ran errands and helped with the VBS. Cristi said "I realized that I should not complain as much." Their principal, Jerry McHenry, and wife Connie, a registered nurse, also went along. The McHenrys are Tulsa members.

What do you do with your old eyeglasses when you get new ones? Oklahoma church members sent theirs to Panama with the group, and a Nowata mem-



When God sent shade to protect the roofers from the burning sun, they were able to complete the roof before sundown Friday night.

ber, Dr. Lowell Meister, reports that about 200 pairs are now in good use at Teca, Panama.

After working on construction all day, Erin McBride, Glenda Pifer and others held a vacation Bible school in the evening. Someone has reported that Glenda, who speaks no Spanish but would talk to the children in English just as if they understood, was so well liked that the children would follow her around like puppies! She loves kids, and they know it!

It was so hot on the final day of construction that the sheet metal roofing could not be handled easily. Realizing how little time was left to finish before sundown Friday night, a prayer meeting was held. The Lord hid the sun behind some clouds and sent a cooling rain which fell all around except at the construction site, and the roof was on before sunset! Tom Huff, construction foreman from Tulsa church, breathed a huge sigh of relief as the last piece of roofing material went on the building.

Tulsa pastor Sherman McCormick was impressed by the local people's generosity, who, in spite of their limited resources, brought coconuts and fruit every day for the workers. His greatest thrill came on Sabbath as he baptized two in the new church sanctuary.

Tulsa member Linda Hollifield says, "The greatest vacation I've ever had was working with Maranatha in Teca, Panama, building a church." Asked if she would do it again, she says "Yes, in a heartbeat I'd be ready to leave."

During that week of work, the cement block walls were built, leaving openings for the doors and windows to be installed later by others. A stucco finish inside and out will be applied by local Panamanian workers.

Bill McClendon's dream has become a reality. He says, "This last March I had the opportunity to watch my church make a difference in the mission field of Panama. We were there for one purpose, to serve our brothers and sisters." Only days before, the SDA church was one of the poorest buildings in town. "We had the privilege of dedicating the nicest building in the community to God's glory." The new

church building will provide opportunities for members to do evangelism that they had only dreamed of before.

Others on the trip were: Wes Gordon, Arletta Huff, Glenna Huff, Harley Huff, Shirlene McClendon, Jay McGehee, Dellene Meister, Charles Permaul, Greg Permaul, Don Pifer, Terry Taylor and Betty Brautigan.

*Jack Wall
Communication Leader*

Enid Raises Funds for VBS

Sunday evening, April 28, was when 66 members and guests met in the Enid Adventist School gym for an evening dinner and entertainment to raise funds for vacation Bible school. The evening's activities were guided by Melissa Stokes, Sabbath school superintendent, who is a freshman at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. The master of ceremonies was Ron Francisco of Pond Creek.

The candlelight dinner carried a sweetheart theme. Taped dinner music was interspersed by vocalists from the local church congregation. The primary division children served as waiters and waitresses.

A musical program following the dinner included numbers from the "Best Kept Secret," a professional barber shop quartet from Enid, as well as solos, duets and a saxophone solo by Pam Cartmell, Pond Creek Hunter High School band director.

The dinner and entertainment provided approximately \$300 for the coming vacation Bible school.

*Harold E. Beltz, Jr.
Public Relations*

Ozark Tumbling Team Visits Muskogee

The Muskogee church enjoyed a program by the tumbling team from Ozark Adventist Academy on Sabbath, April 13. Several students enhanced the worship hour with special music.

Sabbath afternoon, the entire group (22 students, 2 instructors) went with a Muskogee group to Weeleka to give out literature and announce the start



The four men in the barbershop quartet are, from left: David Eck, Dale Gillham, Gayle Krejci and Bob Parks.

of meetings there. They covered the entire town and were back in Muskogee in time to have the vesper service. This was followed by a two-hour demonstration of their talents.

*Curtis Thurber
Communication Leader*

Muskogee Church Celebrates 100th Year

May 18 was a high day for the 144-member Muskogee congregation as they celebrated their 100th year since the church be-

gan. Visitors and former members from several states, including Hawaii, were there to join in the celebration.

Several of the current members have been active in the church for many years, one for 40 years, another for 53, and a third for 63 years. Mildred Hagan, the coordinator of the program, gave a history of the church, recognizing the charter members by using slides and mentioning these people's accomplishments. One charter member has a son who is still active in the church.

*Curtis Thurber
Communication Leader*



Ozark Academy tumbling team

Arkansas-Louisiana

PETER A. KOSTENKO, CORRESPONDENT

Malvern Church Looks Back

When John L. and Lynda Shockey moved from Ohio in 1884 to farm in Arkansas, they found no Seventh-day Adventist church. They also discovered they had moved into an environment that was not too friendly to those who did not worship on Sunday, for the Sunday blue laws were in effect at that time. However, this did not deter them from worshipping in their home on Sabbath.

Although they did not find any other Seventh-day Adventists, they did find a family of Seventh-day Church of God. Each week they would meet together in their homes, and others would join them. Apparently the group grew to a recognizable size, inasmuch as John L. Shockey was sent to the General Conference as a delegate in 1888.

When John died October 11,



Malvern church as it used to be.

1897, his wife Lydia was left to carry on the work. Lydia and her children made many friends in Malvern, and some of them joined with them for Sabbath services.

A number of the believers felt the need to have a church building in which to worship. Lydia was the first to give a donation; then others began visiting businesses in the Malvern and the surrounding area to ask for donations. Some gave building

materials, and some gave money. Property was obtained at 402 Hot Springs Street in Malvern, and construction began in June, 1925.

A joyful celebration was held June 26, 1926, when the group was organized into the Malvern Seventh-day Adventist Church. On that day 12 charter members entered their names on the roster in their new little white church. It is interesting to note that the conference president, H.M.J. Richards (father of H.M.S. Richards who was founder of the Voice of Prophecy), and Isaac Baker, the local pastor, presided on that day.

The little white church at 402 Hot Springs Street served the congregation for approximately 60 years. It has now been replaced with a new brick building on an 11-acre tract located in the northern suburbs of

Malvern. Recently the congregation added another wing which also houses a church school.

Martin Shain, a retired minister living in Hot Springs, Ark., commutes to Malvern each week to minister to some of the same people he pastored 43 years ago.

Leora Cate

Communication Leader

Note: Excerpts taken from a "History of the SDA Church in Malvern."



Malvern church as it looks today.

Bogalusa Celebrates 25 Years

The Bogalusa, La. church recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The specially planned Sabbath service March 9, 1996, included a church dedication service in the afternoon. The newly renovated church was filled to capacity with regular members, former members, and many friends who came to share the joy of this occasion.

The church had its beginnings in the 1960s as a branch Sabbath school meeting in private homes. Later, Jim Griffin, pastor of the Hammond district, held evangelistic meetings in

Bogalusa in 1970. At the end of these meetings the small group rented and then purchased a church building in which to hold Sabbath services. Alvin Wilson was called to Bogalusa as a resident pastor-colporteur. The church was formally organized on March 13, 1971.

A few years later when the church building was sold, the proceeds were sufficient to pay off the mortgage and buy another building. This building, which had first been a motel, was later modified into a private residence and business place to house a liquor store, a beauty parlor and a realty office. The little congregation, under the leadership of Pastor Rick Johnson, made further modifications, enabling the building to be used as a church.

This renovated building served the congregation well. But recently when it became evident that it needed extensive repairs, a friend in another state who heard of the need contributed sufficient funds to renovate the entire building. The sanctuary was enlarged, a new entryway was installed, new floor coverings were put down, and much more. The building took on a com-



Alvin Wilson, first resident pastor of the Bogalusa church, returned for the 25th anniversary celebration to preach from the same pulpit he built 25 years ago. Photo: J. Oster



Dorothy Taylor and Inez Russell, two of the original members, looking over a photograph of the charter members of the Bogalusa church.

pletely new look and was finished in time for the 25th anniversary.

In researching the history of the church, it was discovered that the church had never been dedicated. This made it a very timely occasion for a dedication service. Burnham Rand, a former pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon, and Art Nelson, conference treasurer, led in the act of dedication.

Other participants in the day's events included Pastor Brian Danese, who attended the Bogalusa church during his child-

hood years; Alvin Wilson, who was the first resident pastor, Paul Clark, the pastor who led out in one of the first branch Sabbath schools; and pastors Ray Hickman and Jim Herman, also former pastors.

Jerry Oster, Pastor

McGraw-Hill Publishing Glad Tidings

God seems to save His greatest blessings for those times when the ministers and lay members join hands to reach out for souls. We have just returned from the Philippines where the Voice of Prophecy celebrated its golden anniversary there by sponsoring 130 harvest meetings.

"Target 50,000" was a goal set to have that many people baptized during March and April. It was not just an idle dream. Filipino lay members and pastors gave Bible studies, enrolled people in the VOP Bible lessons, and conducted

small meetings to prepare people for the harvest meetings. It happened all across those 7,000 inhabited islands that make up the Philippines.

The Gentry church targeted Koronadal, a city of about 60,000 on Mindinao, the second largest island. Approximately 300,000 Seventh-day Adventists live on Mindinao, which is three quarters the size of Arkansas. Pastors serve many churches, while lay members take care of details in each church.

We chose Koronadal because Beth McGraw, a Gentry member, came from there. That is where she met and married her husband, Jerry. Later they moved to Bentonville, Arkansas, where

Jerry manages Gold Tie Electronics, his family business. Ever since leaving the Philippines, Beth has had a desire that some of her family members still living in Koronadal would have a chance to accept the message that has meant so much to her. "Target 50,000" seemed to offer the best opportunity.

Beth and Jerry McGraw were accompanied by Glenn and Mary Alice Hill, recently retired from 41 years of ministry, and their daughter, Lucinda Hill, an emergency room physician from California. Each night the meetings included an illustrated health lecture, a short talk about family life, a segment of a video on the life of Jesus in the Cebuano lan-



The McGraw-Hill evangelistic team: (left) Beth and Jerry McGraw, (center) Lucinda Hill, M.D., (right) Mary Alice and Glenn Hill.



Mass baptism on April 13, when 1,104 were baptized in General Santos, Mindinao.



People came in "tricycles" with a special side car designed to hold five or six more people besides the driver. But 15 came in one from a barrio 5 kilometers away. The pastor counted 20 on one tricycle hanging on all sides and up on the roof, besides jamming tight inside.

guage, the evangelistic sermon illustrated by color slides, and lots of rich music by local Filipino choirs, quartets, solos, and illustrated video music with nature background pictures.

Our team stayed with Beth's 87-year-old father, Lucas Cornetta. He is a short man of slight build with simple habits. Each morning he rises early, eats a little rice and takes a tricycle to barrio 6, where he had been giving Bible studies to several people. He made sure they had a way to get to the evening meetings. Twenty of those baptized

came from his efforts. Lulu, which means grandfather in Filipino, started giving Bible studies in 1948. By 1961 he had prepared 386 people for baptism. After that he quit counting.

I asked Lulu why he continued to work so hard at age 87. "I want to be alive to see Jesus return, and I want to help get the word out as far as possible," was his reply.

Four other laymen like Lulu brought their interests to the meetings. At the end of the 18 gospel presentations 137 people were baptized. A mass baptism was held in General Santos on April 13, where 1,104 were baptized in a salt water pool near the Pacific Ocean. It was thrill-

ing to hear everyone sing while the 24 pastors baptized simultaneously on cue. "Shall We Gather at the River" will always bring back memories of that day. I joined in the singing even as I baptized some of the candidates. Our team felt well rewarded for the investment we had made personally to be a part of "Target 50,000."

Glenn Hill, "Re-Tired" Pastor
Writing from Gentry, Arkansas

Texarkana Youth Set Example

The youth of Texarkana are involved in a number of community projects. In just one hour of volunteer time, the Pathfinders



Texarkana youth choir

collected 188 cans of food for community services. Occasionally the Adventurers help the Pathfinders in picking up trash on a quarterly basis as another community service.

Often on Sabbath afternoons these young people make visits to shut-ins. The Adventurers also share their talents by singing in the youth choir led by Cynthia Weitzel and Cheryl Kruger. These young people and their leaders inspire us beyond measure.

Loretta Johnson
Communication Leader

Shreveport Member Celebrates 96th Birthday

Ruby Mae Williams was honored on her 96th birthday by her church family at the Shreveport First church. She is a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist who joined the church at age 18.

Williams remembers the day Ingathering was first introduced to her church. She was a faithful participant in Ingathering through her 94th birthday when walking became a problem.

Ruby Mae Williams

P.A. Kostenko
Communication Secretary

Texas

BARBARA OLIVER, CORRESPONDENT

Houston Churches Welcome New Pastor

The Heritage and Galveston churches welcomed their new pastoral team, John and Phyllis McFarlane, at a dinner on April 20 in the fellowship hall of the Gulfhaven church.

McFarlanes have recently returned from Edinburgh, Scotland, where they served for four years. They are excited about the potential there is for sharing the message of salvation in the Houston-Galveston area.

McFarlane was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1964. For seven years he served



John and Phyllis McFarlane look forward to the challenges they face in the Houston metroplex.

churches in the Washington D.C. area, in Illinois and New Jersey. Then in 1971, McFarlane experienced a true conversion and later through a series of events met

Emilio Knechtle who introduced him to a pastor, Charles Sohlmann, with whom he studied for two and a half years.

He was baptized in April, 1975 and has served as a minister in the Seventh-day Adventist church for the past 21 years. Prior to his appointment in Edinburgh, McFarlane served as ministerial director and P.R.E.A.C.H. coordinator for the Southwestern Union Conference from 1981 to 1991.

His wife, Phyllis, is a trained Bible worker and counselor, and the two of them make up a dedicated ministry team.

Jeann Hagen
Communication Leader

Orville Lee Hayes Is Honored

In appreciation and honor of the support Orville Lee Hayes gave the Radio Board of the Hour of Prophecy as a long-time board member, Texas Conference secretary Larry Moore presented a plaque posthumously to his widow, Laura, at its regular radio board on April 24.

As a regular member of the Hour of Prophecy Radio Board for 12 consecutive years, Hayes demonstrated his loyalty by supporting the work of spreading the gospel over the airwaves. Others in attendance at the presentation were Frank Moore, Texas Conference treasurer; Bob



Laura Hayes (center) receives a plaque from Larry Moore, Texas Conference secretary, in honor of the contributions her husband, Orville Lee Hayes, had made to the Hour of Prophecy. Others present were, from left: Altus Hayes; Frank Moore, Texas Conference treasurer; Bob Thrower, Hour of Prophecy director; and Virginia Hayes.

Thrower, Hour of Prophecy director; and Mr. and Mrs. Altus Hayes.

Hayes owned a hardware and lumber store in Jefferson and was a staunch supporter of Christian education.

Bob Thrower
Hour of Prophecy

Burleson Camp Out Focuses on Family

The second annual family camp out sponsored by Burleson women's ministry was held at Lofers Bend on Lake Whitney, April 19-21. The weekend began



Two of the younger campers who had fun together, David Weber and Devin Bowyer.

Friday evening with men's ministry leading out in sundown worship.

After breakfast Sabbath morning, the adults had Sabbath school and church with Rita Martin as guest speaker, while the children went on a nature walk.

After a spaghetti and salad lunch, campers went down to the lake or went hiking or biking. A short-lived rain and hail storm brought everyone together under a covered picnic area for an early vespers. The youth presented the program.

The evening activities, which included a basketball throw, water balloon toss, and jump rope contests, were organized by

Mickey Seiler and Tim Sellers.

"Women's ministry began the family campout last year in an effort to bring church families together," said Jackie Bowyer, assistant leader.

Approximately 80 campers showed up for the weekend, with an additional 40 attending on Sabbath. Donna Songy-Wilson
Communication Leader

Pleasant Grove Families Rejoice in God's Guidance

Two Adventists, an African-American and an Anglo-American, started door-to-door visitation in their neighborhood the fall of 1993. Thus it was they came upon the apartment of the Meza family. The parents, Jose and Teresa, because of language

After several studies with the Meza family, these two men went to visit another neighborhood where they found Maria Elena Ramirez, a member of the Hispanic church in Pleasant Grove. Since Maria and her husband, Jesus, speak Spanish and are both very active soul-winners, it was suggested that they study with the Meza family. However, the Mezas indicated they had other activities which involved their time, so they were not interested. But the Lord had other plans!

Nearly two years later the Meza family decided to move out of their apartment and buy a house. After looking at several properties, they finally found one they really liked in Pleasant Grove. They moved into this house in October, 1995, and of all the houses they could have bought, this one happened to be next



One of God's miracles was to place these two families next door to each other. As a result of friendship, the Meza family joined the Adventist church. From left are: Osvaldo Rigacci, the pastor; Miguel Angel Meza, Edgar Meza, Teresa Meza, Jose Meza, Jesus Ramirez, Mana Elena Ramirez and daughter, and Ernesto Aeschlimann.

difficulties and not much interest in studying the Bible, suggested these men study with their children who spoke English.

door to the Ramirez family!

About a month later, Maria decided to visit her new neighbors, whom she did not know or supposedly had never spoken to! They soon made friends and later began Bible studies and family worship together.

In April, 1996, the Spanish church in Pleasant Grove held a series of evangelistic meetings with a guest speaker, Ernesto Aeschlimann from California. It was at this time the Mezas accepted the invitation to follow Christ through baptism. The district pastor, Osvaldo Rigacci, baptized the family on April 27. Today they rejoice in their new faith—all because two unidentified Adventists went looking for people who needed to know about Christ.

Osvaldo Rigacci, Pastor

July 1996 / RECORD 21



Church service at the Burleson church campout. Rita Martin, the speaker, stands at the left.

Southwest Region

B. E. WRIGHT, CORRESPONDENT

Sharon Church Holds Annual Women's Day

On February 17, the women of Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church of Hot Springs, Ark. presented their annual women's day program under the leadership of Pat Chinwah, director of women's ministries. The theme for the day was "Women in Touch" (WIT). Amelia Christian Baker of Little Rock delivered the message for the divine worship service. She spoke on the important role women have played and continue to play in God's work, and the necessity of being in touch with ourselves,



Dorothy Logan, women's day coordinator, with guest speaker, Amelia Baker.

with God and with others.

The blessings continued to flow throughout the day as the women of Sharon spoke, sang, and witnessed. Among the participants on the evening program were: Dr. Rheeta Stecker, member of our sister church in Hot Springs, who presented a personality type test using puppets to illustrate her points, and Christi Ann Baldwin, a special guest from the community who performed a praise dance. Women from all walks of life were invited to the program, and the response was surprisingly good. Even before the organization of the women's ministries department, the women at Sharon were known for taking a leadership role and for their efforts in God's vineyard.

Other activities in which the women have played a leading

role include the second annual agape feast held on December 31 to usher in the new year and a senior citizens monthly meeting chaired by Julia Tyrell, which has adopted a needy family of four, furnishing them with a refrigerator and television and providing them with other assistance as needed.

Southwest Region Conference Holds Youth Congress '96

In his opening remarks to those gathered for the Southwest Region Youth Congress '96 Friday afternoon, March 29, James Black, conference youth director, challenged everyone to "Lift the Savior Up," as expressed in the congress theme and in the words of Christ when He declared: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

The workshops covered some very meaningful areas of the young people's lives. These included dealing with gang violence, setting goals and planning ahead, leadership skills, the dangers of MTV, counseling and how to follow Christ. Training was offered for those interested in starting Adventurer, Pathfinder, and AYS clubs.

Friday's vespers was a combination of an energetic song service, soul-stirring music and mind-provoking vesper thoughts by two speakers, Josh Williams, the Voice of Youth speaker, and Eric Thomas, the keynote speaker for the evening.

Following the vespers program, the temperance oratorical contest was held. The participants' orations were on "Substance Abuse and Vegetarianism." The first place winner was Carmen Robinson of Houston's Fondren Southwest SDA Worship Center; the second place winner was Ketora Reed of the New Orleans Westbank Church; and the third place winner was JoAnn Vallantyne of Little Rock's Shiloh SDA Church.

The Pathfinder clubs of the conference participated in the temperance poster contest. The



Eric Thomas was one of the two evening speakers at the youth congress.

first place winner was Houston's Hebron club and the runner-up was New Orleans Ephesus' Pathfinders. Congratulations are in order for all clubs that participated in this event.

Sabbath morning began with the Jubilee I Power Hour. This was an early morning devotional service for the youth featuring E. V. Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee as speaker.

Jubilee II which followed was a musical study on the life of Christ. The narrator for this musical vignette was Jonathan McNorton of the City Temple

SDA Church, Dallas.

The divine worship hour began with the posting of the colors by the Pathfinders color guard as they responded to the commands of Rogers Johnson, Pathfinder coordinator of the Southwest Region Conference. Joshua Brown then gave the vast assembly a call to worship and praise of our heavenly father.

Greetings and a welcome to the youth of Southwest were given by Robert Lister, president of the Southwest Region Conference; Billy Wright, conference secretary; Ted Brown, conference treasurer; James Black, conference youth ministries director; Gwen Moore, president of the Ark-La-Tex Federation; and Willie Lee, representing host pastors; as well as representatives from the mayor's and governor's offices.

The morning speakers were Temica Witherspoon, Voice of Youth speaker, and Roderick Ezly, a pastor of the Southeastern Conference with headquarters in Orlando, Florida. Their thoughts centered on the theme "Lift Up Jesus."

Afternoon activities included the Pathfinder Parade and Anti-Drug Rally. The parade began on the campus of Philander Smith College, one of the long-standing



Women of Bethesda church find joy preparing food baskets for those in need.



Youth stand in front of the Little Rock Central High School holding up their "Jesus Is the Answer" banner.

black colleges of America located in the heart of Little Rock. The march ended on the steps of historic Central High School. Ministers, youth, parents, grandparents, and Pathfinders all marched in union to send a message to the community that this group is against gang violence and drug use. "Down with drugs, away with gangs, up with Jesus" was the slogan expressed verbally as they marched along holding temperance posters and banners the Pathfinder clubs had created.

At the close of several motivational speeches by leaders and pastors, the youth were led in a chant by Billy Wright from the high school steps. "I am somebody," he thundered into a microphone to the repeat chorus of the crowd. "I am God's child. And because I am somebody, I won't use drugs. And because I am somebody, I won't use alcohol. And because I am somebody, I won't use cigarettes. And because I am somebody, I will not let my body be used by a young boy, a young man, a young girl, a young lady or anybody if it is illicit sex."

Conference leaders want people to get involved in their communities. "With God's help, we're going to reclaim our streets," said James Black, youth ministries director for the Southwest Region Conference.

*Communication Department
Southwest Region Conference*



The three winners of the oratorical contest are Carmen Robinson, first place; Ketora Reed, second place; and JoAnn Vallentyne, third place.

SWR Holds 16th Annual Spelling Bee

The sixteenth annual Southwest Region Conference spelling bee was held on Saturday evening, April 21, 1996 at the Bellfort SDA Church in Houston. The schools that participated were Applegate SDA School, Round Rock, Tex; A. R. Carethers

SDA School, Houston, Tex; Berean SDA School, Baton Rouge, La; City Temple Junior Academy, Dallas, Tex; Ephesus Junior Academy, New Orleans, La; and Northside SDA School, Pine Bluff, Ark.

As in the past, the winning school hosts the following year's spelling bee. This year's first place winner, Chavvah Juanice McCoy, is a 1996 eighth grade graduate from the A. R. Carethers SDA School in Houston.

Chavvah, the daughter of Terrell McCoy, currently pastor of the Berean, Baytown and Emmanuel churches, was not only awarded a small trophy for winning first place at her school's spell-down and a larger first place trophy of her own, but she also earned the championship trophy for her school.

The second place winner, Christopher Davis, is a 1996 eighth grade graduate from City Temple

Junior Academy in Dallas. The third place winner, Jerome Miller, was a seventh grader from Northside SDA School in Pine Bluff.

Bethesda Initiates Community-based Program

In considering the many changes taking place in the church neighborhood, it became apparent that a number of issues needed to be addressed and that we, as a church group, needed to be more involved in our community.

Church members decided to heed the admonition found in Isaiah 58:7 "to deal our bread to the hungry." With this in mind, the church began to work on establishing a food pantry through the community services department. We opened our doors to distribute food on April 1, 1995. To date we have served about 840 families.

In addition to satisfying their physical needs, we strive to give them spiritual food as well by including literature to impress on them that God loves them. We're hoping and praying that some day we will see some of these individuals saved in God's kingdom because we at the Bethesda church have taken time to share our blessings with those around us.

*Clair L. Smith
Community Services Director*



Winners of the 1996 spelling bee are, from left: Chavvah McCoy, Christopher Davis and Jerome Miller.

Texico

San Angelo Spanish Church Presents Seminar

Although members of the San Angelo Spanish Church do not have the satellite downlink to receive NET '96 materials, they bought three sets of the videos from NET '95. These are shown in various home groups. They also recently presented Mark Finley's seminar, *Al Encuentro de Jesús*, in the church. At the conclusion of the seminar, diplomas were distributed to those in attendance at a special graduation ceremony.

The Midland Spanish church (a sister church in the district) has also purchased three sets of the Finley NET '95 videos to be

used in a similar manner. They are praying, working and hoping for a bountiful harvest.

Peter Weber, District Pastor

Seminar on Modern-day Events Creates Interest

As the result of the Modern-day Events seminar held at

Crestview Elementary School by Ralph Flores, Texico Conference church ministries director, with the assistance of the Albuquerque Bilingual church, six people joined the church through baptism on April 13, 1996.

The nightly meetings were held on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays March 8-31. Weekends were chosen to accommodate the

working-class attendees. Each evening the presentation focused on current events and how they contribute to the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Jesus' second coming.

Once the meetings were over, Nehemias Basit, church pastor, continued with further Bible studies for two more weeks in the homes of interested people.



The Midland-Odesa church school choir, from left: principal Burdette Millard, Jonathan Cortes, Staci Muse, Isabel Jordan, Yuri Carrasco, Sara Calle, Guadalupe Jordan, Dimitri Oliver, David Weber, Catherine Carvajal and the music teacher, James Lister III.



Pastor Nehemias Basit baptized Rose Trujillo.

An hour-long youth Bible study was well attended.

This evangelistic effort energized the church members and renewed the certainty of the Lord's coming.

Nehemias Basit, Pastor

Abilene Elder Receives Recognition

At Abilene's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night, Irv Clever received a significant award as the "Big Brother of the Year."

Clever is the head elder of the Abilene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Fellow members rejoiced with him in the realization that when one attempts to serve "one of the least of these," others are blessed. In the words of one of the members, "Irv truly walks in the Master's footsteps."

Elaine Martin



Irv Clever



Group who completed the *Al Encuentro de Jesus* Bible course.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME FOR
SIGNS

Southwestern Adventist College

JENELL RUSK, CORRESPONDENT

SAC Holds Graduation Ceremonies

Family, friends and graduates overflowed the Leiske-Pultar gymnasium on Sunday, May 5, as 178 individuals received their degree from Southwestern Adventist College.

Among this year's graduates were two honorary doctoral degree recipients, Mark Finley, speaker and director for the *It Is Written* television broadcast, and Robert Sloan, president and chief executive officer of Baylor University. A master's of education degree was awarded to Evelyn Young. The college also awarded 135 bachelor's degrees and 40 associate's degrees.

Finley was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree as a tribute to his years of service as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and scholar. Throughout his ministry, Finley has served as a pastor, evangelist and administrator. He has authored 19 books, produced 16 videos, and conducted 10 evangelistic seminars. Through his insight and dedication, Finley has reached individuals around the world with the message of God's love and Christ's soon return. He was

the featured speaker during the baccalaureate service, Sabbath, May 4.

Sloan received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree commemorating his service to Christian education as an academic and spiritual leader. Sloan has taught theology at Baylor University, Hardin-Simmons University and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. He has also been an active member of his community, serving as a member, trustee and chair of the school board and as a coach in local sports. He presented the commencement address on Sunday morning. During commencement exercises, Marvin Anderson, president of SAC, presented the Zapara Award for excellence in teaching to Holly Gadd, associate professor and chair of the nursing department. Gadd has taught nursing for 12 years, the last three at SAC. The award is a reflection of her dedication to the students, the nursing department, and the college.

"Holly is skilled in both classroom instruction and administration," said Anderson. "We're privileged to have her at SAC, because her positive attitude and Christian example consistently shine through in her interaction with students and colleagues."

The class of 1996 includes 19 second and third generation graduates and one fourth generation graduate. Four of this year's seniors are children of faculty members, and one senior is the spouse of a faculty member. The class also included four married couples and seven sets of siblings.

Jenell Eli Rusk

Students and Keene Residents Visit Romania

Spring Break. For college students, those two words are synonymous with lying on the beach, skiing down the slopes, or sleeping until noon. For 36 Southwestern Adventist College students, faculty, and community members, this year's spring break was just the opposite. Their vacation was spent working in the city of Tirgu-Mures, Romania. They went to help construct a church for the Romanian people, conduct health seminars, and teach English.

"We went there with the intention of building up the people of Tg. Mures. Instead, they built us up," said Kammy Williams, freshman at SAC and member of the group that returned March 19.

The main purpose of the mission was to help complete a much needed Seventh-day Adventist church. But when the group arrived in Tg. Mures, they were greeted with below-freezing temperatures. The Romanian church members had tried to lay the foundation and erect walls for weeks, but the unusually cold weather made this impossible.

For nearly a week after the SAC group arrived, workmen continued their attempts to build the church. However, the group finally decided it was time to alter their mission.

Bill Kilgore, associate professor of religion at SAC and leader of the Romanian trip, reminded the group that this project was a combination of three elements: the bricks and mortar, the people of Tg. Mures, and the people in the group. They decided that

since building with brick and mortar was out of the question, they would focus on building up the congregation.

"We built a church of people instead of bricks," said Tom Lemon, SAC freshman.

With their new mission in mind, the group started vacation Bible school classes for the children of Tg. Mures during the early evening. They often had to rely on six- and seven-year-old kids with limited English for interpretation. The meetings were held in two local churches with an average attendance of over 120 children every night.

The group also taught English. Afternoons were spent in the local public schools teaching beginning to advanced English to kindergarten through high school aged students. In the evenings, group members taught English to 150 members of the community in the largest Hungarian Seventh-day Adventist church.

Dr. Stuart Nelson, a physician from Keene, conducted health seminars several nights. These meetings covered the concepts of a healthy diet and the importance of water, proper rest, exercise and sunshine. Dr. Plesa, a Romanian presidential candidate, attended the health seminars several nights along with his wife.

Tg. Mures, in north central Romania, is the fourth largest city in the country and is located 300 miles north of Bucharest. The city is largely an industrial one with several farms located just outside the city limits. Because of this, it was not unusual to see farm animals roaming the streets of downtown Tg. Mures.

The city was described by many in the group as a flashback to the 1940's, not only because of the old cars and buildings, but because of the Norman Rockwell feeling of the city and its people.

"It was really a combination of the old and the new," said David Tanksley, Keene resident and mission cook. "We often saw horse-drawn carriages and livestock headed to market alongside tiny European cars."



Southwestern Adventist College graduation exercises, May 3-5, featured a baccalaureate address by Mark Finley, speaker and director of *It Is Written*, and a commencement address by Robert Sloan, president of Baylor University. Both men received honorary doctoral degrees from SAC. Pictured from left are: Max Trevino, chair of SAC board of trustees; Finley, Sloan, and Marvin Anderson, SAC president. Photo: Tobe Watts



Jennifer Gnadt (third from left), a senior social work major at Southwestern Adventist College, taught Romanian children about God's love during daily vacation Bible school classes. Sixteen SAC students were among the group which spent spring break working with and teaching the people of Romania. Photo: Tobe Watts

Although very few Romanians spoke English, and none of the Americans spoke Romanian or Hungarian, that didn't stop friendships from forming. "It's amazing how much you can communicate without any words. We met these people as strangers, left as friends, and didn't exchange a word in the process,"

said Kilgore.

Since interpreters were rare, the main forms of communication were smiles, charades and hand motions. "We did a lot of smiling and nodding," said Williams. "Once I smiled and nodded in answer to a question I didn't understand, and it turns out the guy was proposing!"

On one of their days off the group visited a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school. Since the government pays for everything but room and board, tuition at the school was only \$270 a year. However, in a country where the average family only earns about \$40-50 a month, this is often more than they can afford. On the bus ride home, the group decided to collect whatever loose change they had left to see if they might have enough to sponsor a child through a year of school. When the money was gathered and counted, they had raised over \$600. With this money they will sponsor a boy and a girl through the upcoming school year.

The day the group left Tg. Mures, the streets were packed with well-wishers wanting to say goodbye. The crowd became so large that the city was forced to close off a street to make the group's departure possible. Tokens of friendship, teary goodbyes, and hugs flowed freely between the people of Tg. Mures and the group before the bus departed for home.



Joshua Stumph, a student at Southwestern Adventist College, who carried the Olympic torch on the run through Fort Worth.

"I don't think we'll ever really understand what, if any, impact we had on the Romanian people," said Lemon, "but they definitely changed me." Kristin Netteburg
Junior Corporate
Communication Major

Announcements

Pine Springs Ranch Reunion

Pine Springs Ranch Summer Camp is planning a reunion Aug. 9-11, 1996 for the 35th anniversary. All former directors, staff and campers are invited. For information call 800-525-6496.

Help for Parents of Homosexuals

Most parents who have a son or daughter who is homosexual feel isolated. They feel there is no one they can talk to about it. Because of the response to her book, *My Son, Beloved Stranger*, author Kate McLaughlin has started a newsletter for parents called *Someone to Talk to*. It will be a forum where parents or other relatives can share their stories, feelings, questions and helpful answers they have found. If you or someone you know would like to receive this newsletter, which will be mailed in a plain envelope, please send your name and address to: Kate McLaughlin, PO Box 13354, Mill Creek, WA 98082-1354. Subscription price for the quarterly newsletter is \$3.00 per year.

Singles to Hold Conference

The National Single Adult Conference will be held July 17-24, 1996 at Southern College, Collegedale, TN. For brochure and more information contact: Adventist Singles Ministries, 4467 King Springs Road, Smyrna, GA 30082; phone 770-434-5111.

Family Life International Conferences

The 22nd annual Family Life International conference is scheduled for Aug. 5-12, 1996 on the campus of Andrews University. A second conference is set for Aug. 19-26 at Caribbean Union College in Trinidad. Three modules are being offered: Family Law and Public Policy, Family Ethics, and Family Resource Management. Another exciting FLI program is being arranged for pastors, teachers, counselors and students who are working toward qualification as a Certified Family Life Educator, for those who are already CFLE certified, or for parents and couples who want to enrich their own family relationships. Contact Family Life International at Andrews for information: 616-471-6366; fax 616-471-6374; e-mail (millie@andrews.edu) or mail to FLI, Room 214, Bell Hall, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104.

Dodge Center to Celebrate 125th Anniversary

The Dodge Center, MN church plans commemoration services for its 125th anniversary on Aug. 30-31, 1996. Former pastors, teachers, members and friends are asked to contact either Mrs Robert Christenson, Rt 1, Box 55, Dodge Center, MN 55027-9708, phone 507-374-2433. E-mail EleanoreMn@aol.com or Marge McNeilus, fax 507-374-6072.

Forest Lake Academy Needs Addresses

The class of 1947 is planning its 50th reunion in 1997. We need current addresses and/or telephone numbers of our classmates. Please send information to: Alumni Office, Forest Lake Academy, 3909 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703.

Singles Announce Mission Outreach

Oct. 21-Nov. 8, 1996, Adventist Singles Ministries will sponsor an international mission outreach in Mindo, Ecuador. We will be working with Wayne Dull in evangelistic meetings and the construction of a church. Carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers, general laborers, cooks, musical talent and translators are needed. Come and enjoy the rich rewards of a great mission project near the equator, beautiful scenery, lots of exotic birds and lush rain forests. Call Lorraine Hansen at 704-697-2409 for more information.

Addresses Needed

The Denton, TX, church has lost contact with the following members: Bob McClanahan, Penny Wilson Mims, Rosa Rodriguez, Grant Tucker, Jean Weir. If you have information concerning the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please contact the Denton church clerk, Corinne Sadau, Route 2, Box 1620, Sanger, TX 76266.

Harris Pine Mills/Pendleton Church Homecoming

A Harris Pine Mills "Everywhere USA" and Pendleton church homecoming for all former employees of Harris Pine Mills and former and current members of the Pendleton church, is being planned for Sept. 14-15, 1996 in Pendleton, OR. Guest speaker will be Jere Patzer, president of the North Pacific Union Conference. Contact Jim Wells at 541-276-0172 or the church office at 541-276-0882.

Out of Print Book Needed

If you have the book *Facts of Faith* by Christian Anderson, published by Southern Publishing, please call Howard Conley at 817-446-0785. He is anxious to acquire a copy.

Singles Getaway Planned

Adventist Singles Ministries announces the National Single Adult Camp, Camp Mivoden, Hayden Lake, Idaho, Aug. 26-Sept. 2. Join singles from across North America in water skiing, horseback riding, creative handicrafts, adventures in life classes and many other exciting activities. For information contact: Adventist Singles Ministries, 4467 King Springs Road, Smyrna, GA 30082. Phone 770-434-5111; fax 770-434-2177.

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3 John: 2

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Announcement for Events on Weekend of	Should Be in Local Conference Office by
September 7, 14, 21 and 28	July 19
October 5, 12, 19 and 26	August 16
November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30	September 13

Volume 95, Number 7

July 1996

Sunset Calendar

	July 12	July 19	July 26	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16
Abilene, Texas	8:48	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:30	8:23
Amarillo, Texas	9:03	9:00	8:55	8:49	8:42	8:35
Brownsville, Texas	8:24	8:22	8:19	8:15	8:11	8:05
Dallas, Texas	8:37	8:34	8:30	8:25	8:19	8:12
El Paso, Texas	8:14	8:11	8:07	8:02	7:56	7:49
Fort Worth/Keene, Texas	8:39	8:36	8:32	8:27	8:21	8:14
Galveston/Houston, Texas	8:21	8:19	8:15	8:11	8:05	7:59
Gentry, Arkansas	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22	8:15	8:07
Little Rock, Arkansas	8:24	8:20	8:16	8:10	8:04	7:56
Muskogee, Oklahoma	8:38	8:35	8:30	8:24	8:17	8:09
New Orleans, Louisiana	8:04	8:01	7:57	7:53	7:47	7:40
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	8:47	8:44	8:39	8:33	8:26	8:18
San Antonio, Texas	8:36	8:34	8:30	8:26	8:20	8:13
Santa Fe, New Mexico	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:08	8:01	7:53
Shreveport, Louisiana	8:25	8:22	8:18	8:13	8:06	7:59
Tulsa, Oklahoma	8:42	8:39	8:34	8:28	8:21	8:13



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**(Above) First grader,
Geraldine Baez, of the Conroe
church school is intrigued
with the hedgehog's quills.**

**(Right) "What I Learned in School"
by Roy Wilkerson, Grade 3,
Bethel SDA School, Texarkana**

I learned to do reports, sort of
like this one. In all of these subjects,
I've learned to be kind, careful,
and loving, but most of all
I learned to be a Christian -
hearted person, and to be pleasing
to God.

The End