

# SOUTHWESTERN UNION RECORD

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*God's Vision  
for mission:*

*Is it still clear?*

# GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION

PIONEER MISSIONARIES SACRIFICED  
TO FULFILL THAT VISION

*But is that vision still clear today?*



There was a time in our Adventist community when "mission" meant any place outside of North America and "missionary" meant anyone who left North America, preferably on a long journey by boat, to go somewhere else in the world. And there was some truth to this idea. After all, the work of our church did begin here. And at the outset, our members did reside entirely within the confines of the United States and Canada.

Times have changed, but the residual of these early concepts may not have kept pace with today's reality. Those who grew up in the church, as I did, will remember pioneer missionaries like the Halliwells who built a little boat which they named *Luzeiro*, the Light Bearer, and opened our work on the Amazon river. And God blessed those faithful pioneers.



Alfred C. McClure, North American Division president, at the helm of the *Luziero*.

But we have come a long way since those days. The trend now is not a few universally recognized missionary names like Andrews and Halliwell and Hare, but acronyms and titles like ADRA and AWR and Global Mission. No, we have not abandoned the work of the pioneers. In fact, ADRA has taken over the mission launches on the Amazon. And the new *Luzeiro* boats which ply its waters

contain well equipped medical and dental clinics which regularly provide services on the routes once kept by the first little boat of the Halliwells. Today that boat has been rebuilt and sits in the harbor by its modern replacements.

And what of Adventist World Radio? Begun 25 years ago on one short wave station and 12 hours of broadcast a week, it now virtually spans the globe with multiple

broadcast sites and 144 hours of programming a day in 40 languages. In fact, as we sat in the meetings of the Annual Council this year in San Juan, Costa Rica, overhead, the short wave radio signal of the AWR radio towers broadcast the message of truth to the people of the Caribbean and South American lands. And there in Costa Rica we assembled in the large meeting hall to watch the first broadcast of "Net '96" as its signal went halfway around the globe.

And missionaries are no longer just the product of North Americans going to some other part of the world. Missionaries come from anywhere and everywhere. There are regular full term missionaries, short term mission assignments, volunteer service corps, student missionaries, or mission-minded people at home who witness to the people living next to them—all a part of God's great mission of salvation.

I was amazed to find, during a recent visit to La Paz, Bolivia, that there were more people working on ADRA projects in that one city than I would have believed to be working in all of South America. With some 300 full-time employees and over a thousand volunteers in the "food for work" program, ADRA not only feeds those in desperate need of sustenance, but also aids the local economy and ecology through projects such as the construction of hand-built stone roads, reforestation projects, and clean water and sewage treatment projects.

Perhaps the most moving of all was the "Child Survival" program operated in a nearby suburb of Lima, Peru. But don't think of "suburbs" as ones like we have with clean homes and green lawns. This Lima suburb is spread across the hard scrabble, where people eke out a survival on



Max A. Trevino



Mothers and children in Bolivia come regularly to the ADRA infant nutrition program where they are checked and weighed. They also attend health education classes and are given food supplements such as flour, soymilk, oil, wheat and lentils.

## ABOUT the Cover..

Photo taken of union president Max A. Trevino on a recent trip up the Amazon River on the medical launch *Luziero 1*.

the arid, unirrigated dirt hills which are squeezed between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains. Here children suffer and die from the debilitating effects of malnutrition, dust borne infection and lack of medical care.

Betty and I found tears welling up in our eyes as the ADRA entourage passed along the dirt street which had become a welcoming corridor, lined by hundreds of happy, cheering mothers, holding up their well-scrubbed, healthy babies—a direct tribute to the education,



Betty Trevino with Bolivian child

nourishment and medical supplies available through ADRA.

Here we visited an infant nutrition center where mothers are taught how to feed and care for their families. Mothers meet for three to four hours each week for training. Those who participate in the program receive 25 kilos of flour, soymilk, wheat, oil, and lentils per month. In Peru ADRA is providing food and child care education for over 540,000 children.

Growing up in the church as I did, I remember the visiting missionaries as they traveled on their circuits, reporting back to the churches in North America, telling of their experiences on the front lines of mission service. I recall the snakeskin that Elder Halliwell brought back with him from the jungles of Brazil. And I remember watching in wonder as he unrolled the skin to its full length of over 20 feet. But I never expected to have the privilege of visiting the places where he served far up the Amazon River and discovering firsthand how the work has grown.

At the city of Manaus, where the Halliwells pioneered our work in the jungles of Brazil, we boarded the new *Luzeiro V*, operated by ADRA, and

plied the waters of the Amazon following in the wake of their journeys of bygone years. Periodically as we stopped at various ports on the banks of this great river, we'd recall how as children we'd prayed for these missionaries and given offerings to help their endeavors. We witnessed firsthand how those in need of medical attention and spiritual healing still come to the boat for help, even as they'd done before.

Today there are 18 *Luzeiro* boats plying the waters of the Amazon. And in addition, an amphibious aircraft augments the work done on the boats by providing additional supplies as needed and by evacuating people in need of emergency medical attention. In fact, while docked at one small village on the banks of the Amazon, we met Dr. Joe Kretschmar, a physician from Daytona Beach with his wife and four-year old daughter who was volunteering two weeks of his vacation to provide services on the Amazon, and found a woman suffering from a severe gall bladder attack. Without immediate evacuation to the hospital in Manaus, she would not have lived through the night.

As we loaded the ailing woman into the plane and watched it lift clear of the muddy waters of the Amazon, we thanked God that we could be part of this mission endeavor to give her life, and thus open the way to proclaim the gospel in her village. What of the work of Elder Halliwell and ADRA in the city of Manaus? Has it all been worthwhile? What are the results of all our prayers and offerings for the missionaries and colporteurs in foreign lands?

As we sought answers to these questions, we were confronted with a problem in finding a church in Manaus that would represent the results of these mission endeavors. No, it was not the difficulty of locating a church but rather choosing which one to attend, for there are 150 Seventh-day Adventist churches with 30,000 members who meet every Sabbath morning in the city of Manaus. Indeed, our prayers for the missionaries and the



Woman diagnosed with gall bladder problems is helped onto a sea plane to be transported to the Adventist hospital in Manaus, Brazil.

colporteurs have been answered far beyond our wildest dreams.

No, the work isn't done yet. Not in Manaus or Moscow. Not in New Delhi or New York. Not in mission lands far away, or in the mission land next door to us. The news of God's mighty acts and His answer to our prayers is magnificent—far beyond all we could have hoped for or imagined.



One of the Adventist churches in the Amazon basin of Brazil.

And now today, how are we fitting into God's program? Do we have the same vision that motivated the early missionaries in their endeavors for Christ? Are we willing to put aside our personal desires to see His gospel preached so He can come?

# GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION

## DOES IT MOTIVATE OUR DAILY LIVING?

### Are we keeping that vision clear?

Max A. Trevino

Have you ever known someone who was impolite, ill-tempered, irresponsible or maybe even dishonest, someone who was difficult to deal with? Then you met that person years later and were pleasantly surprised to find how changed they were because of an encounter with Christ? Or perhaps you've heard of a criminal, drug addict or alcoholic whose life has been completely transformed by Christ's love. Or maybe you've recently met someone whose life has been changed because they found the joy of salvation through NET '96.

A genuine encounter with Christ does transform us. It modifies our attitudes, behaviors, and priorities. Life takes on a new and very positive meaning. The search for wealth, popularity, and fame are no longer priorities. They're replaced by humility, service and a commitment to God's cause. The pursuit of earthly glory is replaced by a vision of how to follow and serve Him best.

Most of us have not been rescued from a life of evil living, but we're all caught up in the business of everyday living. This has left us with little time to reflect on God's love and His vision for us. As a result, our priorities change, maybe imperceptibly, but they become influenced by our environment and leave us with a fuzzy or skewed vision.

Today so many who claim to be Christ's followers seem unsure of what they believe or how they should act. The excuse of "legalism" is used to dilute much of what the church stands for. But, when we have a genuine connection with heaven, that "legalism" falls by the way. We will serve God out of

love, not because we have to obey rules and regulations. We will uphold Bible teachings like keeping the Sabbath holy, living modestly and serving unselfishly, because we love Him and want to do what He asks us to do.

No matter what our profession—a stay-at-home-mom, a grandparent, a teacher, a truck driver, an administrator, a pastor, an office or medical worker—everyone who is born again will, empowered by God's grace, be an influence for good on those who surround them. Their mission, like one newly come to Christ, will be tempered by a vision of a Christ-directed life.

Recently I came across a story by R. Daniel Cavazos of the *Dallas Morning News* that illustrates the point I'm trying to make. One of the two physicians mentioned in the story, Dr. Walter Earl Reed, is a man I remember well. He made a lasting impression on me, on his patients and the community. Both physicians served so unselfishly because they were motivated by a love of God—not a love of money. The story, reprinted below, illustrates very well what takes place when selfish desires are replaced by love.

*The face never quite comes into view, but the softness of his hands runs across the memories of my youth.*

*He was a tall man. Looking up at him as a child, I thought there was no end to him as his lean frame arched ever upward.*

*Walter Earl Reed of San Juan went from one patient to the next with a smooth grace even as patients filled the small waiting room of the small office he shared with his nephew and fellow physician, Duane Mock.*

*They were doctors of the old school. They were gentle in their approach, kind and considerate in listening to the ills of their patients. And never did they seem in a hurry. They operated efficiently and professionally, working through their*



*stream of patients one by one with a steady knowledge that all would be served well in their due time. Children especially were touched by their practice of medicine. Of the dozens of times my parents*

*took me to Dr. Reed's office, I can't recall a bad visit or a time I left feeling worse than when I went in.*

*I just remember those healing hands touching, probing and eventually finding what was wrong.*

*The old clinic of Drs. Reed and Mock still stands. I recently peered into the empty building that was their domain of work and joy, and I marvelled at how such a place could grow so quiet when it was filled with the hustle of humanity for so long.*

*Those doctors—pillars in Hildalgo County for decades—are gone now. Dr. Reed died earlier this year at age 91, leaving behind a multitude of memories in those fortunate enough to have crossed his graceful path. Dr. Mock preceded his uncle in death, but not before leaving a similar legacy.*

*They were more than physicians to their communities in the Rio Grande Valley of another era. They practiced a sort of community activism through their medicine, taking in the poor, the disabled, the migrant families.*

*Long before the urbanization and technological wonders of the 1990s, those doctors served as focal points in a small-town Valley, dispensing medicine and advice in equal doses. The services they rendered went beyond the measurements of dollars and cents. They were of the community, and the community was in them.*

*Drs. Reed and Mock were among the best. All in all, the work [they did] now seems staggering. For they not only delivered babies by the thousands, cured colds and flues by the hundreds of thousands and consoled the families of those they couldn't save, but they also were mayors, city commissioners and school board members and served on state boards and commissions...what a history*



those wonderful doctors wrote. *Dallas Morning News*, November 8, 1996.

With every day drawing us nearer to the moment of Jesus' return, how needful it is that the vision our God has for us remains clear and focused. This is not a time to be confused and doubtful. It's not a time to be philosophizing and compromising, but it's a time to invite Christ to trans-

form us into His likeness. Quality time spent in Bible study and prayer will erase those things which cloud the vision God has for us and our church. It's a time to move ahead with a clear purpose and put away those things which are hindering our spiritual growth.

The concept that each of us plays a vital part in God's plan should motivate us continually to greater

and more joyful service. As we begin this new year, my wish for all of us is found in Hebrews 10:22-25 NIV: "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

## GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

**Do we still play a part in it?** \_\_\_\_\_ *Deryl Knutson*

Living in this land of plenty where the resources and commodities for daily living are in abundance, we do not often stop to consider their source or to thank God for His bountiful provisions. Imagine living in a land where the store shelves are empty much of the time, or where water, food, fuel, and building supplies are rationed.

Probably all of us have seen what happens when a disaster befalls an area, but few of us give thought to living without these everyday resources until we find ourselves in a catastrophic situation.

What about our time, talents, and money? Do we consider these as blessings? Looked at from a Christian standpoint, they are, but they do take on a new dimension. Their value changes. The way we spend our time and what we do with our spiritual gifts and money are indicators of where our priorities are. The

greater the value we place on fulfilling God's vision, the greater will be our commitment to using God's blessings to His glory.

My grandfather was an Adventist. He often spoke of doing this or that for "the cause," and giving of his time and means to "the cause" was important to him. It almost sounded like a rebel uprising—to be a part of "the cause." But actually, there is a war going on—a real war. Satan, our arch enemy, is seeking every way he knows to destroy us. And this can be seen by the way some of our churches appear to be more like a social club from Sabbath to Sabbath, rather than a place where we go to gain strength for the battle in which we're involved.

Look with me at some trends that are surfacing within the Adventist Church, and let's ask



ourselves about how clear our vision still is. For the North American Division, our annual membership gain for the years 1981-1990 showed a 2.32 percent increase. It doesn't seem

to be changing; our net growth in 1995 was only a 2.04 percent gain. Surveys tell us that throughout the division only approximately 24 percent of our members are active in witnessing and studying with others.

Our net growth in membership in the Southwestern Union is only slightly better than the North American Division average. In 1995, the net growth in membership in the Southwestern Union was 3.43 percent. We are thankful for the gains, but are we really fulfilling God's vision for His people? Study the trends for our union in the graphs in Figures A (below) and B (page 6). How well do you think we are doing?

### One-Year Membership Comparisons 1994-1995

Union	1994	1995	Gain	% Gain
Atlantic	77,289	77,176	(113)	(0.15) %
Canada	43,840	45,129	1,289	2.94%
Columbia	96,382	98,131	1,749	1.81%
Lake	67,676	68,511	835	1.23%
Mid-America	52,913	53,394	481	0.91%
North Pacific	76,529	78,286	1,757	2.30%
Pacific	188,780	191,850	3,070	1.63%
Southern	159,547	165,199	5,652	3.54%
<b>Southwestern</b>	<b>59,194</b>	<b>61,222</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>3.43%</b>
Division	822,150	838,898	16,748	2.04%

### Gains in Membership, 1994-1995

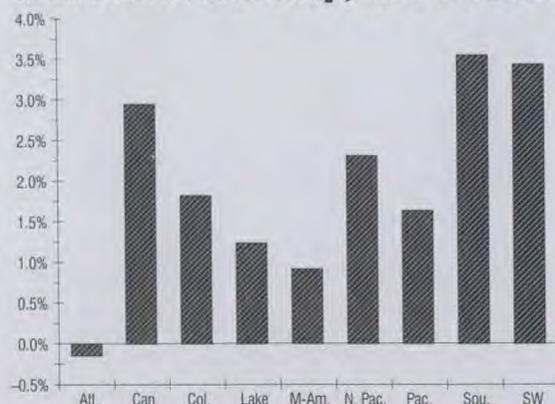


Figure A

It's a privilege to be a part of the Adventist Church in these last days. Another indicator of the clarity of our vision is, "How well do we contribute to the cause with tithes and offerings?" Matthew 6:21 tells us that "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Has our vision remained clear?

Two additional thoughts from Mrs. White in *Our High Calling*, page 197, must be considered. 1) God requires us to give to Him; as we do, He will increase our substance. 2) God will not accept our offerings if we withhold ourselves from Him. As followers of His vision, our time, talents, and money are to be used in His service. May we be willing for God to use us in His service as we get involved in "the cause." *Deryl Knutson is treasurer of the Southwestern Union.*

Tithe 1991-1995						
Union	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Change
Atlantic	\$41,319,403	\$43,863,065	\$42,631,825	\$44,557,167	\$45,609,203	10.4%
Canada	26,409,558	25,228,136	24,179,206	23,282,753	23,438,45	(11.3)%
Columbia	52,999,012	55,676,154	56,858,609	62,158,118	62,252,444	17.5%
Lake	34,966,858	36,718,676	37,958,017	40,515,242	42,319,420	21.0%
Mid-America	27,247,144	28,190,348	28,676,641	29,806,909	31,017,774	13.8%
North Pacific	44,989,657	47,474,057	49,314,357	52,579,146	53,729,697	19.4%
Pacific	100,958,876	101,501,005	101,966,004	106,736,491	105,407,332	4.4%
Southern	72,065,362	78,822,877	82,541,302	90,072,111	94,740,554	31.5%
<b>Southwestern</b>	<b>27,229,831</b>	<b>29,502,885</b>	<b>30,676,807</b>	<b>32,022,878</b>	<b>33,280,570</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Division	\$428,185,701	\$446,977,203	\$454,792,768	\$480,730,815	\$491,795,445	14.9%

Tithe Per Capita						
Union	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Change
Atlantic	\$611.97	\$625.75	\$586.87	\$598.70	\$601.80	(1.66)%
Canada	673.59	620.76	583.66	547.33	540.34	(19.78)%
Columbia	611.83	628.07	626.24	652.37	652.87	6.71%
Lake	533.70	556.15	574.54	605.36	626.76	17.44%
Mid-America	510.22	533.43	544.26	569.18	588.41	15.32%
North Pacific	646.86	670.47	680.77	711.31	712.10	10.09%
Pacific	574.57	563.10	553.28	570.97	560.60	(2.43)%
Southern	529.15	558.85	563.44	595.45	605.46	14.42%
<b>Southwestern</b>	<b>502.04</b>	<b>535.20</b>	<b>541.87</b>	<b>557.76</b>	<b>569.72</b>	<b>13.48%</b>
Division	\$572.47	\$583.91	\$580.50	\$601.26	\$604.82	5.65%

Figure B

## GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION OUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT,

*Is it part of His plan?*

—Rodney Grove

A few years ago there was a hit song entitled "Melancholy Baby" (all right, it was many years ago). I was reminded of that song while watching an old black-and-white movie the other evening. I found myself chuckling and wondering if the song would have been a hit if it had been entitled "Phlegmatic Baby" or "Choleric Baby." I can hear the singer trying to put those words into music now. It just does not have the same appeal. However, though the words may not be as appealing, I am glad there are phlegmatic, choleric and sanguine personalities as well as melancholies in the world.

The different character traits were passed on to

us by our forefathers. Through them we inherited certain strengths and weaknesses. This makes life more interesting and actually enhances relationships. In marriage, where two have become one, the relationship grows when the strengths of each partner complement the weaknesses of the other.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I believe Paul understood the differences in people when he wrote in his dissertation on spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:4 that "There are diversities of gifts..." recognizing that in the church, as in life, individuals are different. However, he hastens to add, "but the same spirit,"



recognizing that just as in marriage there are differences, yet they are complementary. Then he carries the analogy to the body. Verse 14 says, "For the body is not one member,

but many."

When we moved into our house, I put ceiling fans in each of the bedrooms. Unfortunately there wasn't time to install the one in our bedroom, so the box was placed at the foot of our bed. During the night I got up, forgetting about the box. My little toe came in contact with that box and what happened next was amazing. My arms reached out in sympathy to cradle my toe. Since my arms were not long enough, my waist bent slightly and my knee raised the hurting toe to meet the hand half way. The other foot didn't know what to do to help, so it just danced

around, while my eyes welled up with tears. My nose sniffled and my mouth opened for my vocal cords to register their sympathy. Even though it was only my little toe that was hurt, the rest of my body let me know we were all one, vitally linked together and all important.

And so it is with the body of Christ, the church. Every member is important. Every member brings a mix of spiritual gifts that are needed to fulfill the Gospel Commission. And Paul says in verse 11 that these gifts are given by the Spirit to every individual as the Spirit sees fit. Just as I did not choose my chromosomes, I do not choose my spiritual gifts. They are given to me by the Holy Spirit. And just as every part of my physical body is important, so,

likewise, is every spiritual gift in the body of Christ.

Paul found the need to understand this concept so vital that he wrote to several churches in regard to it. In Ephesians 4 he says that the gifts equip us to do ministry. They are given for the purpose of building up the body of Christ, and when all the gifts are joined together and work in unison, the body grows.

I find it interesting that Jesus himself said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

How do we make a positive impact? In the life of the fruit-bearing believer, total commitment to God can be demonstrated by

- maintaining, where possible, a Christian home where the

standards and principles of Christ are both taught and exemplified

- experiencing a life that rejoices in the assurance of salvation
- using the spiritual gifts God has promised each one
- participating in a plan for spiritual growth

Whether we are choleric, sanguine, phlegmatic or melancholy, what is important is how we allow those characteristics to govern our behavior. No matter what our makeup, when Christ comes into the heart, He is able to moderate and subdue those elements which may be an impediment. Total commitment to God makes the difference. Spiritual growth in God's grace will empower and develop characteristics in every type of temperament to his glory.

*Rodney Grove is president of the Oklahoma Conference.*

## GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION IT'S LIVED OUT IN THE LIFE OF EACH CHURCH.

*Does your church fit that vision? — James W. Gilley*

The Gospel Commission indicates growth! Wherever the church is growing, it is alive, and where it is not growing, it is dying. I have never seen a church grow by accident unless it's when a Seventh-day Adventist institution moves to town.

No church ever grows that doesn't want to grow! The pastor and members alike must really want to see new members added to the church and make it an urgent matter of prayer.

**A successful church must have a message.** As a denomination we have the greatest message in the history of the world as found in God's word. It's that of a dying and risen Saviour

who invites everyone to accept salvation through Him, and it's about the very special message for

the end time. This should be enough, but it's not.

**The local congregation must be a safe place** for a new Christian, with an appealing congregation which draws others to Christ. How many times as an evangelist have I had someone say to me, "I believe this message, but I cannot unite with this local church. I simply don't feel at home there."

**What makes one church grow while another dies?** In a nutshell it's spiritual leadership. A dedicated pastoral leader who is able to work in harmony with local lay leaders to develop a plan that is right for their congregation and area will, with God's blessing, have success. A leader is a responsible person who thinks in a progressive manner, has adequate organization and has been empowered by the Holy Spirit to inspire others to action.

**Another important factor is a nucleus of dedicated members,** the kind of people with whom others feel



comfortable. These are people who don't have to run everything, aren't demanding of others and who are well thought of by their neighbors and

friends. A church of complainers, critics and gossipers isn't going to grow (thank the Lord).

**The right "culture" for church growth** is found in a team of good leaders, pastoral and laity, and a group of people who love people, who love the truth of Jesus Christ and believe in the Three Angels' Messages.

**The location of the church is vital.** A number of studies indicate that Seventh-day Adventist churches which are not neighborhood churches but located in out-of-the-way locations do not attract new members. In the business world the axiom, "location, location, location," is very well known for success. The same is true for churches. This means that our churches should be visible from the freeways, highways, main streets, and other thoroughfares, making



them easy to reach. Building a church on some back street or out in the country just because it's free or inexpensive is not the best investment. Quality location is important.

Then there's a need for adequate parking. I've stood outside a church at night during an evangelistic crusade and watched people drive off because they could not find a place to park. Again, a lesson we can learn from the business world (Luke 16:8) is to check out places like Wal-Mart to see how much parking space they have. Some of it is only used once or twice a year, but it's there when they need it.

**The church must be visible.**

Once, on vacation in an unfamiliar city, we searched for an Adventist church. We couldn't find one in the phone book, and none was listed on the church page of the local newspaper or on the motel list. Try as we would, we failed to find a church in that city. Unfortunately, this is far too common. A growing church uses all avenues to let people know where they are and what they have to offer.

**What does the growing church have to offer?** First, it should offer inspiring Biblical preaching. Few churches have ever grown without this! It doesn't mean the preacher has to be a Morris Venden or Dwight Nelson, but it does mean that he

should be energetic, spend much time in communion with His God and enough time in preparing sermons that are of interest and which uplift.

The church should also offer interesting programs. These include programs for children, teens and



adults. Sabbath school classes that include discussion rather than preaching attract and encourage Bible study. And you don't have to be a big church to have these. Attend Wayne Matlock's class in Malvern, Arkansas, or Steve Trelfa's in Jonesboro, Arkansas. They're two entirely different classes, but both are very interesting, and I can tell you about other classes that are attractive.

**A growing church must fill a need.** People should receive a spiritual blessing when they attend. New people will not return out of obliga-

tion and neither will some of our members, but if they receive a blessing and are inspired, you won't be able to keep them away. And word of mouth is still the most powerful advertising.

**A growing church must build a good financial base and teach the Biblical principle of stewardship.** Without funds a church will not fulfill its mission. As one person put it, "no dough, no grow," and another said, "Sending the gospel takes \$; remove the \$ and you have 'ending' the gospel left." A balanced view of Biblical stewardship is a must for a growing church.

**But if you really want to know about church growth,** I would direct you to the book of numbers. No, it's not the book in the

Bible by that name, but rather the book that deals with numbers—numbers of new members, numbers of new converts, numbers of new cities reached—the New Testament book of Acts. That's the greatest document ever written on church growth. It tells of a church with a vision for mission and a spirit of commitment that, if those principles were utilized today, would fill the church once again with eager believers before Christ comes. If not now, when will this happen?

*James Gilley is president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.*

## GOD'S VISION FOR MISSION LEADERSHIP — IT'S A VITAL PART...

*...in fitting into God's vision.* \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Gifford

I can only tell this from memory, so the details may not be exactly correct. You see, it has been over 35 years since I read the story in an old *Youth's Instructor* I found in an abandoned farmhouse near Ozark Academy. An Adventist family had moved and left behind some old books and magazines, including an aged *Youth's Instructor* in which I found a marvelous Abraham Lincoln story.

According to Lora Clement, the editor, Lincoln was campaigning for the Illinois state legislature. He

walked out of Springfield one day, stopping to solicit votes at every homestead. Toward the end of the day, he came to the home of an elderly farmer where he spent a fair amount of time.

Before hitching a ride into town on a returning wagon, Lincoln and his friend stood at the front gate, each whittling on a stick. Abe's knife was dull, so the farmer volunteered his whetstone which Abe used gratefully to sharpen the instrument. Just then a wagon came along, so Abe jumped on and returned to



Springfield. By the time he was elected president, he had forgotten about the knife-sharpening incident and the whetstone.

A year or so into his presidency Lincoln's

secretary notified him that an old man from Illinois, claiming to be his friend, asked to see him. It was the farmer from Illinois who was soon ushered into the president's office.

"Abe Lincoln, you're a liar and a thief," the man shouted.

"Why, how's that?"

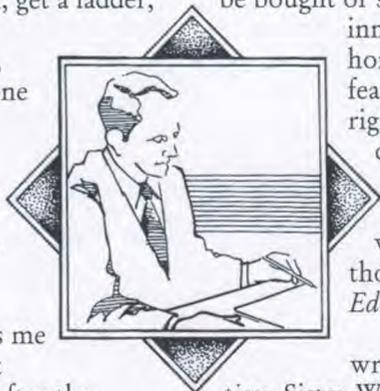
"Twenty years ago you borrowed a whetstone from me and you kept

it. That's why I think you're a liar and thief."

Lincoln thought for a moment, then said, "Friend, if you'll go back to Illinois to your farm, get a ladder, prop it against the gatepost, and climb up, you'll find the whetstone where I laid it."

The man could hardly wait to get back to Illinois, and when he did, he found the whetstone intact after all these years.

That story inspires me to always be upright and to tell the truth. After the Vietnam War and Watergate and our own Davenport scandal, it was very difficult to be a leader in the Adventist Church. Our members just didn't trust leadership. Long ago I came to the conclusion that leadership calls for total commitment, especially in setting the right example and telling the truth, always, even when it hurts.



In one of her most famous quotations, Ellen White wrote words of instruction to the church: "The greatest want of the world today is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." *Education*, page 57

In 1903 when she wrote the book, *Education*, Sister White wasn't concerned about inclusive gender. Today we are. Were she writing today, she would undoubtedly write, "The greatest want of the world today is the want of true Christians—Christians who will not be bought or sold, Christians who in their inmost souls are true and honest..." She has much to say about leaders and their need for

integrity and honesty, and, whether male or female, the requirement is the same. As leaders we cannot motivate others unless others trust us, and trust can only be developed when we are truthful and free of deception.

Stephen R. Covey, the acclaimed author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Principle-Centered Leadership*, and other noted books, suggests that principle-centered leadership is practiced on four levels:

- 1) **personal**, that is, my relationship with myself
- 2) **interpersonal**, my relationship with others
- 3) **managerial**, my responsibility to get a job done with others, and
- 4) **organizational**, my need to work through others to organize them.

Covey stresses the necessity of trust, particularly on levels 1 and 2.

I agree with Covey. I must trust myself. If I know I'm a scalawag, I surely can't get others to trust me. In the interpersonal arena, I must be an example of trust, showing consideration and cooperation so others will trust me as a leader. It is trust that builds this church and distrust that breaks it down. We trust Jesus Christ to do what He says He will and when we trust Him, we should so live that others will trust us.

Total commitment to God, following the vision He has given us of leading others, means that at every level, from the General Conference to the local church, leaders are to be God's people, fully dedicated to Him, to be guided by His wisdom and subject to His will. Leaders are to have a commitment to the spiritual objectives and plans for fulfilling God's vision on earth. The personal example of a leader influences others, either to greater confidence in fulfilling the mission of the church or to casting doubt and cynicism.

God needs leaders who will not be bought or sold, who are true and honest, and who can be trusted—leaders with a vision to help finish the work here on earth and to enable His followers to be gathered home.

*Steve Gifford is president of the Texas Conference.*

## Ukrainians say thank you • • • • •

It is our duty and pleasure to thank you for your help in purchasing property for the Ukrainian Seminary. It has become a reality, thanks to your generous donations.

We are happy to inform you that the Seventh-day Adventist Church now holds the full title for the property and land. We are sorry that we couldn't inform you about it earlier. That's because we have just now finished the process of purchasing the property. We can see that God miraculously opened up some very special possibilities for us.

During the last few months we have provided a special two-month training session for 95 of our pastors, nine seminars for different church departments, Pathfinder club meetings, youth music festival and the Congress of the Central Conference. Every Sunday our doctors provide a special program for people who depend on drugs and alcohol in our medical center on our campus.

The seminary has possibilities to now start educational programs, such as religion, secretarial science, business, English, computer and agricultural classes. The Ministry of Education in Ukraine is ready to register these programs. In this short letter of thanks, we can't begin to describe all the avenues which have opened for us, but we will prepare a special booklet about this project which we will send to all our sponsors. We cannot express in words our gratitude and joy for the strong financial support we received from you. But even with the strong support from the United States and Canada we still have a shortfall of \$65,000 US which we borrowed, and of course, we now have to pay it back.

On behalf of the Ukrainian Union we greatly appreciate your generous financial support, which will help to finish God's work in our country. Most importantly, the national evangelists will receive the necessary training. It is with all our hearts that we thank you for support, as well as for your concern and understanding of our spiritual needs. May God richly bless you. We send our kindest regards and warm Christian greetings.

Anatoli Zhalovago, Ministerial Secretary

## Malvern youth participate in Operation Care

The teen-young adult Sabbath school class of Malvern, along with their teacher Becky Tully, were recently part of "Operation Care," an annual event designed to help homeless and underprivileged people in central Arkansas. "Operation Care" is sponsored by the Arkansas National Guard, Baptist Medical Center and other community service groups. This year they served over 3,000 individuals by providing food, clothing, medical and dental care, and community referrals.

The Malvern group of eight teenagers and two adult sponsors held an automobile "window washing" Sunday afternoon in cooperation with the local Wal-Mart store. Working for donations only, the teens were able to earn nearly \$170 in slightly more than two hours. With these funds, the youth group purchased 240 pairs of men's socks to be handed out to the needy by the "Operation Care" volunteers.

*Leora Cate, Communication Secretary  
Malvern Church*

## Pathfinders hold annual cardboard boat event

Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers from Texarkana, DeQueen, and Shreveport joined Hope for their third annual cardboard boat race at Beards' Bluff on Millwood Lake for a stab at making a boat from nothing more than cardboard, tape and paint. The making of the boats was no problem, but keeping them afloat was!

The four categories of races included: Pathfinders, Adventurers, Eager Beavers and staff.

DeQueen and Texarkana accepted the challenge and showed up with some nice boats. Some looked like surf boards and some like jet planes, but the question was, "Would they float long enough to get the person aboard, out of the water, around the point, and back to

**Celebrating the first homecoming and 35-year celebration of the West Helena church are some of the charter members, from left: V. O. Schneider, Myrtle Schneider, Montie Jones, Mrs. J. C. Lunsford, Gary Lunsford, J. C. Lunsford and Geraldine Bynum. The church was officially organized on October 14, 1961 with 28 members and V. O. Schneider as pastor.**



Pathfinders getting ready for the cardboard boat race on Millwood Lake.

the shore?" Only two or three boats were lost to the water. All the rest made the trip at least twice.

Approximately 30 people gathered to watch the boat race. Ranger Steve Spicer of the Corps of Engineers watched the race last year and welcomed us to come back each year.

Eager Beavers, ages five years and under, included winners Kylee Meidell from Texarkana, first place; Kyndal Snow from DeQueen, second place. Adventurers, ages six to nine years, included DeQueen's Crystal Salinis, first place, and Charles Snow, second place.

Nine Pathfinders entered the race. Kory Meidell from Texarkana walked away or paddled away with an easy first place win, and Laura Whitley from DeQueen came in second. In the staff race Allen Bills and Frank Meidell from Texarkana were both trying for the gold, while Delmer Cook and Jonathan Baylon were trying to win it for DeQueen. Frank Meidell was the clear winner for first place and Jonathan Baylor beat Delmer Cook by a half boat length for second place. Trophies were

given for first and second place in each of the age groups.

In 1997 the annual event will be the second Sunday in August. If you would like to participate, or would like more information, phone Nancy Hair at (501) 777-6942.

*Nancy Hair, Pathfinder Director  
Hope Church*

## West Helena celebrates 35-year anniversary

Members of the West Helena church held their 35-year anniversary Saturday, October 12. They also celebrated the 80th birthday of the oldest member, Montie Jones.

Those who celebrated the occasion included seven Chamber of Commerce guests and more than 60 members and guests. V.O. Schneider, the first pastor of the church, attended the celebration with his wife, Myrtle, and presented the morning sermon.

The West Helena congregation, which began as a group of 12 in 1956, was organized October 14, 1961, with 28 members.



## Lambert retires after 36 years

Cathy Lambert, third grade teacher at Ozark Elementary School, recently completed 17 years of outstanding teaching ministry at the school, with 36 total years of teaching in Adventist schools. Her teaching career began in 1956 at Orangewood Academy in Garden Grove, Cal.

That school was under construction at the time, and due to a steel workers' strike, there were holes in the walls where windows were to be placed. Lambert took scrap lumber lying around the site to make a couple of classroom tables which were still in use five years later when she was called to Madera School in Madera, Cal. She accepted the challenge to teach grades five to eight with fear and trembling, since she had previously taught lower graders. After teaching upper graders three years she taught grades one



**Cathy Lambert receiving a plaque from Don Hevener, education superintendent, in honor of the 36 years of outstanding teaching she has given to Adventist children.**

through four for an additional five years and was active in Pathfinders at Madera.

Lambert served in the Chowchilla, Cal., school for six years teaching grades one through four before accepting a call to Gentry, Ark., to teach lower grades at Ozark Elementary School in 1978. She remained at Ozark Elementary School for the next 17 years, faithfully ministering to students in the Arkansas-Louisiana

Conference. Cathy was presented with a plaque expressing deep appreciation for her services.

"Any success I've had," Lambert states, "is the result of God's goodness. The sorrows I've experienced have helped keep me humble. I thank God and give Him the glory for the 36 years I've taught. When Jesus comes, my real reward will be those words, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"

*Don Hevener  
Educational Superintendent*

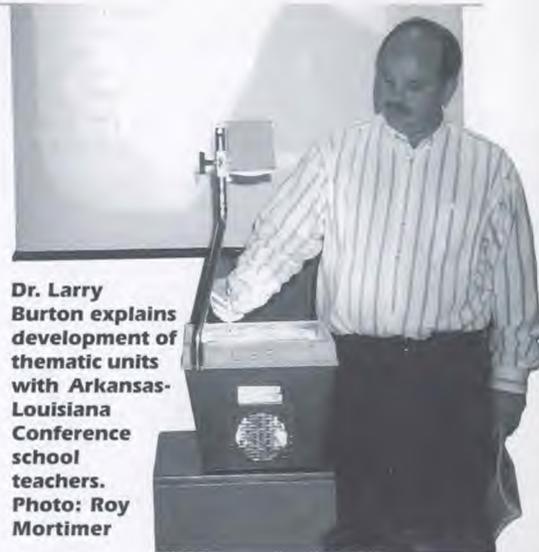
## Teachers convene for annual convention

Too few people in America realize the impact that teachers have on society and on the lives of American children. It is also very possible that too few teachers realize the great impact they have on our children. Probably no person, other than a child's mother, can make a positive difference in a child's life like a dedicated teacher, especially a dedicated Adventist teacher.

Educators have been given an impossible task by society. Teachers are expected to accept all children through mainstream classrooms and somehow motivate each child to work at grade level or above. It doesn't matter what the child's academic potential is, what his emotional state is, or what his self-esteem happens to be, parents expect their child to be average or above. When students working below grade level enter the class, educators are expected to diagnose the problem, develop a strategy to fix the problem, and prove that they have fixed the problem by extensive diagnostic processes.

Our broken, permissive society has given educators a job too large for human intelligence, college degrees, and many years of experience; but not too large for a God who delights to give! The theme for the October, 1996 Arkansas-Louisiana teachers convention was based on the statement from *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 141, "God delights to give. He is full of compassion, and longs to grant the requests of those who come to Him in faith. He gives us that we may minister to others and thus be like Himself." God loves to give

**Betty Gage, Macmillan McGraw Hill representative, demonstrates social studies lesson from new textbooks at the teachers convention. Photo: Roy Mortimer**



**Dr. Larry Burton explains development of thematic units with Arkansas-Louisiana Conference school teachers. Photo: Roy Mortimer**

Adventist teachers answers to help us minister to His needy children! There is hope for students, teachers, and parents who live in the last seconds of this earth's history because God loves to give.

The convention began at Camp Yorktown Bay on Sunday evening with a tasty meal prepared by camp rangers Jim and Carol Crone. The keynote sermon was presented by James Gilley, conference president, who appealed to the teachers to keep "the cross" before their students. Dr. Larry Burton from Andrews University conducted five sessions challenging teachers to stay on the "cutting edge" of educational practices. Betty Gage, a Macmillan McGraw Hill representative, introduced the new math and social studies textbooks and directed teachers to use them effectively in both single grade and multi-grade classrooms.

Dr. Burton also introduced thematic unit strategies and directed the teachers to collectively begin units in small groups, later sharing them with the entire conference teaching staff. Plans have been made to complete the



## ARKANSAS/LOUISIANA

units in small groups during an inservice day.

Doug Walker, Southwestern Union Conference education director, was present to encourage teachers and answer their questions as well as to present a devotional on Tuesday and to inform teachers of the latest Adventist educational trends and challenges.

Stephen Orian, conference secretary, gave the Monday devotional, and Charles Dart, Ozark Adventist Academy principal, presented the Wednesday devotional. Tibor Shelly, conference youth director, and Dianne Jones,

## Announcement:

In March 1997, the members of the Slidell, La. church will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the organization of the church. All former members are invited to attend. If you know of any former members or friends who attended our church, please forward the address to Bobby Teal, 243 Woodcrest, Slidell, LA 70458.

conference treasury representative, were present Wednesday morning to share ideas from their departments and respond to questions from teachers.

This convention had the atmosphere of an old-fashioned family reunion with teachers sharing "war stories" and enjoying each other's company. We believe the three goals for

the convention: spiritual renewal, academic growth and relaxation were met. We left Camp Yorktown Bay at noon on Wednesday with the assurance that God delights to help all of us meet the daily challenges we face in life.

*Don R. Hevener*  
Educational Superintendent

## OKLAHOMA

### Oklahoma youth minister with food drives

During October several Oklahoma Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs served their communities by participating in food drive.

"The Claremore Colts Adventurer Club and Claremore Mustangs Pathfinder Club are on the move and proud of it!" said Adventurer director Debbie Timms. Both groups joined forces to participate in their annual canned food drive on October 19 and 20. They delivered 1,000 bags and collected 1,051 cans of



Oklahoma City Central Adventurers and Pathfinders with the results of their can collecting.

Members of the Claremore Colts Adventurer and Mustangs Pathfinder Clubs enjoyed a record-breaking can collecting food drive this year. Members participating included, back row from left: Edwin Davidson, Clint Ferguson, Amber Tomas and Sheena Brese. Middle from left: Blake Thomas, Andrew Thomas, April McGehee, Diedre Timms, Jammie Hubbard and Kathilee Davidson. Front from left: Del Ray McDonald, Brooke Summers, JaBesko Brese, Devin Timms, Derek Timms, and Kaleb Summers.

food and a \$20 donation. By the end of October, a total of 1,211 cans and \$25 had been received. Pathfinder director Joy Davidson says that their activities were featured in the local newspaper twice in October.

According to Oklahoma City Central Trackers Adventurer director Doug Wilson, on October 27 the Oklahoma City Central Trailblazers

Pathfinder Club and his club together "braved the cold, rain and wind and collected 40 to 50 sacks full of food. We left a very nice thank-you note and a gift, the book *Steps to Christ*, for those who donated to our food drive."

Clubs in Tulsa and Ketchum also collected canned goods in October and several other clubs collected in November. Cash donations were used to purchase fresh produce and food items. All collected items were used to create holiday food baskets for needy families in local communities.

*Teresa Costello  
Oklahoma Conference*

### Shattuck school holds first reunion

The first reunion of Shattuck Junior Academy and church was held on October 11-13, 1996, in Shattuck, OK. More than 240 people from across Oklahoma and 17 other states filled the church pews, choir loft and chairs on Sabbath morning.

The 13-member alumni committee planned a full weekend, with recognition of teachers highlighting the Friday evening program, and recognition of pastors included in the Sabbath morning services.

### Hughes celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Jeaniece and Raymond Hughes, known locally as "Jay" and "Ray," are active members of the Sand Springs church. Jay and Ray are life-long residents of Sand Springs, graduating



Jeaniece and Raymond Hughes

Sabbath afternoon featured a slide presentation of scenes from the building of the school in 1948 and church and school activities through the years. After Sabbath evening vespers, there was a reading and auction of school memorabilia, a film and a game of volleyball.

*Virginia Burton  
Communication  
Secretary*

### Teachers attend annual convention

Wewoka Woods

Adventist Center offered its conference teachers an opportunity to enhance their skills and acquire new methods of inspiring students at this year's teachers convention.

Approximately 20 teachers from eight schools came to prepare for the new school year. Southwestern Union education director Douglas Walker updated the teachers

from high school in 1939 and 1940. Their children and grandchildren recently hosted their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple's children are Connie Hudspeth of Sapulpa, Darla Sharp of Sand Springs and Mary Sharp of Mannford.

*Betty Lewis*

### Pathfinders participate in induction ceremony

The Oklahoma City Central church hosted the Pathfinder and Adventurers induction ceremony November 2. John Flores, director of the Oklahoma City Pathfinder Club, and Doug Wilson, director of Okla-



Douglas Walker, Southwestern Union education director, back left, attending the Oklahoma Conference teachers convention with Noland Brooks, Ferman Mock, Tim Burke, Kathy Lorenz, Phillis Parker, Lee Davidson, Daniel Brooks and Jack Francisco (conference superintendent). Middle from left: Charlotte Kohley, Mary Monteleone, Leisa Buller, Sue Peugh, Beverly Roberts, Sharon Clark and Lillie Qualls. Front from left: Kathy Goley, Damian Toews, Betty McCormick, Donna Baer and Mary Calvert.

regarding new textbooks, programs and educational opportunities. Lee Davidson, Ardmore head teacher, introduced the teachers to enhancements computers offer in the classroom.

At the conclusion of the convention, each teacher renewed his dedication to Christian education.



Tulsa Thunderbirds about to begin their Pathfinder induction ceremony. Photo: Shirlene McClendon

homa City Adventurers, conducted the ceremony, orchestrated by Carlene Vigneron.

A special award was presented to Shane Gilman for completing his "Walk Around the World 2000." This



The International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA) received \$60 from Shane Gilman, a charter member of the Walk Around the World 2000 club, resulting from his walk-a-thon.



Oklahoma City Trailblazer Pathfinder club dressed and ready for the induction ceremony.

program is endorsed by the North American Division and promotes drug-free living.

Because he was the first Pathfinder in the Oklahoma Confer-

ence to complete the program, Shane received a commemorative patch to be worn on his honor sash.

*Jack Francisco,  
Conference Communication Director*

## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Women's day is held at Berean church

A local "ram in the thicker" recently helped the Baton Rouge Berean church's annual women's day. Two weeks before the program, news came that the designated speaker was no longer available. Even when others around her panicked,

Joyce Denman, women's coordinator, refused to be discouraged. She accepted the challenge to be the speaker—and that she was!

High points of Joyce's message, "A Woman in the Hands of God," included the question, "Why didn't God make Eve at the same time He made Adam?" Her answer was that perhaps He wanted Adam to experience loneliness long enough to appreciate Eve once she was given to him.

Joyce continued by relating stories of women in the Bible, such as Esther, the woman who saved a nation.

Younger girls listened intently when Joyce retold the experience of Naaman the leper, and how God used a little girl to come to His rescue. The widow's mite story emphasized how God esteems even

the smallest of gifts from the heart.

Joyce included other women from more recent times such as abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who ignored warning after warning in her quest to free numerous slaves. "And she never lost a slave," said Joyce.

The Berean church identified with her reference to Leona Whaley, who, with her husband, Walter, is a missionary on the Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa. Berean's women mentors urged Leona to attend Oakwood College, and that is where she met her husband.

Joyce's examples of women in leadership positions concluded with Ellen White. White's family did not want her to shame them and go public with her preaching, but she countered with, "How can I ignore God's leading?"

Presentations of long-stemmed red roses to Berean's "Women of the Year" followed Joyce's message. Angela Bynum offered a grand finale with the poem, "I Look To Jesus." The men prepared and served a fellowship dinner in contribution to the day's activities.

*Evelyn Edwards, Correspondent*

**Joyce Denman, women's coordinator, receives thanks from Gloria Meyers, the pastor's wife, for being willing to step in at the last minute and be the speaker for the annual women's day at Baton Rouge's Berean church.**



## Faith Temple celebrates senior citizens day

Dallas Faith Temple church held its first senior citizens day during the 1996 Thanksgiving season. A number of seniors were selected as speakers. Seminars were also offered.

Mae Garrett gave the early morning sermon emphasizing how easy it is to come to Christ "if we allow Him to do all the work." Muriel Bowman, a local elder, often referenced her 70 years of life experiences during the eleven o'clock service. She encouraged older members to stay involved with family, community and church life. Addressing the youth, Bowman encouraged them to regard seniors as a relevant resource for advice in coping with difficult issues.

"We wanted to honor senior citizens because of their wisdom and the contribution they make to every area of the church," explained Faith McPherson, seniors/disability coordinator. To that end,



At the 11 o'clock church service Muriel Bowman was speaker.



Mae Garrett, speaker at the early morning Faith Temple church service.

LeRoy Hamilton and Ora Lee Shelby were honored for their service achievements.

The afternoon program included seminars on fire safety for older adults by the Dallas fire department, 55-Alive, a safe driving and insurance discount service sponsored by the American Association of

Retired Persons (AARP) and a nursing home volunteer program sponsored by the Greater Dallas Senior Citizens Organization.

*Donald Moy, Correspondent*

## Tenth Street church observes day of prayer

To observe the appeal from the North American Division to hold a special day of prayer, members of Tenth Street, Christian Fellowship and North Highland Seventh-day Adventist

churches united for an evening prayer and ordination service.

The evening began with a song service and continued with speakers Joe Ellis and Willie Johnson.

The theme was "Unity for Vision, Mission, and Service for the 21st Century." Ellis told the congregation that we express life through our religious fervor and are to be enthusiastic and excited about our religious experience, revealing it in our lives.

Johnson encouraged the congregation and church leaders to be street ministers who step out in faith,

exercising the call to preach and to meet the needs of others.

Prayers of consecration and dedication were given in behalf of the newly-ordained elders, deacons and their spouses. At the conclusion of the ordination service, church members divided into small prayer groups and prayed for unity and spiritual stability.

*Diane G. Watts,  
Communication Leader*

## Ephesus church feeds the homeless

Ephesus church community services in San Antonio, under the direction of Marva Davies, braved the cold weather on Sunday, November 24, to feed the homeless. Meals were served at three area shelters to an increasing population who make their homes under the bridges and overpasses.

This is the fifth time this year that the church has reached out to the homeless by providing nutritious meals. Donations of food and money were given by members. Over 30 persons volunteered their time and served meals to 218 persons. In addition, 20 food baskets were distributed



The homeless line up for a wholesome meal at the Ephesus church.

to needy families, and approximately 60 tracts were given out.

Twenty boxes of food were donated by a ninth grade class at Business Careers Magnet High School and their teacher, Ms. Gordon. Maurice Williams, a member of Ephesus and a student at the school, told his business teacher about the community outreach. The students decorated the boxes and packaged them according to the four basic food groups.

The Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs joined with the community services to help distribute the food baskets.

*Sara Williams, Correspondent*

## Ephesus celebrates annual women's day

Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Antonio celebrated its annual Women's Day with a new dimension this year. The weekend began Friday night, October 18, with a candlelight dedication service. Angelia Allen Wilkerson, who has spoken throughout the city and state, spoke from Habbakuk 2:2-3. The women lit candles, which symbolized rededication and consecration.

The keynote speaker for Sabbath services was Carol Porter, co-founder of Kid Care in Houston. Mrs. Porter spoke from Isaiah 58. She admonished the women who have longevity in the church to share their wisdom and to nurture the younger women.

The weekend concluded with a formal banquet Saturday night. Five women who have performed outstanding community service were honored.

*Sara Williams, Correspondent*

## UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

*A Summary of the Major Actions Taken at the December 10, 1996 Executive Committee*

The final executive committee of 1996 included several encouraging reports. Naturally, one of the items we are most interested in is the membership and baptismal report. At the end of October, our membership was 63,065. The number of baptisms year-to-date is 2,588. Keep in mind that this figure does not include the Net '96 baptisms.

The Net '96 report was particularly encouraging. Mark Finley's meetings were shown at 157 sites in our union, with an average nightly attendance of 7,968—including 2,003 visitors per night. By the date of our committee meeting, 406 baptisms had been reported, and another 305 persons are continuing with Bible studies. Next month the *Record* will feature some of the conversion stories that have come out of these meetings.

The October financial report showed a year-to-date tithe increase

of 4.15%, which is the highest in the North American Division. Our operating gain through October is \$129,000.

In November we reported to you that the City of Burleson had condemned our 99-acre tract of land on I-35 across from the union office and is building a golf course on it. We entered in to court-ordered mediation with the city but were unable to come to a resolution. Therefore, the executive committee voted to continue the litigation process which is now in place. We anticipate the case will go to trial in the first half of 1997.

Adventist Health System presented a proposal to merge with Hinsdale Health System. It was voted to approve the merger in concept. The actual vote will be taken by the constituencies of both health systems early in 1997.

The following appropriations to the local conferences for 1997 were voted:

Education K-12	\$782,093
Evangelism	499,209
Special tithe	254,785
Hispanic capital funds	78,000

The committee also voted to appropriate \$5,000 to the Wes Stoops scholarship fund at Southwestern Adventist University. Wes was an employee of ours who lost his life in a tragic auto accident last April.

For many years the publishing program has been a major financial challenge. Although it has been heavily subsidized, it has continued to accumulate substantial losses. For this reason, the action with perhaps the most impact on our office was the vote to accept the proposal of Pacific Press Publishing Association to assume responsibility for operating the publishing program in our union effective January 1, 1997.

Under the arrangement with Pacific Press, the conferences and the union will make a contribution of a set percentage of tithe to help run the program. Pacific Press already provides this service for three other unions and is in the process of assuming the publishing program for the Pacific Union as well.

Samuel L. Green  
Secretary



Harvey J. Byram  
Trust Director

### With the new year comes another birthday

Growing old gracefully is an art which few people master. One loving husband tired to help his wife accept the mature years by telling her, "Honey, you are like an antique automobile, the older you get, the more beautiful and valuable you become." Now, I'm not sure that was exactly what she wanted hear, but we all will surely face old age sooner or later.

David, brave and strong as he was, had these same fears of growing old. Several translations have entitled Psalms 71, as "the Prayer of an Old Man for Deliverance." David recognized that many people he knew changed as they approached the golden years. Ellen White in *Testimonies*, Volume 1, pages 422-424, comments on David's prayer.

"I was shown," she said, "David entreating the Lord not to forsake him when he should be old and what it was that called forth his earnest prayer...David was distressed as he saw that kings

and nobles who seemed to have the fear of God before them while in the strength of manhood, become jealous of their best friends and relatives when aged. They were in continual fear that it was selfish motives which led their friends to manifest an interest for them...They would listen to the hints and deceptive advice of strangers in regard to those in whom they should confide."

David's concern that he not be like his friends in old age is a concern we too must face. This is why it is wise to have a trusted relative or friend named as your power-of-attorney, so that your business affairs may be properly cared for when you can no longer mentally or physically tend to your present affairs. Also, a properly written and signed will eliminates a lot of confusion should sudden death occur.

The elder years should be our happiest, and if we pray like David, no doubt much of the worry and anxiety will be removed. May God bless each reader and give you a happy new year. If you need help in planning for the elder years, please contact your local conference trust department.





Southwestern Adventist University's senior class has chosen officers to represent them for the 1996-97 school year. From left to right, Colleen Thompson, president, math major; Jere Putnam, treasurer, business major; Jennifer Jensen, secretary, accounting major; Chris Morris, vice president, math major; Jay Jackson, pastor, biology major. Not pictured, Josh Samaniego, parliamentarian, education major.

Photo: Tobe Watts

## HOMECOMING '97

There are many fun events scheduled for this year's homecoming weekend at Southwestern Adventist University, April 10-13. Here is a tentative outline of what to expect:

### Thursday, April 10

- \* Registration begins
- \* Honors Banquet

### Friday, April 11

- \* Prayer Breakfast with Marvin Montgomery, '47
- \* Vespers concert by SWAU music department

### Saturday, April 12

- \* Speakers for church services at Keene SDA Church:  
First service: Sheree Parris Nudd, '77  
Second service: Don Schneider, '62
- \* Honor class parties
- \* Concert by the contemporary Christian music group, *Acappella*

Honor classes are: 1917, 1922, 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, and 1987.



Southwestern Adventist University junior education major Elizabeth Moreno coaches fifth and sixth grade students at Keene Adventist Elementary School during field day. The Health and P.E. class at SWAU, led by Dr. Michael England, conducted Field Days at the Adventist schools in Keene, Burleson, and Joshua during the months of October and November. Field days are designed to provide education majors with practical experience in organizing and conducting major events at the elementary level. Photo: Tobe Watts

Southwestern's snow skiing club, the COWABUNGA! SKIERS, will have its 25th anniversary reunion during spring vacation of 1997. If you have ever been on the college ski trip, come for all or part of this special 25th year reunion. The reunion will be at the Keystone Ski Resort in Dillon, Colorado, March 6-14. All alumni are welcome to attend.

**For more information, contact  
Bev Mendenhall at Southwestern, 817-576-4731.**

## NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Southwestern Adventist University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race or religion. Dr. Marvin Anderson, president of the college, is responsible for compliance.

# Plusline

**YOUR ONE STOP For  
MINISTRY INFORMATION**

**1-800-SDA-PLUS  
(732-7587)**

## Houston Filipino-American Church inauguration

The inauguration of the Houston Filipino-American Seventh-day Adventist Church on the last weekend of October made it a special weekend for the members. For many years the members had envisioned a sanctuary of their own, and now the day had come when the congregation was able to worship in their new church.

The consecration service Friday evening was highlighted by the presence of Steve Gifford, Texas Conference president. Dem Robles, from the Southwestern Union, led the candle lighting ceremony. A slide presentation depicting the history of the church building and special music by Phil Brantley and the Common Ground singers rounded out the evening.

The Sabbath morning program included a presentation by Dr. J. Valdes, who shared some experiences of the past and offered words of encouragement. Abel Cordero, pastor of the Abilene church, took the lesson study. Those taking part in the worship service included the church pastor, Isachar Garsula, Cecil May and Ramon Chow from the Texas Conference, and Samuel L. Green, secretary of the Southwestern Union Conference, who preached the morning sermon. A separate worship service for the youth was held in tents on the church grounds, directed by Dan Gleason, pastor of the Houston International church.

A ribbon cutting ceremony by Larry Moore, Texas Conference secretary, followed the potluck. More musical numbers and testimonies from members brought the service to a close. A sports festival and clean-up on Sunday morning rounded off the weekend of celebration and fellowship.

*Louie Pisuena  
Communication Leader*

## Irving church holds youth day

September 28 was celebrated as youth day in the Irving church. Youth directors Elvin and Iris Henry, along with the



Members of the Houston Filipino-American Seventh-day Adventist Church enjoying the sports festival the Sunday after their inauguration.

youth, planned several inspirational numbers for the program.

The children's choir, made up of kindergarten through junior age children, sang several hymns and Michael Denny, eight, sang "Redeemed" a cappella. Lauren Wiggins shared a special welcoming poem that she had written.

Stephen Denny led out in a skit about courage—courage to do what God has called you to do, courage to be the best that you can be, and courage to remember that every task is important.

Justin Wiggins, an excellent speaker, encouraged the members to exercise their faith like the faithful in Hebrews 11.

*Virginia Redmon  
Communication Leader*

## Rescued from demon possession and depression

Frank Rivera, a Puerto Rican by birth, who had been a preacher in another denomination for 20 years, left his church because he could not reconcile himself with some of their teachings. Later he became a Seventh-

day Adventist and in time went to the Theological Seminary at Andrews University where he received his Seventh-day Adventist ministerial credentials. Rivera pastored churches in New Jersey where he raised up several new Spanish churches. Then he moved to Youngstown, Ohio. During his ministry there he encountered a number of setbacks which resulted in discouragement and depression. Finally he gave up the ministry and stopped attending church all together. The family settled in San Antonio.

Over time, Rivera became introverted and remained confined to his room, even refusing to take meals with his family. During the next 10 years he seemed to be troubled by evil spirits, but his family prayed for him daily. Then one day Al Walters, a retired pastor who had worked among Hispanics for many years and was now working with the San Antonio Greater Randolph church, found Rivera outside his house. He engaged him in conversation, and this marked a breakthrough.

By Christmas, still unable to combat the demons that possessed him, Rivera took a bus to Miami, Florida, where he hoped an encounter with gang violence might end his life. However, Walters alerted Adventist churches in the Miami area to keep a look out for him.

One night, while Rivera was on the streets looking for a homeless shelter where he hoped to spend the night, he had an encounter with evil spirits which frightened him. However, he finally he found the homeless shelter only to be informed there was no room for him. He went back into the night. Then he was faced by four gang members, but they did him no



The children's choir singing at the Irving church on youth day are, back row from left: Kyle Henry, Michael Denny. Front row: Kathryn Denny, Chandra White, Malcolm White, Akela Henry. Photo: Virginia Redmon

harm. Instead, he was protected through the night. Friends of Pastor Walters found him the next morning. A pastor from the area prayed with Rivera and anointed him. Once back home he asked for rebaptism.

Today he is a changed man—no longer demon possessed but rather filled with God's spirit. He has started a prayer group. He has also been made church ministries leader for his local church. He follows up interests which have come from the Kenneth Cox video series, but he's hampered because he has no car. Rivera's prayer is that somehow a car

**Keith Gray, Burleson's youth pastor, with one of the three young people who requested baptism that weekend.**



will be provided to enable him to get these Bible truths to interested persons and spread the Word of God.

*Norma M. McKenna  
Communication Secretary*

## United youth rally draws large crowd

About 500 kids from all over the Southwestern Union gathered at the Arlington church for the All For One United Youth Rally, November 15 and 16.

The first meeting was held on Friday night. The Company, a drama group from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, presented several numbers. The sermon, given by the rally's speaker, Keith Gray, associate pastor of the Burleson church, was about being united to further the cause of Christ. Many young people responded to Pastor Gray's call for



**Attendees at the All For One Youth Rally in Arlington listen to the singing group, In Unity.**

dedication in spreading Christ's message.

Sabbath morning everyone gathered for Sabbath school and church. The Company performed again and special music was given by Grace Temple's youth choir. Gray's sermon about being cleansed from sin resulted in three people making decisions to be baptized. Amazingly, almost everyone was willing to sit still for the whole program which ran until two o'clock.

Saturday night was packed with activities. During vespers the baptisms were held.

Following this, Brian Luttman and Friends and In Unity put on a great concert. In Unity even had to come back for an encore. After the concert everyone headed to

the skating rink for a late night skating party.

All in all the rally was a great success both spiritually and socially. Kudos to Bernie Anderson, Arlington church youth pastor, for a job well done!

*Heather Reifsnyder, Senior  
Burton Adventist Academy*

## Sherrills celebrate golden wedding anniversary

Bruce and May (McMullin) Sherrill of Burleson celebrated 50 years of marriage August 4th with a buffet reception at the Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth. The event was hosted by their daughter, Bette (Sherrill) Elliston and their son, Dr. Bruce Sherrill. Approximately 140 guests joined in the festivities.

## Pathfinders host camporee & family retreat

A family retreat will be held in conjunction with the Texas Conference Pathfinder retreat at the Nameless Valley Ranch, March 27-29. Display booths will be provided for churches, clubs or schools to exhibit items of interest. Already 43 such booths have been reserved. Call Penny Gore for details at 817/294-9099.

A vacation Bible school format will be provided for children younger than 10 years, Pathfinder activities and events will be provided for ages 10 to 15 and there will be seminars for the adults.

This giant extravaganza begins Thursday evening, March 27, with Keith Gray, youth pastor from the Burleson church, as the principal speaker.

A \$6 per person non-refundable pre-registration fee is required to reserve a spot. To reserve cabins, RV spaces with full hookups and obtain meal tickets, contact Jim Rogers at 512/267-7187. To reserve tent spaces and RV spaces without hookups, contact Van G. Hurst at the Texas Conference youth department, 817/783-2223.



**Bruce and May (McMullin) Sherrill**

The couple exchanged vows August 27, 1946, in Jefferson, Texas. The Sherrills lived in Fort Worth for 25 years before moving to Burleson 18 years ago. They both retired from ownership of Mobile X-Ray Service. He served in World War II.

The couple celebrated their anniversary earlier with a Caribbean cruise and a tour of the Scandinavian countries.

Their family includes their daughter Bette and her husband, Dr. Leon Elliston, of Asheville, N.C.; son Dr. Bruce Sherrill of Dallas; grandson, Andrew Elliston; and granddaughters, Lauren Elliston and Audrey Elliston of Asheville, N.C.

### Children bring joy to the elderly

Robert and Raylene Stevens, ages eight and five respectively, have been bringing joy to the residents of a nursing home in Irving for the past two years. They would go every Sabbath if there was transportation, but as it is they go twice a month.



**Raylene and Robert Stevens visiting their friends in the nursing home.**

Sometimes it's just to give a smile, a hug, or to say "hi," while other times they sing Sabbath school songs, recite memory verses and say a prayer. They also make cards and share other small gifts.

This all began when they started visiting an Irving church member, Ernest Talley, but a year ago he was transferred to a new facility. Still the other residents, now their friends, delight in seeing them.

Robert and Raylene are Sabbath school members in the Grand Prairie church.

*Virginia Redmon  
Communication Leader*

### San Marcos Couple Celebrates 50 Years Of Marriage

Howard D. and Princess Marie Rawson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Aquarena Springs, July 6, 1996, with a family celebration attended by all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We are proud to be able to say that because of our parents' commitment to our heavenly Father, and because of His never-ending love for the Rawson family, all five of their children are committed Christians within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, all five have married Seventh-day Adventists, all five have raised and educated their children within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and now their children are carrying on this legacy.

What a tribute to Christian parents and a Christian home.

*June Seebeck (daughter)  
San Marcos Church*

### Jefferson Academy shows gain in enrollment

Jefferson Adventist Academy opened its doors August 18, 1996 with a new school board chairman, Michael J. Weber, M.D., a number of new teachers, staff members, and a remarkably increased enrollment. A major drawing card appears to have been the reduction in tuition fees.

An impressive program is in progress with Dennis Clow as principal. Clow is also head of the music department, made up of a 42-member choir, a "select choir" of 12 members, and a 19-member band.

A vocational program is in place offering training in carpentry, food service, auto mechanics and body works, landscaping and lawn service, computer accounting, music, business, and a certified nursing assistant program (CNA) with lab experience in a nursing home setting.

The student body of 62 is made up of enthusiastic young people who



**San Marcos couple, Howard and Princess Marie Rawson, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.**

have come from many areas throughout the Southwestern Union Conference. An excellent school spirit is prevalent among the students.

At the close of the first nine-week period, 14 students had made the high honor roll and 12 the regular honor roll.

The academy goal is to provide a Christ-centered education for students and to help them reach their fullest potential spiritually, mentally, physically, socially and morally. We invite young people to join us for the next semester beginning January 6, 1997 for their future academy years. Information may be obtained from Jefferson Academy, Route 4, Box 624, Jefferson, TX 75657-9111; phone: 903/665-3973.

*Gaston W. Wallace  
Jefferson Adventist Academy*

### KAES holds night school

Did you say "night school?" Nobody goes to school at night except those who attend college or technical



One of the many Keene Adventist Elementary School parents, Shirley Halsell (right), who enjoyed visiting night school pictured here with Spyk Wardle and her son, Michael Halsell, both in third grade. Mike Mizher, physical education teacher for the lower grades is in the background.

school, that is unless they go to Keene Adventist Elementary School. The week of November 4-8 was designated specifically as "open" to parents, community, and school board members for visitation any time during the week. Thursday night was declared "night school" with classes beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. This was done to accommodate those parents and friends who were unable to visit school during morning hours.

Many parents took advantage of the opportunity to visit classes and observe the activities their children participate in during school hours. What seemed to make the most

impression was the KAES teaching staff who exhibited exceptional dedication, patience, and academic expertise as they worked with the students.

An assembly, featuring a staff talent show with Bill Kilgore of Southwestern Adventist University as master of ceremonies, proved to be entertaining and concluded the night school.

For many parents the concept of "night school" and being able to observe their children and their classes proved to be informative and valuable.

*Ron Scott, Principal  
Keene Adventist Elementary School*

## Parenting Is Not By Proxy

Texas department of women's ministries will present a dual seminar with two outstanding educators, Sabbath, February 8, 1997 in the Arlington church. The six-hour course will begin at 2:00 p.m.

"Mothering" will be addressed by Millie Case, an annual favorite of Texas women's ministry groups since her first retreat counseling and workshop in 1992. Atlantic Union College School of Nursing is where Millie prepares students for career choices. She is married to Charles Case, president of the Southern New England Conference, and is mother of three grown children. Each of these family relationships has provided Millie with experiential knowledge that compliments her academic expertise.



**Millie and Charles Case**

"Fathering" will be presented

by Richard Duerksen, vice president for creative ministries in the Columbia Union Conference. Dick's progressive outlook and accomplishments defy his laid-back appearance. He enjoyed outstanding success with Pacific Union College, and also served as pastor, youth director, and academy principal. He and his wife, Brenda, have three lively and musically talented children who occupy the front burners of their minds. Dick says, "As I work and move in Adventist circles, I am increasingly aware of the need for good fathers who take delight and responsibility in the on-going act of parenting."

Margaret Taglavore, director of Southwestern Union children's ministry, will oversee a children's program in the Burton Academy gym to run simultaneously with the Arlington church's adult seminars.

*Evadeane Peters, Director  
Texas Conference Women's Ministries*



**Dick Duerksen**



Jimmy and Pam Rhodes  
Music

# "TURNING OUR HEARTS TOWARD HOME"



Dr. Kay Kuzma  
Speaker

## 1997 RALLIES

Feb. 15	Pasadena Convention Center	Houston
Feb. 22	San Antonio Convention Center	San Antonio
Apr. 5	South Padre Island Convention Center	Valley
May 10	Jefferson Academy	East Texas

## CAMP MEETINGS

Mar. 27-29	PF Camporee & Family Retreat	NVR
May 23-26	Southwestern Adventist University	Korean
May 29-31	Southwestern Adventist University Herman & Sonnie Harp • Robert Folkenberg • Kay Kuzma • Paradigm Vocal Ensemble	Keene
June 4-7	Nameless Valley Ranch & Austin	Spanish
June 13-14	Southwestern Adventist University	asian

## COMING

### "IT IS WRITTEN" RALLY

Kelly Mowrer • Merrilou Lutas • Mark Finley • Manuel Escorcio • Paradigm Vocal Ensemble

Mar. 7	Keene Church	Metro Area
Mar. 8	Will Rogers Auditorium	Fort Worth

### Posters emphasize need for new church buildings

The attention of Texico members has recently been called to the need for church buildings in a number of locations. A portion of their regular "Texico 2%" offerings will be used for such projects.

The Las Vegas, New Mexico church has never had an adequate place in which to worship. As it has outgrown facilities it has moved from one site to another. The current services are being held in rented quarters which are too small for the forty-plus people who attend. Some of the members and friends of the church work in construction and would be willing to help erect a new building. Although



San Angelo Spanish church members who are looking forward to building their own church in the near future.

construction costs are high, they have already gathered funds, and they continue to dream of a church building of their own.

Those who worship in the Midland Spanish church (membership 50) and the

San Angelo Spanish church (membership 34), as well as others throughout the conference, are also hoping to have church buildings of their own.

Posters depicting these needs and reporting on worship centers that have

already become a reality were recently sent to every church to encourage liberal donations to the Texico 2% fund. Future posters will emphasize educational and other uses of the fund.

## Midland hosts prophecy seminar

Two persons have already been baptized as a result of a prophecy seminar in Midland under the direction of Lyndon DeWitt. The meetings were held for five weeks during September and October, and although the attendance wasn't large, participants demonstrated a sincere desire to learn more about God's word. Some came every night, and many said they could understand the vital truths so clearly they didn't know why they hadn't understood them before.

Several responded to the call to keep the seventh day Sabbath. Another baptism will be held in the near future.

Various church members have joined DeWitt and the pastor, Ken Davis, in visiting the people who were interested to help strengthen their faith. The eagerness of those who attended the children's meetings helped encourage the parents to also attend.

Midland members hope that their 3ABN television station broadcasts which are aired 24 hours a day, their fellowship meals and their prayer groups will bear fruit. They want to encourage the new members, renew the interest of others and reach many in the community for the Lord. They ask that others join them in praying that those who attended the seminar will make their decisions for Christ.

*Evangeline Richman  
Communication Leader*

## Amarillo churches unite for fall festival

While much of Amarillo trick-or-treated in the cold on Halloween night, members of the Olsen Park, Amarillo Spanish, and Mount of Blessings churches, as well as a number of non-Adventist friends, participated in



Midland Spanish congregation who are also wanting to build a church.

a fall festival hosted by the Olsen Park social committee.

The Amarillo Adventist Academy gymnasium was transformed into a fair where participants could engage in miniature golf, a balloon dart toss, a football toss through a swinging tire, and other similar challenges. Each booth was sponsored by a different member or group. Popcorn and drinks were served. To give the evening a proper finish, the young folks broke a piñata.

The social committee, chaired by Harlan and Jean Wilson, hosts a number of activities each year. The local members appreciate the work the committee does and look forward to the next event.

*Bill Chapman*

## Baptismal services add members to Olsen Park

Recently, on two separate Sabbaths, the Amarillo Olsen Park members welcomed seven new members into their congregation. The pastor, David Sitler, and his wife, Cinda Lea, worked to make the baptismal services memorable occasions by transforming the entire 11

o'clock hour into a praise service celebrating the birth of new lives in Christ.

On Sabbath, August 17, David and Chris Crabtree were baptized. Several years ago, when Chris worked at a hospital, she became curious about the religion of one of her coworkers, Judy Elliston, who was a Seventh-day Adventist. When Chris started asking questions, Judy invited her to attend church. Chris says that when she came she was impressed by the fact that the preaching was not someone's theory, but truth straight from the Bible.

After some time Chris changed jobs and worked with Ralph Harmon, head elder of the church, who invited her and her husband to study the Bible on a regular basis. The day of their baptism, the pastor invited their family and close friends to come close to the baptistry and witness the beginning of their new lives.

As a grand finale to the Net '96 meetings, on Sabbath, November 9, the church welcomed Amy Graham, Kristi Hutchinson, and Andrea, Steve and Billie Jo Gordon into church fellowship. Amy's "grandma and grandpa" brought her to the meetings each night, where she took notes and asked questions before making her decision to follow Jesus. Kristi Hutchinson and the Gordons, all members of one family, made an unusual time commitment to attend the meetings. As they listened to Mark Finley presenting each topic they were convicted. The joy they felt in their decisions to follow Christ was apparent in their radiant faces when they were baptized. Immediately following the baptism Kristi's children, Elizabeth and Matthew, were dedicated.

After each of the services David Sitler presented certificates of baptism and church membership and offered a dedicatory prayer. All were invited to a fellowship lunch honoring the new members. The fellowship hall was decorated with balloons, special table decorations and a cake to welcome the new additions to Olsen Park.

The church will continue to uphold these dear members in prayer as they start their new walk with the Lord.

*Charlene Chapman  
Communication Leader*



One of the fun things the young folk did at the Amarillo fall festival was bobbing apples.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### EMPLOYMENT

**ATTENTION OWNER/OPERATORS:** Access Transportation Systems, formerly Montana Conference Transportation, is looking for owner/operators to join our team of transportation professionals. Naturally, our drivers never work on Sabbath and when you drive under our authority, we can supply you with profitable loads and timely pay. If you want to join a quality team of Christian driving professionals, we want to hear from you. Access Transportation Systems, 1201 Franklin Blvd., Nampa, ID 83687. 800-525-1177; fax 208-463-1788. 1-3t

**EXCELLENT EXTRA INCOME** with Texas-based Christian company, KINGSWAY. In your spare time, let others see our color catalog featuring quality health products. When they order from our 800 number, same day we send them their products directly. We send you your commissions. Free catalog, also request free cassette covering the people of Hurza about whom George Vandeman relates in his book, "My Dream." They routinely live to be 100 years plus, enjoying good health. Call toll free, 9 am-noon CT, Sun-Fri, 800-781-2688. 1-1t

**FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR.** Full-time position, excellent benefits. Walla Walla General Hospital, 72-bed acute care facility in beautiful rural southeastern Washington. Excellent location to raise a family, for education, to enjoy the classical arts, all kinds of outdoor activities, churches. Send resume/application to Human Resources, Walla Walla General Hospital, PO Box 1398, Walla Walla, WA 99362; 509-525-0480 ext. 1125. Closing date: Feb. 28, 1997. EOE. 1-2t

**DRIVERS!** Access Transportation Systems (formerly Montana Conference Transportation) is looking for licensed, professional, Christian drivers. We offer competitive wages and comprehensive benefit package. If you are a qualified driver who wants to join a dynamic growth environment, mail or fax your resume today. Access Transportation Systems, Inc., 1201 Franklin Blvd., Nampa, ID 83687; fax 208-463-1788. 1-3t

Valley Grande Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, affiliated with the Texas Conference and one of south Texas' premier healthcare facilities, seeks energetic **DIRECTOR OF NURSING.** Candidates must currently have, or obtain, an RN license in Texas and management experience to lead the nursing staff at the 147-bed facility. Long-term care experience is a plus. This position provides outstanding benefits and opportunities for advancement. Church-owned education for grades 1-12 are close to the facility. If you seek a challenging opportunity with a progressive company, please send resume to: Sylvia Williams, Administrator, 1212 S. Bridge Ave., Weslaco, TX 78596. Phone 210-968-2121; fax 210-969-1794. 1-1t

**DEPT. OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION** at Southwestern Adventist University seeking individual with PhD in Physical Education. Qualified interests send resume to: Dr. Marie Redwine, Academic Vice President, SWAU, Keene, TX 76059. Fax 817-556-4744. 12-2t

**MISSIONARIES NEEDED IN KOREA:** SDA native English-speaking volunteers; singles or couples (with-out children) who are college graduates with bachelor's degrees or higher to teach conversational English and Bible for one year or more at the SDA Language Institutes of Korea (teaching experience not necessary—we train you). Benefits include: round-trip ticket, housing, utilities, insurance and stipend. For more information contact Ray James, 40 Pleasant Dr., Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Phone 209-267-0416 or fax 209-267-0342. 5-12t

**ACCOUNTING TEACHER NEEDED.** Commitment to research and teaching is essential. Minimum requirement: Masters in accounting. Prefer doctorate and experience. Adventists send resume to Dr. Leonard Gashugi, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0024. Telephone 616-471-3581; e-mail: gashugi@andrews.edu. 12-3t

Ranger Park Inn Nursing Home in Santa Anna, Tex., needs RN for **DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICE.** Adventist church and school. Ideal working conditions in peaceful community. For information call Rob Cooley, 915-348-3105. 1-1t

**DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL CARE.** Previous management experience a must. Individual must have proven track record of managing an efficient operation, increasing business in a managed care market, understand and implement outcomes measurements and a commitment to promoting a Christian oriented program. Great benefits and working environment. Address current resume to President, Park Ridge Hospital, PO Box 1569, Fletcher, NC 28732; fax 704-681-2770. No phone calls please. EOE. 1-1t

**CLINICAL OR COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST.** Walla Walla College seeks applicants for tenure-track position in Dept of Education and Psychology. Department offers BA in psychology and master's degrees in counseling psychology and school counseling. Broadly trained candidates are sought who can contribute to graduate instruction and research as well as undergraduate instruction in psychology. Candidates should hold doctorate in counseling or clinical psychology from accredited institution and be Washington State license-eligible. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Interested Adventists should contact Dr. Ralph Coupland, Chair, Dept. of Education and Psychology, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324; 509-527-2212; e-mail: coupra@wwc.edu. 1-2t

**WANTED:** Dedicated missionaries to serve in New York City as volunteers for van ministry as van drivers, blood pressure screening technicians, and street evangelists. Applicants must be mature, self-disciplined, have a willing spirit and a strong desire to serve. Room and board provided. Write for application: SDA Van Missionary Search, Attn: Jesse Konicik, PO Box 5029, Manhasset, NY 11030-5029. 1-1t

**PINE TREE ACADEMY** accepting applications for 1997-98: Principal, M.Ed. in administration and experience preferred. Teaching positions: Bible, math, history, music, Spanish; qualification for denominational certification required. Please call the Office of Education immediately for more information, 207-797-3760. Trudy Wright, superintendent; Cathy Sawyer, office secretary; Karen Gimbel, personnel chair. Pine Tree Academy, Freeport, ME 04032...from the mountains to the ocean. 1-1t

Andrews University seeks a **COMMUNICATIONS TEACHER.** Minimum requirement: master's degree. Prefer doctorate (or ABD). Experience in public affairs/relations, journalism/mass media or journalism and teaching experience highly desirable. Adventists send resume to: Chair/Search Committee, Communication Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0050. 1-1t

Andrews University seeks a **TEACHER FOR THE GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM.** PhD/DSW (or ABD) degree, graduate teaching and clinical experience required. Adventists send resume to: Chair/Search Committee, Social Work Dept., Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0030. E-mail: spittman@andrews.edu. 1-1t

The General Conference of SDA seeks to fill the position of **SDA YEARBOOK PUBLICATION SPECIALIST.** Requirements: extensive knowledge of the structure and organization of the SDA Church, editorial experience, interaction with publishers, experience working in a computer environment. Contact Human Resource Services at 301-680-6765. 1-1t

Southern Adventist University seeks **FULL-TIME ASSISTANT DEAN OF MEN** beginning June 1997. Requires energetic individual interested in working with young people. Prefer residence hall experience. MA desirable. Send resume with references to Dr. William Wohlers, VP Student Services, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Phone 423-238-2813; fax 423-238-2441. 1-1t

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY** needed at Silgo SDA Church in Takoma Park, Md. Male or

female pastor should be creative, organized, energetic, cooperative and spiritual. Individuals interested in full-time ministry to junior and senior high youth should send resume to the Silgo Search Committee, 7700 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 by Feb. 1, 1997. Fax 301-270-3518; Compuserve 74532.3332@Compuserve. 1-1t

Southern Adventist University seeks **SERIALS/PERIODICALS LIBRARIAN** to supervise, maintain and acquire periodicals and assist patron usage. Master's in library science is required. Ability to operate on-line databases, Internet and automated systems essential. Send resume and reference names to Peggy Bennett, Librarian. Phone 423-238-2789; fax 423-238-3009; e-mail: pbennett@southern.edu. 1-1t

**FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE** invites nominations and applications for **HEAD OF THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDIES DEPT.** The college seeks an individual who will provide innovative and energetic leadership with strong administrative skills and a commitment to higher education. The desired appointment is a full-time position and will commence in the summer of 1997. To apply send letter of application, curriculum vita, names, addresses and telephone numbers to: Dr. Sy Saliba, Academic Vice President, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, 800 Lake Estelle Dr., Orlando, FL 32803. 1-1t

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

**REAL ESTATE.** If buying or selling in NE Oklahoma or NW Arkansas, call or write Dorothy M. Wilcox, 111 E. Shawnee, Tahlequah, OK 74464. Phone: 918-456-5432 or home 918-456-1484. Fax 918-456-0911. Have listings of lots, acreages, large ranches, homes or lake property. SDA realtor. 8-12t

**MAUI OCEANFRONT** 10th floor condo for rent, on beautiful sandy beach in Kahana. Sleeps 4. Well equipped kitchen, attractively decorated, exceptional views across from island of Molokai. Excellent whale watching Dec. through April. Scuba, snorkel, swim, sightsee and relax. \$85/night. Marge McNeilus, phone 507-374-6747; fax 507-374-6072. 1-6t

"WE LOVE OUR HOME, but keeping it up is tying us down." Florida Living Retirement Community has just what you need. A total independent lifestyle for those who want to enjoy their retirement. Only minutes from Orlando, Adventist church on grounds with 13 close by. Owned and operated by the Florida Conference. For information call Sharon Craig at 800-729-8017. 1-3t

### MISCELLANEOUS

**SDA PASTORAL COUPLE** wants to adopt infant or preschool-age girl, caucasian/mixed race/special needs. We offer a stable Christian home with unconditional love and acceptance. We will pay all medical, legal and pregnancy-related expenses. Contact Pastor David Friesen, 820 W. 8th St., San Juan, TX 75889; phone/fax 210-781-3041. 1-6t

**ADVENTIST SINGLES PROFILE EXCHANGE.** The largest collection of SDA singles' photo-files in new directory published by Loma Linda chapter of Adventist Singles Ministries. First issue Jan. 1997. Place ad, \$3; purchase magazine, \$15; updated semi-annually. Send SASE to Inland Empire Singles, Box 1836, Loma Linda, CA 92354. 12-2t

**HORTICULTURE:** The science and art of using plants for man's needs. To become involved in establishing horticultural training and industries at our Adventist academies, call 210-973-2475 or write: Academy Horticultural Enterprises (AHE), PO Box 670, Weslaco, TX 78599-0670. 12-3t

**WANTED TO BUY:** 1 to 10,000 used SDA books. For sale: used SDA books. Call John Seger at 800-732-2664; home 616-781-6379. 12-3t

**SPEND MORE QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY—GET OUT IN NATURE & GO SIGHTSEEING IN AN RV!** You and your loved ones will have so much fun together you'll wish you'd started years ago! We have motorhomes, travel trailers, 5th wheels and tent trailers to fit most any budget. As an Adventist owned and operated RV dealer, we've been saving SDAs money for 25 years on HitchHiker, Jayco, Coleman, Travel Supreme, Country Aire, Country

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Loma Linda to Hold Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition

The Third International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition will be held at Loma Linda University, March 24-28, 1997. The keynote address will be presented by Walter Willett, MD, DrPH, of Harvard University. Workshops will allow attendees to participate in discussion of various practical topics. For more information contact Patricia Johnston, DrPH, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350; fax 909-824-4087; e-mail: pjohnston@sph.llu.edu.

Topics of particular interest to Adventists will be discussed during the three days prior to the congress. The Third Conference on Vegetarian Nutrition Among Seventh-day Adventists will begin March 20. For more information contact Darlene McIntyre, School of Allied Health Professions, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350 or phone 909-824-4593.

### Mexico Orphanage Needs Director of Operations

Missional minded couple needed to take over day to day operations of orphanage in Sonora, Mexico. Must speak fluent Spanish. Small stipend will be paid, including tuition costs for up to two children; small

3-bedroom house provided. Three-year commitment requested. Contact Bob Mason, Apartado Postal 908, Cd. Obregon, Sonora, Mexico.

### Learn Spanish in Spain

Loma Linda University and Universidad Complutense de Madrid invite you to spend a month during the summer of 1997 in Spain learning Spanish. They offer 45 hours of instruction in Spanish plus various literature classes for Spanish speakers. For more information call Miriam Kramer at 909-824-4852.

### Pacific Union College Announces Alumni Weekend

You are invited to Pacific Union College's Alumni Weekend, April 17-20, 1997. Honored classes are '37, '47, '57, '67, '72, '77 and '87. The featured speaker is General Conference president Robert Folkenberg. For more information call Kellie Lind at 707-965-6309.

### Plainview Academy Plans Homecoming

Plainview Academy, formerly of Redfield, So. Dakota, has set June 27-29 as the dates for the next annual Alumni Homecoming. It will be held on the campus of Dakota Adventist Academy in Bismarck, ND. Honor classes are 1912, 1917, 1922, 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957 and 1962.

## OBITUARIES

**BELL, Rachel**, was born Mar. 31, 1911 in Oklahoma City, Okla. and died Nov. 4, 1996 in Tucumcari, NM. She is survived by her daughter, Camille Bell of Tucumcari, Eleanor Lopez

**BENTON, Troy Mead**, was born Aug. 30, 1908 in Salida, Colo. and died Oct. 2, 1996 in Harrah, Okla. He worked as a literature evangelist in California and Utah for several years. Survivors: wife, Bertha, Harrah; daughter, Lorraine Davies, Reno, Nev.; and sister, Velma Baerg, Dinuba, Cal. Ruby Wiley

**COON, Glenn A.**, age 93, died Nov. 7, 1996 in Ooltewah, Tenn. He was founder and president of the ABC Prayer Crusade International, Inc. He served as a missionary to the West Indies and pastored in several churches in New York, Florida, New Jersey, Washington DC, and Tennessee. Survivors include his wife, Ethel; daughter, Juanita Steffens; son, Glenn A. Coon, Jr.; brother, Lester Orville Coon; 6 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the G.A. Coon ABC Prayer Crusade International, 6307 Ooltewah-Georgetown Road, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

**PATTERSON, Davey**, was born Oct. 28, 1983 in Fort Worth, Tex. and died Nov. 12, 1996 in Keene, Tex. Survivors: parents, David and Barbara Patterson, Keene; sisters, Heidi and Doris Patterson, Keene; grandparents, Frank and Lillanne Moore, Keene, Keith and Della Patterson, Sand Flat, Tex., and Ernest and Peggy Kober of New Jersey.

**PEREA, Florian**, was born Dec. 22, 1920 and died Sept. 27, 1996. He served on the Texico Conference Executive Committee and as associate pastor of the Las Cruces church. Survivors: wife, Lena, Valencia, NM; daughter, Zandra Griego, Albuquerque; sons, Lonnie and Lorrie, both of California; brothers, Herman and Clovis; sisters, Lita Ledesma and Beatrice Torres; 6 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.

**STRAUSS, Cynthia Ann**, was born July 2, 1960 in Nowata, Okla. and died Oct. 29, 1996 in Dallas, Tex. Survivors: husband, Norman, Cleburne, Tex.; father, Delmar Wynn, Joshua, Tex.; mother, Dorothy Wynn, Joshua; sisters, Vickie Anderson, Joshua, and Linda Adams, Detroit, Mich.; and brother, Robert Wynn, Leon, Kan. Richard Peterson

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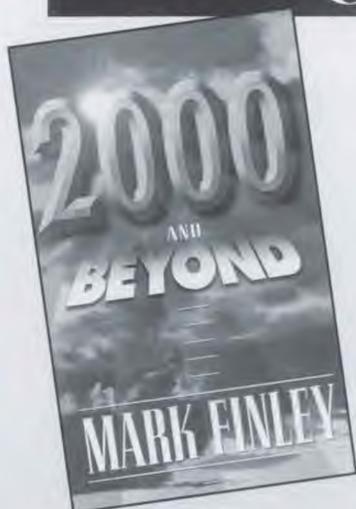
Announcements and articles for the Record should be sent to conference office by the 15th of the month and to the Union by the 21st of the month.

## Sunset Calendar

	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 14
Abilene, TX	5:52	5:58	6:05	6:10	6:18	6:24
Amarillo, TX	5:53	6:00	6:07	6:15	6:22	6:29
Brownsville, TX	5:56	6:02	6:07	6:12	6:18	6:22
Dallas, TX	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:11
El Paso, TX	5:20	5:26	5:32	5:39	5:45	5:51
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	5:41	5:47	5:53	6:00	6:07	6:13
Galveston/Houston, TX	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:08
Gentry, AR	5:22	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:51	5:58
Little Rock, AR	5:17	5:23	5:30	5:37	5:44	5:51
Muskogee, OK	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:48	5:55	6:02
New Orleans, LA	5:18	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:48
Oklahoma City, OK	5:35	5:42	5:49	5:57	6:04	6:11
San Antonio, TX	5:33	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:57	6:03
Santa Fe, NM	5:08	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:37	5:44
Shreveport, LA	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:47	5:53	5:59
Tulsa, OK	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:50	5:57	6:04

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