

S O U T H E R N



FEBRUARY 1999

Welcome to the Family

A Family of Ministries
The Most Powerful Envelope
The Adventist Advantage



“Don’t Hurt My Son Tino”

It had been one of those mornings. There had been just one more fight and tussle too many. Mother Merilee had reached—yes, even surpassed her level of patience.

Three-year-old Tiffany once again was the target of Big Brother Tino’s (Tiffany’s name for him) frustration and anger. For the umpteenth time little Tiffany had totally messed up his beloved train and train tracks, just as he had put it together ready to run. The ensuing shoving and pushing had resulted in physical as well as emotional bruises. It was time for mother to step in and apply some much needed punishment to big brother; after all she was just a little girl.

It was at that crucial moment that Mother Merilee felt two little hands determinedly pulling and tugging at her. At the same time she heard a little voice full of pathos desperately pleading, “Don’t hurt my son. Don’t hurt my son, Tino. He didn’t mean to hurt me. He is very sorry. He will never do it again.”

And so it was for at least this one time, Tino was spared his just desserts because his little sister had already forgiven him, trusting him for any future encounters. In her little mind she was convinced that this was just a one-time incident that he truly would never hurt her again. Three-year-old Tiffany chose to believe in him exhibiting sweet mercy and a grace far beyond her years.

Can you imagine how wonderful it would be if we all treated each other with such a loving, forgiving spirit. If we would choose to only believe and attach the best motives to others’ actions in-

stead of allowing ourselves to jot down, as it were, each and every offense to our already long list of hurts both real and imagined.

I can’t help but be reminded of the time when Jesus called a child to his side. He said to his disciples, “Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 18:3.

I don’t know about you, but I must confess there are times I need to be more like little Tiffany, giving others the benefit of any and every doubt believing the best of my brothers and sisters. You see, I don’t want my brothers, my sisters, my family, God’s family hurt ever by my attitude, actions or reactions. I think Proverbs 10:12 sums it up beautifully when it says, “Hatred stirrith up strife but love covereth all sins.”

—Hazel Marie Gordon
Women’s Ministries Advisor

Welcome to New Members

A special welcome to the newly baptized members of the Southern Union Conference. This edition of the TIDINGS is emphasizing the new members of the family of God in the Southern Union. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you God’s richest blessings as together we share the precious love of our Savior and look forward to His soon coming.

M. D. Gordon, *President*

CONTENTS

PAGE 8 • COVER STORY

Organized to Fulfill Its Mission



PAGE 32 • UNION FEATURE

Reaching the Needy

PAGE 39 • UNION FEATURE

Why Adventist Education?

Calendar	38
Classified Advertising	28

NEWS

Carolina	4
Florida	6
Georgia-Cumberland	12
Gulf States	17
Kentucky-Tennessee	24
South Atlantic	26
Florida Hospital College	16
Southern Adventist University	11

FEATURES

A Family of Ministries	3
The Most Powerful Envelope	14
Drawing People to Christ	18
Religious Liberty: It’s for Everyone	23
AYM: Its History, Presence, and Vision	27
Adventist Laypersons Share Their Faith	33
Unentered Territories	35
The Adventist Advantage	36

Cover: “Welcome to the Family” portrays some of the people groups—both welcomed into the denomination recently and those already active members—within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This issue is devoted to welcoming those new members and refreshing current members with a sampling of how the Church operates and what it offers.

COVER PHOTO BY JOEL SPRINGER OF REVIEW AND HERALD PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

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A Family of Ministries

Welcome, new member, to the great Adventist family. Joining the

Seventh-day Adventist Church could be just the beginning of a whole new adventure in community, because the Church is a close-knit community of believers. A place where people are ministered to and their needs met.

Jesus modeled a life of ministry. By feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and comforting the lonely and dispossessed, He met urgent personal needs. Then He turned around and bid the fed, the healed, and the comforted to follow Him. In your city there are some who will for a time need to be fed, nursed to better health, and comforted.

A variety of ministries in your Church follow Jesus' example and help meet such needs. Adventist community services, which some still call "Dorcas," after the community-spirited New Testament woman known for good deeds, ministers to its neighbors and to the world through feeding and clothing programs and disaster response.

One of the largest spiritual nurture ministries in the Church is the Sabbath school. On Sabbath morning each age level of the

Church, from the cradle to the rocker, has a program tailored to its special needs. Every member of your family will come to love Sabbath school.

Your Church probably offers clubs such as Pathfinders and Adventurers for children and special events in the summer, such as day camp or Vacation Bible School.

From time to time, the communication department will offer seminars, the family ministries committee will announce parenting seminars and other events for families. Health ministries will offer nutrition and life-style seminars, the result of Adventism's holistic belief that physical and mental health impact one's spiritual life. Your Church offers adult ministries seminars, singles ministries nurture, women's ministries events and the occasional men's ministries weekend.

Your congregation cannot offer all the ministries mentioned above that match you with others of common needs and interests. So watch the bulletin board for announcements of state-wide conferences, conventions, or workshops hosted by your conference. Such events can help you discover your

spiritual gifts and learn to be a good steward of both time and talents. All of these specialized ministries offer you a way to get involved in the life of your church and grow into the body of Christ.

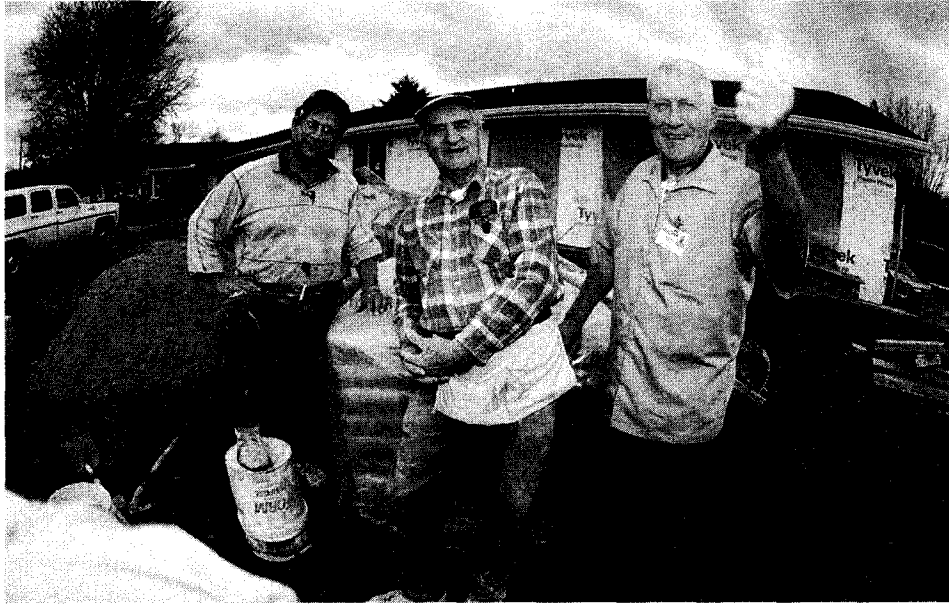
Volunteers, dedicated to Jesus Christ and to making a difference, staff the ministries. Leaders for the ministries are chosen once a year by the nominating committee. So when someone approaches you about teaching a class of children or sorting clothes at the community center, remember Jesus' example and treat the invitation as a call to ministry.

Training and resources are available to assist and empower you in ministry. Be sure to ask about training opportunities offered by your conference. Questions about training and resources can also be answered by calling 1-800-SDA-PLUS. A friendly operator will find the answer to any question you have.

So when God opens the way for you to do something in ministry at church, don't turn it down. Getting involved will bring you satisfaction and fulfillment. You will be a partner with Jesus. You might even help write a new chapter for the modern day book of Acts.



BY R. QUICK



"Thumps up for a Christian school." Standing in front of the 12,000 square foot Christian school is Al Alemany, pastor/principal (left), Al Stevens, Maranatha building superintendent, Bernhard Jensen, Bryson City church member. "The community of Bryson City will long remember the work of the Adventist volunteers, thanks to the efforts of Maranatha," states the Baptist pastor.

Maranatha Builds School

BY RON QUICK

"All of our lives have been impacted by the generosity of these people. These Adventist volunteers have made such an impact in the hearts of the members of the Hillside Baptist church, as well as members of the community. . . ." These comments were quoted in one of several newspaper articles that appeared in the *Smoky Mountain Times* newspaper in Bryson City, N.C.

Maranatha got involved when a member of Al Alemany's Baptist church contacted Bill Clark. Clark, a member of the Adventist church in Bryson City and leader in Maranatha, met with the Baptist pastor and learned of the urgent need of a Christian school. Clark also learned of the miraculous events leading up to this time. Clark agreed to act as project coordinator if the Maranatha Board agreed that Grace Christian Academy was indeed a worthy building project.

Early in May Bill Clark, along with Maranatha architect Don Kirkman, met

with the school board to inform them that Maranatha had unanimously approved the building of a Christian School in Bryson City. Kirkman's wisdom and practical suggestions on designing the school was welcomed and encouraged by the board.

Approximately 40 Maranatha volunteers from all around North America met in this mountain community on the first of October to begin construction. In a mere twelve working days the 12,000 square foot school was built.

When the Baptist pastor talks about the sacrificial work that Maranatha volunteers did, his voice chokes and tears fill his eyes. . . . "All of our lives have been impacted by the generosity of these wonderful people," said Byrdie Eason, director of the school board. "The Lord has blessed us, far beyond what we deserve. We plan to keep in contact with these special friends." The community of Bryson City will long remember the work of the Adventist volunteers.



Historic Church Hosts Block Party

BY LISA MOYER

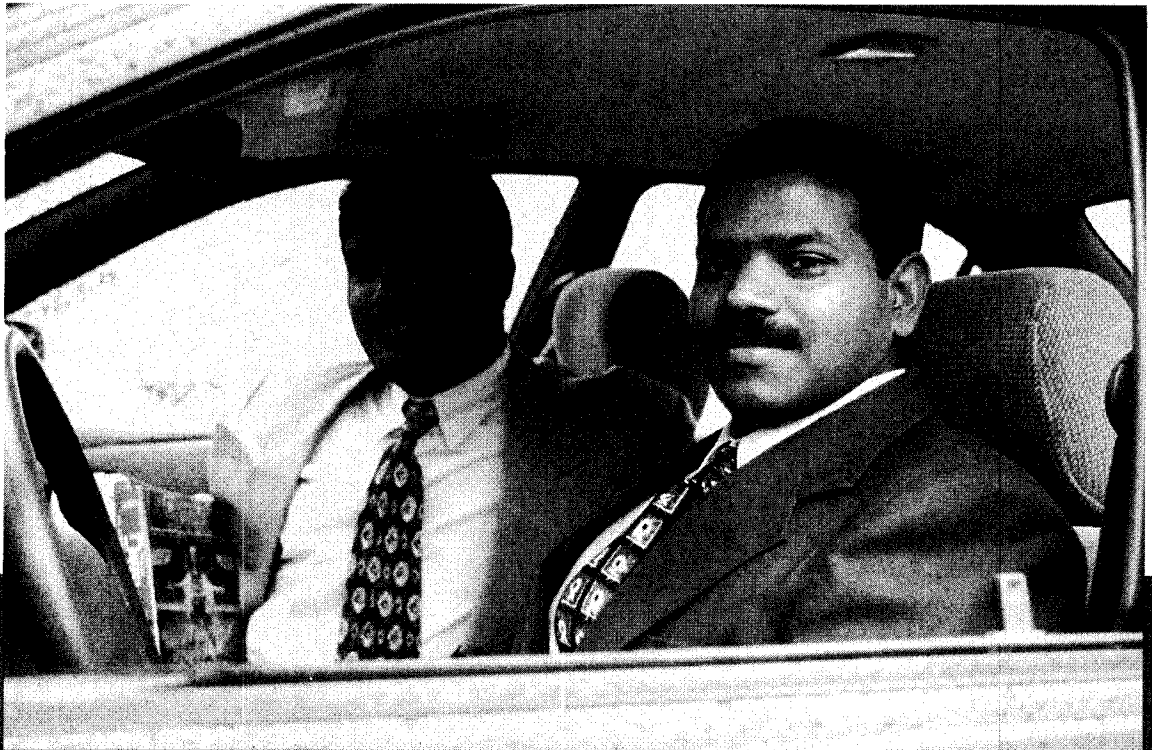
Neighbors and friends visited the historic Adventist church when Mt. Pleasant church members recently held a "Block Party." The church, which was built in the mid 1800s is located in the historic district of this seaside community. Mt. Pleasant is just across the bridge from Charleston, S.C.

When children weren't ringing the church bell they were crowded around the colorful clown who was painting faces and making balloon creations. The "Block Party" was one way our church neighbors could become better acquainted with the church and its members," stated Gary Moyer, church pastor.

Carolina News Notes

A team of six medical professionals from Park Ridge Hospital traveled to Managua, Nicaragua, to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. In the six days in the field, the medical team, who worked in cooperation with ADRA, treated more than 1000 patients. Area pastors had a banner made which read "Seventh-day Adventist Church and ADRA providing service with love." Hurricane Mitch dumped eight years worth of tropical rain in ten days.

Three Pathfinders from the Tryon, N.C., church are working to qualify for a 1200-mile bike ride to Oshkosh, Wis. To qualify for this Pathfinder Camporee event each Pathfinder must raise \$3,000. Proceeds benefit the American Lung Association.



BY R. QUICK

The Devil Detained, but God Delivered!

BY MARVIN HUNT

The devil is not happy when you have 40 Bible studies going in addition to selling record amounts of Seventh-day Adventist literature. Varatharaj Rajasekaran, the leading literature evangelist in the Carolina Conference, found out just how the devil fights against the truth and how God blesses those who remain faithful. Raj, as his friends call him, was following up requests that people had mailed for Christian literature. Literature evangelists call them "leads," and they come from mail-in cards from the little displays we have all seen in doctor's offices.

Raj was standing on the porch of a home in a small South Carolina town when a man drove into the driveway. No one was home, so Raj struck up a conversation with the friendly man in the car and soon sold

him a \$10 book. Once money was exchanged for the book, the story took a very negative turn. It turned out that the man worked for the county government and insisted that Raj needed to buy a local county license to sell books. Raj explained that he was a literature evangelist working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a Christian non-profit organization, and that he had all the papers he felt that he needed. Unconvinced and unwilling to cooperate, the man from the county insisted that Raj go with him to the county office and answer for his illegal book sales. It took four and a half hours of phone calls and faxes to the Carolina Conference headquarters to convince the authorities to release Raj—and not require him to buy a license.

Now for the best of the story!

As a literature evangelist, Raj basically has two primary goals as he begins his work day. First, he wishes to put as much Seventh-day Adventist literature into as many homes as is possible. And, second, he has to make a living and support his family. After being detained for 4-1/2 hours he was far behind on his goals for the day. He prayed that God would help him make up for the wasted time as he continued his visits in the community. God honored his worker and in just three visits, Raj had sold \$1400 worth of literature. Indeed, it turned out to be a very good day, even though the devil detained—God delivered.



Florida Members Spread Gospel to the Philippines

Eight Florida church members helped hold a 15-day seminar in Tolosa on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, last year. The mission project was sponsored by The Quiet Hour radio broadcast of Redlands, Calif. The result—87 baptisms. Since



Apopka Highland member Doris Behner preaches in the Philippines with the aid of a translator.

then, an e-mail to The Quiet Hour has indicated an additional 50 baptisms.

Quiet Hour International Evangelism coordinator Jim Zachary organized the series. Eight other members from Texas and Virginia also participated.

The Florida group was directed by Doris Behner, a retired pre-first grade teacher from Forest Lake Educational Center (FLEC) in Longwood and a member of the Apopka Highland church. The Florida team also included Carol Eldridge and Tony Filomena from the Forest Lake church; Sharon Bagshaw from Kress Memorial; Bonita and Franklin Samson from Ft. Pierce; Lois Derry from Port St. Lucie; and Tracy Garver, also from Apopka Highland.

The 16-member team assisted with adult and youth programs each day—80 young people attended. “The children were so enchanted,” said Garver, a professional puppeteer and youth program organizer. “We went into the villages with the puppet to meet people and invite them to the meetings. Kids came from everywhere to follow us around!”

Zachary preached for the seminars and says that teams of local members did the groundwork for the 15-day seminar by offering Bible studies. This made the people more willing to attend. Experienced, Zachary and Jean, his wife, served as missionaries in the Philippines and

Singapore for 18 years before they joined The Quiet Hour.

Behner’s most memorable experience of the outreach endeavor was when “an influential businessman was baptized. His wife had threatened to leave him if he got baptized, yet he got bap-



A specially-designed Asian puppet by puppeteer Tracey Garver (center), helped the young children relate to what they were hearing.

tized anyway. The last Sabbath we were there, his wife surprised him—she and her three daughters were also baptized.” Excited, Behner adds, “God takes ordinary people like us and makes extraordinary things happen.”

Delighted with the Florida group’s work, Zachary has asked them to participate in a mission project to the South Sea Islands this year.

New Convert Helps Others in NET '96 and NET '98

BY LOWELL LITTEN

Video projectionist Bill Crider downlinks the satellite programs for the East Pasco church. He and Irene, his wife, who also is his assistant, were baptized May 21, 1993, in the same sanctuary in which he later projected Camp Meeting 1996, NET '96—Discoveries in Prophecy, and NET '98.

The Criders were baptized after attending a Revelation Seminar conducted by then pastor Mike Chappell and a series of evangelistic meetings by the Conference evangelistic team of Lester Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley.



Bill Crider downlinks East Pasco church's satellite programs.



BY FABIOLA VATEL

Daytona Opens New Church Home

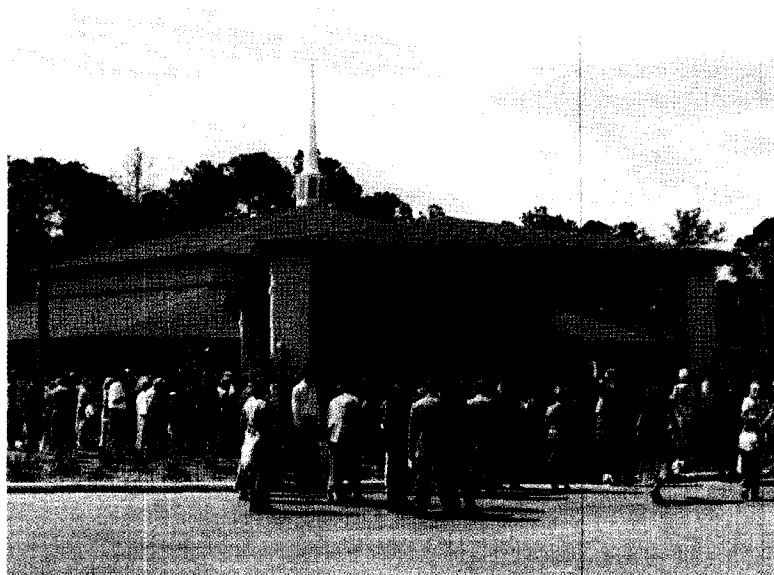
The Daytona Beach church officially opened October 10 to new facilities at 401 N. Williamson Blvd., north of Highway 92 and the Daytona International Speedway.

The congregation was forced to relocate when the Daytona International Airport purchased their facilities on 1650 Hancock Blvd. for airport-related industries. Bill Barrett, pastor, states that their new facilities are even better than the ones they originally had. With the funds they received, they were able to purchase the 10.4-acre N. Williamson Blvd. site.

Ten years ago, when the church purchased the 10-acre Hancock Blvd. site, a gymnasium and school were built. The congregation worshiped in the gym as they accumulated funds for its future sanctuary.

Today, they have a 23,706 square-foot church facility complete with a 380-seat sanctuary, a larger gym, individual Sabbath school classrooms, and a larger school. Currently, 26 students are enrolled.

"The congregation feels this is a dream that has finally come true."



Daytona Beach, Florida's new church home.

GLORIA DOLL

CONFERENCE NEWS NOTES

Approximately 400 Hispanic lay leaders in Miami met September 12 for a rally and training event in preparation for Miami 2000: Jesus, Hope, and Future, an evangelistic meeting to be conducted in the spring of 1999 by Alejandro Bullón, South American Division ministerial secretary and international evangelist. Lay leaders will conduct Bible studies in the interim, with the goal of 1,500 Bible course graduates before Miami 2000 begins.

Student literature evangelists sold \$165,000 in books—doubling the amount of last summer's program. They visited 150,000 homes and left 50,000 Bible study enrollment cards.

From Crystal River to Naples, and east to Lakeland and Avon Park, more than 225 women from the Gulf and Ridge regions attended the Women of Spirit Day held at the Palmetto church October 24. Attendees chose two seminars from topics including hospitality, literacy, finances, spiritual tea time, and prayer. The purpose of the event was to

nurture Adventist women.

About \$2,500 was donated to the Children's Home Society and Children's Advocacy Center of Highlands County by Walker Memorial church in Avon Park. The money was raised from donations and ticket sales for a community concert which was part of the church's first annual Reality Check youth rally.

The Palm Beach County Bloodmobile collected 14 pints of blood during a three-hour health fair hosted by the West Palm Beach church recently. Area residents could also get tested for blood pressure, glaucoma, and body fat.

Robert Bogess had filled the pastoral vacancy at the Miami Temple church which was created when **Glen Altermatt** joined Florida Conference in March as adult Sabbath school/stewardship/ASI director. Bogess comes from the Washington Conference. **Wauchula pastor Art Swinson** has retired. **Burton Wright** has come out of retirement to pastor that church on an interim basis.

In Transition

Tallahassee pastor **Gordon Henderson** has retired. Altamonte Springs associate pastor **Daniel Graham** now serves as pastor at the Tallahassee church. Jensen Beach pastor **Wayne Gosling** transferred to the Jupiter-Tequesta church, filling the pastoral vacancy. East Pasco pastor **Bill McVay** is now in nondenominational employment. East Pasco Medical Center chaplain **Doug Higgins** now serves as interim pastor of the East Pasco church. **Mark O'Fall** has completed his studies at the Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and is now associate pastor of the Orlando Central church. **Ben Holdsworth**, most recently in nondenominational employment, has filled the pastoral vacancies at the Tampa Carrollwood and Plant City churches, a newly-created district. **Dan Adels** has filled the pastoral vacancy at the Madison/Cross City district, coming from the Wisconsin Conference. **Albert Ellis** has come out of retirement to serve as an interim associate pastor of the South Orlando church.

Organized to Fulfill Its Mission

How the Seventh-day Adventist Church Is Structured

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a mandate to share the everlasting gospel to every nation, state, city and town, and all races and ages. To make this possible, the Church is organized into five distinct levels of administrative structure.

Each level of the Church has the same overall mission but functions differently in carrying out the mission. The five levels of the Church are: 1) the local church, 2) the local conference of churches, 3) the union conference, 4) the division, and 5) the General Conference.

The Local Church

In the chain of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization, the local church is the most important. It is the organizational and financial bedrock through which the mission of the Church is carried out. The local church is where the "rubber meets the road." It is here that fellowship, friendship, caring, worship, sharing the good news about Jesus, and making a difference in the community takes place. The concentrated effort of all levels of church organization is focused on a growing, vibrant church community. There are 922 churches and 54 companies (as of September 30, 1998) in the Southern Union territory.

The Local Conference

State or area conferences are made up of a number of churches in their territory with the purpose of facilitating, strengthening, and coordinating the work of the Church. The Church is organized with a representative form of government. Local churches send representatives to constituency meetings which in turn elect conference leaders. Constituency meetings to elect officers and departmental directors in the conferences are held every three or four years depending on the conference. Lay members, pastors, and teachers serve on the conference executive board. The local conference headquarters serves as an administrative and departmental resource for the local churches.

There are eight conferences in the Southern Union: Carolina (13,628), Florida (42,581), Georgia-Cumberland (24,797), Gulf States (7,226), Kentucky-Tennessee (11,092), South Atlantic (27,656), South Central (27,403), Southeastern (25,682) (as of Sept. 30).

The Union Conference

Union conferences are the third level of church organization which are made up of the local conferences within their territory. The union's primary work is administrative and financial, focusing on education, religious liberty, legal issues, language groups, and trust services. Unions coordinate and unify the emphasis of mission among the conferences. Planning for accountability and binding the efforts of the Church together are the union's main functions. Constituency meetings to elect officers and departmental directors for the Southern Union are held every five years. On this level of organization, the conferences and churches are represented by lay members, pastors, teachers, and conference administrators on the executive board of the union.

There are 180,065 members (as of September 30, 1998) within the Southern Union territory.

The Division

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is divided into divisions—the next level of church organization. The North American Division has oversight for all the churches, conferences, and unions in the United States, Bermuda, and Canada. It has the responsibility of coordinating the division's mission projects, evangelistic efforts such as NET '98, the media center, and health and educational institutions. Constituency meetings to elect officers for the North American Division are held every five years. The divisions have representatives from unions, conferences, and local churches on their division committees. The North American Division has 875,811 (1997) church members in its territory.

The General Conference

The General Conference world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is located in Silver Spring, Maryland. It is made up of 12 divisions and attached fields with a total membership of 9,702,834 (1997). More than 1.5 billion dollars of total tithe and offerings are generated through all levels of the Church organization. The General Conference functions to help coordinate and bind the church together around the world.

The book of Acts tells how the early church was organized and how rapidly it grew because of the cooperative effort of all the church members. God has called the church today to share the gospel and prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus. As such, therefore, the Seventh-day Adventist church is established in 205 of the 230 countries of the world and conducts its missionary work in 735 languages and dialects throughout the world.

God has led this Church since its inception and given guidance and direction in how it should be organized to fulfill its mission. We give praise and thanks to the Almighty One for His leadership and guidance in the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1997

WORLD STATISTICS

Church membership	9,702,834
Additions by baptism & profession of faith	744,798
World divisions	12
Union conferences and missions	90
Local conferences and missions	465
Churches	43,270
Companies	39,641
Sabbath schools	97,602
Sabbath school membership	11,435,399
Sabbath school mission offerings	US\$45,648,694
Pathfinder clubs	15,350
Pathfinder club memberships	563,148
Denominational workers all categories	153,617
Tithe	US\$970,766,784
Tithe and offerings	US\$1,500,521,546

EDUCATION

Colleges and Universities	89
Teachers	4,694
Enrollment	59,527
Secondary schools	927
Teachers	14,296
Enrollment	201,945
Primary schools	4,364
Teachers	29,528
Enrollment	696,597

HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS

Hospitals and sanitariums	159
Clinics and dispensaries	306
Other health care institutions	116

PUBLISHING

Publishing houses and branches	56
Employees	2,108
Periodicals printed	377
Literature evangelists	
Full-time	13,368
Part-time	6,089
Student	3,582

GLOBAL MISSION

Countries of the world	230
Countries in which Adventist work is established	205
Population of the world (June 1997)	5,840,433,000
Population of countries where work is established	5,723,153,000
Populations of countries where work is not established	117,280,000

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION STATISTICS

Membership	875,811
Churches & Companies	5,076
Additions by baptism & profession of faith	35,493
Tithe	US \$534,169,178
Tithes and offerings	US \$849,405,140
College and Universities	15

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE STATISTICS

Membership	177,743
Churches & Companies	968
Additions by baptism & profession of faith	2,950
Tithe	US \$107,332,431
Tithes and offerings	US \$136,301,208
Colleges	2
University	1

General Conference - World Church
 President: Robert S. Folkenberg
 Secretary: G. Ralph Thompson
 Treasurer: Robert L. Lawson
 Churches: 43,270
 Companies*: 39,641

North American Division
 President: Alfred C. McClure
 Secretary: Harold W. Baptiste
 Treasurer: Juan R. Prestol
 Churches: 4,694
 Companies*: 383

Southern Union Conference
 President: Malcolm D Gordon
 Secretary: Ward D. Sumpter
 Treasurer: Richard P. Center
 Churches: 912
 Companies*: 56

*Companies—a group of believers organized for fellowship and worship with the objective of growing into an organized church.

Special Interest Groups which may be helpful to you:

Adventist Amateur Radio Association

58 Byron Drive
 Smithsburg MD 21783
 Tel: 301-824-3509
 E-mail: kw8t@mci2000.com
 AARA is an association of the nearly 3,000 Seventh-day Adventist amateur radio operators around the world.

Adventist Child Care Network

NAD Children's Ministries
 12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6425
 E-mail: moyeta@nad.adventist.org
 Child care providers have organized a network with a newsletter, Adventist Child Care Connections.

Adventist Children's Ministries Association ACMA

5040 Prescott Avenue
 Lincoln NE 68506
 Tel: 402-486-2519 / 800-328-0525
 ACMA is a network organized by a group of about 50 children's ministries representatives from across North America

Adventist Contact

PO Box 5419
 Takoma Park MD 20913-0419
 Tel: 301-589-4440
 Adventist Contact is an independent dating service designed exclusively for unmarried Seventh-day Adventists.

Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI)

12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6450
 E-mail: 71756.1072@compuserve.com
 ASI is an organization of Adventist lay members who provide support and nurture for church programs from their businesses, professional offices, and/or outreach ministries.

Adventist Marriage Encounter

John & Carolyn Wilt
 10363 Sportsman Court
 Rancho Cordova CA 95670
 Tel: 916-362-6244
 E-mail: jjwilt@bigplanet.com

Adventist Prison Ministries Association (APMA)

c/o NAD Church Ministries
 12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6430

Adventist Rodders Club (ARC)

38 Schafer Meadows Lane
 Montesano WA 98563
 Tel: 360-249-5822
 E-mail: leisike@techline.com
 ARC is an affiliation of Seventh-day Adventist Christians who love the Lord and who are car buffs.

Adventist World Aviation

Griggs Drive
 Berrien Springs MI 49104
 Tel: 616-473-0135
 E-mail: 76613.344@compuserve.com
 A non-profit, independent, supporting ministry organized to provide aviation transportation, communications, and logistical support of front-line missions.

Association of Adventist Parents

Keeping in Touch (AAP)
 12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6702
 E-mail: 74617.2242@compuserve.com

Center for Volunteerism

12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 800-252-7363 / 301-680-6648
 E-mail: hellern@gc.adventist.org
 Responsible for processing English language school teachers for Russia, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Korea, and China. Also serves as the office which receives student missionary requests from all world divisions.

Christian Women's Pen Pal Club

4316 S 49th Street
 Lincoln NE 68516
 Make a new friend by joining the Christian Women's Pen Pal Club. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Maranatha Volunteers International

1600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 116
 Sacramento CA 95815
 Tel: 916-920-1900
 E-mail: 74617.2722@compuserve.com
 A volunteer organization that sends volunteers on mission trips locally and worldwide to do various projects such as build churches, schools, etc.

National Service Organization

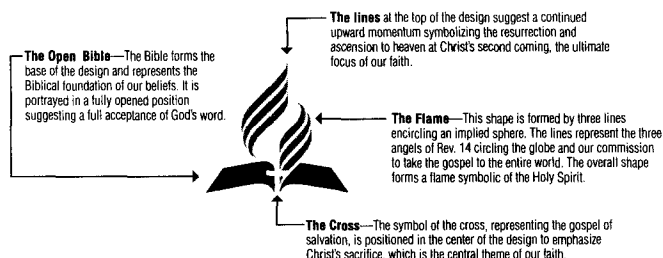
12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6780
 E-mail: adventistchaplains@compuserve.com
 NSO is the official military-relations office of the Church.

Regeneration Ministries SDAXA

PO Box 712
 Coupeville WA 98239-0712
 Tel: 360-675-4412
 Seventh-day Adventists for extinction of addictions.

YouthNet - Adventist Youth Service Network

12501 Old Columbia Pike
 Silver Spring MD 20904-6600
 Tel: 301-680-6479 / 800-331-2767
 E-mail: North America: vasqna@nad.adventist.org
 Outside NAD: latce@nad.adventist.org
 YouthNet matches young people with needs and opportunities to further the worldwide mission and ministry of the Church.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church Logo

The logo is the visual identity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "The design, as a whole, is intended to reflect the spirit and character of our dynamic and growing church. However, the individual elements that form the basis of the design were carefully selected to represent the beliefs and mission of the church"—*Global Identity Standards Manual*, p. vi.

Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .

In a personal God. Hebrews 1:1-3.

In Jesus Christ, as the Divine Son of God and as our Saviour. John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 7:25.

In the Holy Spirit, the Divine Comforter. John 15:26.

In regeneration and the new birth, through the acceptance of the gospel. John 3:1-7; II Corinthians 5:17.

That the Bible is the inspired Word of God. II Timothy 3:16.

That the second coming of Christ is very near. That it will be literal, personal, and visible to all. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30.

That man by nature is mortal. Job 4:17; I Timothy 6:15, 16.

That immortality and eternal life are the gifts of God and are received only through Christ. Romans 6:23.

That the dead are in an unconscious state. Ecclesiastes 9:5; John 11:11-14.

That there will be a resurrection of the dead. I Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

That the wicked will not burn eternally, but will be burned up. Malachi 4:1-3.

That righteousness comes by faith, not by works. Romans 4:3-5; Ephesians 2:8, 9.

That salvation comes as a gift of God and is not received through any merit of the sinner's. Ephesians 2:3.

That the law of the Ten Commandments is the standard of righteousness by which all will be judged and which all Christians are commanded to obey. James 2:10-12; Exodus 20:3-17.

That the original seventh-day Sabbath has never been changed by Divine authority and therefore it is the privilege of all Christians to keep it holy. Genesis 2:2, 3; Luke 23:54-56.

In the support of the gospel through tithes and offerings. Leviticus 27:30-32; Malachi 3:8-11; Matthew 23:23.

In baptism by immersion. Mark 1:9, 10; Romans 6:3-5.

In the ordinances of humility and the Lord's Supper. John 13:4-17; I Corinthians 11:23-26.

In the gifts of the Spirit including the Spirit of Prophecy. Ephesians 4:8-11; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10.

In discarding unhealthful practices, such as the use of intoxicants, tobacco, unclean meats, etc. Proverbs 23:29-32; I Corinthians 3:16, 17; Deuteronomy 14:3-20; Isaiah 66:15-17.

That the followers of Jesus should manifest true Christian modesty in dress and deportment, and should shun all questionable worldly amusements. I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3:3-5; James 1:27; Philippians 4:8; I John 2:15-17.

That the foregoing principles are practiced, not from a sense of obligation or to enable the individual to "earn" salvation, but rather come as the result of a love relationship with Christ and are a natural consequence of accepting Him as a personal Saviour. John 14:15; Hebrews 8:10-12.

Adventists on the Internet:

One study recently reported that traffic on the Internet doubles every 60 days. Seventh-day Adventists are very much a part of this exploding frontier. One way you can become better acquainted with your new church family is through cyberspace. Individual members, local churches and church entities maintain a strong Adventist presence on the web that continues to expand. If you have Internet access we invite you to visit some of the following sites (both private and organizational) for church news, spiritual nourishment, resource information, and training.

Adventist Association of Online Evangelism (Organization for online outreach)—
<<http://www.aaoc.org/>><http://www.aaoc.org/>

Adventist Church Locator (Look up a church address)—
<<http://www.sdanet.org/locator/home.html>><http://www.sdanet.org/locator/home.html>

Adventist Communication Network (For Seventh-day Adventist satellite programming and training)—
<<http://www.acnsat.org/>><http://www.acnsat.org/>

Adventist Education (Educational institutions K-University)—
<<http://www.nadeducation.adventist.org/>><http://www.nadeducation.adventist.org/>

Adventist Health Care (Here's a sampling of sites)—
<<http://www.llu.edu/>><http://www.llu.edu/> &
<<http://www.ahss.org/>><http://www.ahss.org/>

Adventist Media Center (TV and radio ministries)—
<<http://www.adventistmedia.org/>><http://www.adventistmedia.org/>

Adventists Online (CompuServe Adventist Forum)—
<<http://www.adventist.org/online>><http://www.adventist.org/online>

Adventist PlusLine (Ministry resource information)—
<<http://plusline.adventist.org/>><http://plusline.adventist.org/>

Adventist Singles Ministries (Oregon Chapter)—
<<http://www.teleport.com/~brothers/asm>><http://www.teleport.com/~brothers/asm>

Bible Information Line (General Bible Information)—
<<http://www.bibleinfo.com/>><http://www.bibleinfo.com/>

Center for Youth Evangelism (Youth resources and leadership training)—
<<http://www.andrews.edu/CYE>>[http://www.andrews.edu/CYE/](http://www.andrews.edu/CYE)

E-MALE (Men's ministry resource)—
<<http://www.emale.org/>><http://www.emale.org/>

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (World administrative offices)—
<<http://www.adventist.org/>><http://www.adventist.org/>

Geoscience Research Institute (Questions on science and faith)—
<<http://www.tagnet.org/gri>>[http://www.tagnet.org/gri/](http://www.tagnet.org/gri)

Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry (Youth and family life resources)—
<<http://www.lasierra.edu/hyfm>><http://www.lasierra.edu/hyfm/>

Maranatha International (Mission building projects)—
<<http://www.maranatha.org/>><http://www.maranatha.org/>

North American Division Children's Ministries Department (Children's ministry resources)—
<<http://www.northamerica.adventist.org/cm>><http://www.northamerica.adventist.org/cm/>

North American Division Religious Liberty Department (Promotes religious freedom)—
<<http://www.nadfreedom.org/>><http://www.NADFreedom.org/>

North American Division (NAD) (Administrative offices for North America)—
<<http://northamerica.adventist.org/>><http://northamerica.adventist.org/>

Pacific Press (Adventist publisher)—
<<http://www.pacificpress.com/>><http://www.pacificpress.com/>

Review and Herald Publishing Association (Adventist Publisher)—
<<http://www.rhpa.org/>><http://www.rhpa.org/>

Sabbath School Network (Adult lesson study helps)—
<<http://www.ssnet.org/>><http://www.ssnet.org/>

SDASource (Index of Adventist websites)—
<<http://www.tagnet.org/SDASource>><http://www.tagnet.org/SDASource/>

Tagnet (Adventist internet reference site)—
<<http://www.tagnet.org/>><http://www.tagnet.org/>

Three Angels Broadcasting (Lay television ministry)—
<<http://www.3abn.org/>><http://www.3abn.org/>

YouthNet (Youth Mission Service)—
<<http://www.cuc.edu/sdaorg/YouthNet>><http://www.cuc.edu/sdaorg/YouthNet/>

Youth Online (Adventist youth web hangout)—
<<http://www.youth/>><http://www.youth-online.org/>

As you explore these sites you'll discover links that will take you to many others. One note needs to be made. Some sites on the Internet that claim to be Seventh-day Adventist are not affiliated with our church. If you have questions about a particular organization or website call (800) SDA-PLUS (732-7587).



BY DORIS BURDICK

What's the Difference?

At first glance, it may seem that the teaching of natural sciences at a nearby community college or state university and at Southern Adventist University would be the same.

Graduates of both are taught basic concepts of science and how to apply the scientific method to problem solving.

But beyond that, students at Southern gain awareness of both the potential and the limitations of pure and applied science in solving problems. In biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science classes they see God as creator-designer. Teachers help students move past their "faith and reason conflicts" toward a mature, thoughtful faith.



BILLY HOWARD

Rhonda Scott-Ennis, Ph.D., with a chemistry class.

What's Happening

- A "Sunshine Band" of students visits Life Care Center of Collegedale every other Sabbath. Sharing music, smiles, conversation, and prayer, students make a point to visit the occupants of each room.
- Several sermons and other presentations by Gordon Bietz, president, are available to anyone with computer access to the World Wide Web and Southern's website at www.southern.edu.
- A three-year rotating schedule is in place for replacing computers in general use computer labs so that students will be working with current technology. By June of this year 41 new Macintosh computers will be available in labs for journalism and art and graphic design students. The business and computing labs will have a total of 52 new Windows computers.
- A new position, manager of property and industry development, was established recently at Southern Adventist University. Marty Hamilton has been appointed to the position.
- Twenty-five years of service at Southern Adventist University was recognized recently for William Wohlers, vice president for student services; and two College Press employees, Gordon Armstrong and Forrest Wentz. Ten-year awards for full-time service went to: Evalynn Buttermore, Beverly Ericson, Jan Haveman, Bradley Hyde, Richard Johnson, Sherrie Norton, Ken Norton, Dennis Pettibone, Frank Strack, and Dale Walters. Special recognition also went to six others with long service, all or some of which was on a part-time basis: Barbara Beckett, Becky Bolton, Joanne Evans, Virginia Hagan, Marlene Keaton, and Betty Teter.

Chemistry

A trio of chemistry degrees is offered at Southern. The B.S. prepares students for graduate study and careers in research or college teaching. Students headed toward medicine or dentistry prefer the B.S. with a biochemistry emphasis. The B.A. prepares high school chemistry teachers.

A new course, Introductory Chemistry, is being added next fall. For future elementary teachers, it uses a "hands-on" approach to teach basic principles of chemistry.

A third chemistry teacher, Brent Hamstra, Ph.D., has just joined Rhonda Scott-Ennis, Ph.D., and Bruce Schilling, Ph.D., in the department.



Musical Group Sings at Disney

JANICE EDMON



Bel Canto, choral group from John L. Coble Elementary in Calhoun, Ga., performed for the Conference K-12 Education Board at its December meeting. Director Esther Henson (right, second row) started the choir in 1993. It has performed at Disney World for the past five years. All music is sung from memory.

For the past five years, Bel Canto, a 27-voice choir from John L. Coble Elementary School in Calhoun, Ga., has

been accepted to perform at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. The first four years the choir participated in the Magic Music

Days held in the spring. In 1998, they auditioned and were accepted for the Christmas Music Celebration.

Students also attended a Performance Workshop conducted by Disney teachers. Techniques for auditioning, proper stage presence, and how to distinguish between different types of music were taught in a fun and creative way. Another highlight of the trip was conducting the worship service at the Winter Springs, Fla., church.

The choir began in 1993 and has a repertoire of secular, religious, and seasonal music that enables it to perform for a variety of occasions. All music is performed from memory. Songs are sung a cappella, with sound tracks, or accompanied by a piano student. To be a member of the choir, students in grades five through eight must audition.

Regularly, the group sings at school functions, churches, local businesses, and civic events. The group has performed in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida.

Standifer Gap School Students Meet General Colin Powell

BY FRED COLE



Tyler and Emily Cole, Standifer Gap School students from Chattanooga, Tenn., are pictured with Colin Powell (left back row), father, Fred, and mother, Debbie. They were given the honor of sitting on stage for the kickoff of the America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth in Tenn.

Standifer Gap Elementary School students were among 4,000 gathered in Knoxville, Tenn., October 13 to hear General Colin Powell, USA, kick off America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth in Tenn. General Powell is chairman of the national not-for-profit organization that seeks to connect young people with five essential resources they need to succeed: 1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult—parent, teacher, mentor, tutor, coach; 2) safe places with structured activities during non-school hours; 3) a healthy start; 4) a marketable skill through education; and 5) an opportunity to give back to the community through service.

America's Promise serves as a nationwide catalyst urging public, private, faith and non-profit organizations to focus their combined talents and resources to improve the lives of America's youth. Hundreds of

corporations and organizations have made commitments to America's Promise, including Adventist Community Services, which made a national commitment to initiate 100 pilot tutoring projects throughout its community-based centers.

Emily and Tyler Cole, Standifer Gap students, were seated on stage with General Powell, Martha Sundquist, University of Tennessee President Joe Johnson, General Carl Stiner, and other dignitaries. Their father, Fred Cole, who heads America's Promise in Tenn., and serves Governor Don Sundquist as chairman of the Tenn. Commission on National and Community Service, was on stage as well.

Knoxville News Talk Radio personality Haller Hill, graduate of Georgia-Cumberland Academy and Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., was master of ceremonies for the event.

A.W. Spalding— Top School at Model United Nations

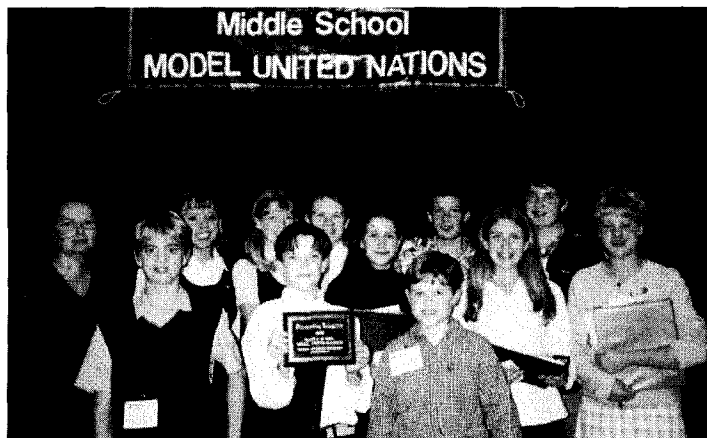
Eleven A.W. Spalding Elementary School students from Collegedale, Tenn., became diplomats at the Middle School Model United Nations in Statesboro, Ga., November 12 and 13, 1998. This annual event is organized and hosted by Georgia Southern University. Nearly 400 students from 20 different schools participated in the event.

Activities began Thursday evening when university professors taught workshops on topics such as terrorism, nuclear weapons, population issues, and regions of the world. On Friday, delegates met in caucuses and debated current issues. Before attending the event, students researched the countries they represented, but they left with a better understanding of the world from different viewpoints.

It was not unusual to overhear debates at lunch and breaks between students that had never met prior to Thursday. Issues such as admission of Palestine to the United Nations, religious freedom and free speech, Iraqi sanctions, human rights, and control of human and animal cloning were topics of conversations.

Spalding received the "outstanding school delegation" award, the highest award given to a school, for the team effort of its delegates. In addition, awards were given to Joia Henning, representing the country of Germany for "outstanding delegate" for the general assembly; Shayna Clifford and Heather Elmendorf, representing the country of Iraq, received an "excellent delegation" award; and Russian Federation delegate Bradley Lasley received an "honorable mention."

"I see the Model United Nations as an opportunity for students to learn about the role of the United Nations, to learn about other countries, and to see the world from another culture's perspective. It also provides an opportunity to develop speaking skills and diplomacy and to study current events," says Bonnie Eder, teacher.



Not only do students learn more about global issues, they have the opportunity to talk about their school and Christianity to other students from both public and private schools. Pictured are Ryan Litchfield (front row left), Zack Fish, Jacque Liles, Britton Jewel, Heather Elmendorf, and Kirstee Hurt. Back row: Mrs. Eder, Joia Henning, Shayna Clifford, Andrew Ritland, Nathan Vega, and Bradley Lasley.



Free At Last

Bobby Sharp (center), chef at the First Baptist Church of Dalton in Dalton, Ga., celebrated one year of being smoke-free. Sharp attended a Breathe Free program conducted by the Dalton Adventist church in 1997. At the 1998 seminar, he shared his success testimony to encourage those struggling to "kick" the habit. To celebrate, Vivian Raitz, seminar facilitator and conference health leader for region four, and Dan Hogan, guest speaker at the seminar, met for lunch.

"We are excited about the Art Weaver Stop Smoking video series," said Raitz. "I think any church could sponsor a stop-smoking program using these materials." Stop smoking videos and materials can be obtained from the Conference health department.

When Shoeboxes Make a Difference

BY JONI BROUGHT



HOWARD GODHE

Children bring their shoeboxes to the front of the sanctuary to show how they are sharing the true meaning of Christmas with other children.

For the past three years, children of the Bowman Hills church in Cleveland, Tenn., have joined with other churches in its community to contribute to the Operation Christmas Child program. In 1998, Bowman Hills prepared 105 small "miracle" gifts.

A pair of socks, toothpaste and toothbrush, wrapped candy, and a small toy are placed inside a shoebox and wrapped. What has been created is more than a shoebox filled with goodies—it is the beginning of a Christmas miracle.

By Christmas day, the boxes arrive in countries as geographically distant as Bosnia and Bangladesh, and volunteers distribute the gifts to the poor children. For many, these gifts were the only Christmas they will ever know. But for children touched by the tangible love of Christ...the little shoebox is a miracle.

THE MOST POWERFUL ENVELOPE IN THE WORLD

It's wonderful to be part of a church with a world-wide mission of bringing people to Jesus. You may be wondering how the Seventh-day Adventist Church can possibly accomplish the wide diversity of projects it supports around the world. This work is only possible because of the support of all the members through their donations of time, talents, skills, and funds. Because of its many ministries, the Church has developed an excellent system for tracking how funds are received and distributed to accomplish its mission. While this tracking method is complex, it provides a process that has allowed the Adventist Church to establish churches around the world.

By now you have undoubtedly discovered the offering envelopes that are usually located in the pockets on the back of the church pews. The tithe and offering envelope is a very important financial document on which you can indicate to your church how you wish your donations to be used.

The information on the envelope is usually divided into four sections. The first is exclusively for the donation of tithe. The second is used for local church projects such as operating expenses, local church

building projects, or other local church functions as may be deemed necessary by each congregation. The third section is for your conference's activities. Some conferences divide this section up for specific projects, while others combine all conference projects under one offering. You can usually find an explanation of the specific projects for which these funds are used on either the back of the envelope or the flap. The fourth section represents donations for world missions.

The Tithe

The envelope is fairly straightforward and easy to use. The biblical principle of tithing has been adopted as a basis for returning one tenth of our income to God. Malachi 3:10 is a text that is often referred to as a biblical source of this giving principle. Tithing is a wonderful adventure in faith. Over and over people say, "I can't out-give the Lord."

Tithe monies are considered sacred and are used for the financial support of ministers around the world. Adventist pastors are not dependent on whatever monies happen to be placed in the offering plate in church each week. Instead, because of the tithing system, they

have a specific salary which they can count on for budget purposes. This has been the Church's way of supporting the ministry throughout the world. The tithe also pays the salaries of workers in each department at conference, union, division, and General Conference levels.

Local Church Budget

While the local church does not pay its pastor directly, it does have operating expenses. These expenses are paid for out of the local church budget as needs arise. One of the major expenses that a local church will incur, in many instances, is the operation of a Seventh-day Adventist school. Through members' donations, local churches carry the major responsibility for financing elementary and day schools associated with each church. In most instances, church schools do charge tuition to cover a portion of the expense, while some invite the entire membership to participate in the support of the school, making the school budget a line item in the church budget.

Conference Advance

The church's policy is very careful about the use of tithe. Certain expenditures are excluded from tithe use. Examples of these

would be funds expended for construction costs, land purchases, and building repairs. In addition to tithe, the conference appeals for offerings which assist the local conference with its operations. These offerings are usually used for evangelism, education, youth camp projects, campgrounds, and assistance in building new

the offering plate is passed. One advantage of using the envelope is that the donor is identified and therefore eligible for charitable donation receipts.

Additional Offerings

On most envelopes, several addi-

out the world. Each one is given special attention at some time during the year, since a large portion of their support comes from the offering given on a special day. Offerings may also be directed to these projects at any time during the year by writing the name of the mission or ministry to which you would like to restrict your donation. Materials announcing special offerings are also furnished to pastors, so that they may be distributed to members through the church bulletin or used to introduce the offering on the day that it is called for from the platform.

The next time you pick up an envelope from the back of the pew and tuck your donation into it, consider the tremendous opportunity you have to contribute through your church to help tell people that Jesus is com-

churches and schools. The tithe envelope used in your conference will list the specific projects for your conference.

World Budget

The section entitled World Budget on the envelope is the place where the weekly Sabbath school offering is listed. Some members prefer to drop this offering into the offering plate anonymously each week; however, if you prayerfully plan what percentage of your income you want to devote to the world mission of the church, you can simply include that offering when you are dividing up your paycheck, making it unnecessary to remember to have the correct amount ready each Sabbath when

tional offerings are listed below World Budget. These funds are used for the establishment or maintenance of specific missions or ministries in North America and through-

ing. This envelope truly is an instrument used by God to provide funding to be used according to your directions, so that the gospel of the Kingdom may be preached in all the world and hasten the coming of Jesus.

NAME _____ PLEASE PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE _____

McDonald Road
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
5440 McDonald Road, McDonald, TN 37353

TITHE (10% OF INCOME) \$ _____
WORLD BUDGET (2-3%) \$ _____
CONFERENCE ADVANCE (2%) \$ _____
GCA - Blueprint for 21st Century \$ _____
EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT \$ _____
CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY \$ _____
CHURCH BUDGET (5%) \$ _____
WORTHY STUDENT AID \$ _____
BUILDING FUND \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

OFFICE USE ONLY
ON _____
ON _____
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AM _____
AM _____
AM _____



FHCHS Shares Holiday Spirit with Cancer Patients

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences employees did something really special on Christmas Eve. They delivered more than 60 little Christmas trees to oncology, diabetes, and bone marrow patients at Florida Hospital Orlando and Florida Hospital Altamonte.

Karen Brown, FHCHS accountant, thought of the holiday idea following the death of a close family member due to cancer the past year. "With the money that my family would have spent on my mother for Christmas, we decided to buy Christmas trees, decorate them, and pass them out to the cancer patients who will be spending Christmas in the hospital," Brown said.

Thank you to Fernando Braff, John Ulmer, Christie Blanton, Kathy Schultz, Dawn Brown, Eddie Braga, Len Archer, Esther Pierre-Louis, Karen Brown, Mollie Braga, Janet Braga, and Donna-Marie Kostrub for participating.



Karen Brown (kneeling, second from left), and volunteers on the oncology floor at Florida Hospital Orlando.

Southern Union Conference

ASI Spring Convention

April 9-10, 1999

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center
Crandall, Georgia

Guest Speaker: Jack J. Blanco, Dean
School of Religion
Southern Adventist University

Registration Fee: (Non-Refundable)
\$25.00 Per Member
FREE First time visitor

Mail Registration Fee to:
Southern Union ASI
PO Box 849
Decatur, GA 30031
(Check or Money Orders only)

Lodging & Meals:

Arrangements can be made by calling:
Cohutta Springs at:
1-800-940-6789 OR (706) 695-9093

**Deadline for room availability is
March 10, 1999**

**Each participant must arrange lodging and
meals directly with Cohutta Springs**

**For additional information call:
(404) 299-1832**



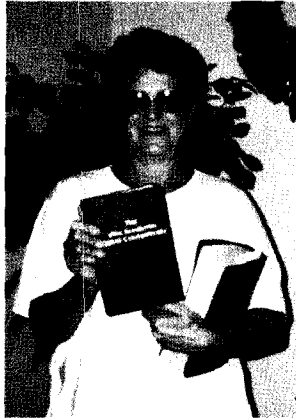
BY MARLYN AND BETTY KURTZ

Depreciation Turned to Appreciation

Depreciation is generally a negative word, however for Liz Paul it was the depreciated value of 25 cents placed on a *Great Controversy* she found at a garage sale that enticed her to buy the attractive book.

Liz read the book from cover to cover, believed what it said, and began to keep the Sabbath. But things were not complete, she felt a desire to be a part of the people who believed and followed the teachings of the book. At the same time she feared she could never become a worthy member of such a group of people. Later, in a hospital waiting room, she discovered a copy of *Signs* magazine and learned about Seventh-day Adventists.

Liz found the number of the local Adventist church in the phone directory and called but there was never an answer (the church now has voice mail). Then one day she read a funeral notice in the newspaper that listed Marlyn



Liz Paul holds her two favorite books, *The Great Controversy* and *the Bible*.

Kurtz as the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Now, she had a name to look for in the phone directory. When Liz called the Kurtz home Marlyn and Betty, his wife, made an appointment to meet her the next day. It was a joyous visit and for Liz it was the beginning of fellowship with her new church family.

A few weeks later Betty Kurtz invited Liz to a Gulf States Conference women's ministry retreat held at Camp Alamisco. There was one concern, Liz had tried repeatedly, but had not been able to quit smoking and she didn't want to offend anyone. Betty and she decided that if Liz felt a need to smoke that she would say she was "going to look for chipmunks" and that she and Betty would take a walk or drive in Betty's car. "Going to look for chipmunks" became a joke between Betty and Liz. At the end of the weekend Liz realized that she had not felt the need to smoke and that God had given her the victory over the only thing that stood in her way of being baptized.

Liz Paul's baptism December 5, 1998, was a special day for her and the Dothan, Ala., church. Liz's husband, William, has not yet joined the church, but he has caught Liz's enthusiasm and is proclaiming the message of the Sabbath as he drives his 18 wheeler across the country. The prayers of the church is that William will soon take his stand to be baptized.

Students Spread Christmas Cheer to Young and Old

BY BECKY GRICE

Christmas is a time to give, not just receive. That's why the students at Bass Memorial Academy have a tradition of going into the community to spread Christmas cheer and gifts.

Toys for Tots is a student association sponsored activity that gives the students an opportunity to share their cheer and faith with others. This year's trip was arranged with the Forrest County Housing Authority in order to reach as many families as possible.

Although it rained most of the day, it didn't dampen the



Adam Ruf, a student, visits with residents of Arlington Assisted Living Center.



Heather Roberts and Adrienne Martin with two of the more than 50 kids given gifts by the Bass Academy students.

spirits of the students or the ones who were visited. Heather Lee, Vicki Cook, Juana Haylock, and Jamel Frye not only offered a smile but also prayed with a lady who was having difficulty coping after losing her job. "This means more to me than you understand," she said with tears in her eyes.

Warm smiles from the residents of the Arlington Assisted Living Center in Hattiesburg, Miss., greeted the Bass students. The students came to present a program to the residents which included caroling, skits, readings, and special music.

Drawing People to Christ

Drawing people to Christ—the ultimate goal of three television and two radio ministries producing programs at the Adventist Media Center (AMC). Their goals are the same; however, their methods vary.

Voice of Prophecy

A leader in religious broadcasting for nearly 70 years, the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) presents clear messages from God's word—bringing hope to broken people and guiding Christians in daily living.

Founded by H.M.S. Richards on a single Los Angeles radio station in 1929, and now directed by Lonnie Melashenko, VOP reaches contemporary society with the gospel. It heralds Christ's soon return. VOP impacts millions worldwide with Sunday and daily radio programs, television broadcasts, Bible study courses, and public meetings which focus on God's love.

La Voz de la Esperanza

Since 1942, La Voz de la Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) has touched millions of Spanish-speaking people through weekly radio programs. With director/speaker Frank Gonzalez and speaker emeritus Milton Peverini, 500 stations in 30 countries carry La Voz throughout North and Latin America and Europe.

Their Bible school distributes a full spectrum of courses on Bible doctrines, family life, health, and youth counseling in 32 branches that receive about 100,000 letters yearly. Through this ministry and several annual evangelistic crusades, the Holy Spirit wins thousands to Christ.

It Is Written

The first religious telecast in color, It Is Written (IIW) was founded in 1956 by George Vandeman. With Mark Finley

speaker/director since 1992, IIW beams around the world, offering salvation through Christ in seven languages and health programs in Chinese.

Blending location shoots, interviews and footage from current events, science, and history to illustrate Scriptural truth, IIW's weekly visit-in-your-home changes lives in prisons and mansions. Literature is mailed free to viewers who call a toll-free number on the screen.

IIW's traveling evangelistic teams conduct crusades and train pastors and lay people in the science of evangelism.

Faith For Today

Faith For Today (FFT) developed a television talk show to appeal to viewers who don't watch religious programming. Hosted by Dan Matthews, *Lifestyle Magazine* teaches people about healthful living. Thousands respond to viewing the program on scores of secular stations.

But, believing the program would attract viewers who never pause to watch a religious channel, the very religious Trinity Broadcasting Network placed *Lifestyle Magazine* on their lineup, free. By early 1998 it had become the fifth most-watched program on TBN. FFT provides home study materials on wellness, nutrition, marriage, parenting and friendships.

Breath of Life (BOL) television is aimed directly at black audiences in the largest cities of North America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, the powerful preaching of both speaker emeritus Charles D. Brooks and current speaker Walter Pearson is popular with a wide variety of viewers. BOL is well-known for planting new churches.

Also based at AMC is **Adventist Media Productions**, a team of technicians

specializing in video and audio production for global church projects. The ministries share support labor from accounting, mailroom/warehouse, telephone and computer departments.

Staff members from the media ministries often present seminars on doctrines, wellness, marriage, parenting, and other topics that draw people to a local church. Videotaped seminars, sermons and Bible lessons are available, as well as albums by artists who provide music for the programs.

All the ministries supply churches with lists of interests developed through response to TV/radio programs and Bible courses. Letters of invitation signed by ministry speakers can be sent to these names, along with handbills for crusades or seminars. Local events can be announced at the end of broadcasts.

Being largely donor-supported, AMC ministries always welcome financial gifts to help them draw people to Christ and hasten HIS return.

How to reach:

Adventist Media Center
101 W. Cochran Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Telephone: 805-373-7777

On the Internet:

Faith For Today: www.lifestyle.org
It Is Written: www.iiw.org
La Voz de la Esperanza:
www.lavoz.org
Voice of Prophecy: www.vop.org

Health HIGHLIGHTS of Adventist Health System

Natural disasters strike hospitals

The flooding of Texas

After storms dumped more than 24 inches of rain over Central Texas this past October, Central Texas Medical Center, as well as the City of San Marcos, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), the Red Cross, area churches and private businesses, worked together to provide support for the estimated 7,000 community members who were displaced from their homes and the 3,000 people who needed shelter during the storms.

Due to the flooding conditions, some Central Texas Medical Center employees were unable to report to the hospital for scheduled shifts. As a result, almost all employees on duty that weekend were asked to stay past their shift and many of them worked a 24-hour shift or more to care for all of the patients and the approximately 100 individuals who sought refuge at the Medical Center.

Free medical care was also available for the flood victims during the weeks following the heavy flooding. Medical staff and other employees of Central Texas Medical Center donated their time and supplies to care for the flood victims.

About 30 employees of Central Texas Medical Center were directly affected by the flooding. Most of these employees lost property such as clothing, furniture, and household items, but some were so badly flooded that their homes were completely destroyed by the high waters.

In an effort to help these employees, Central Texas Medical Center set up a disaster relief drop-off station for other employees to make donations of clothing and household items. Support also came from employees at nearby Adventist hospital, Huguley Health System in Fort Worth, Texas, which donated boxes of clothing and raised more than \$1,500 for the relief fund.



With winds up to 165 miles per hour, trees were uprooted and homes were destroyed during Hurricane Georges which hit the island of Puerto Rico this past Fall.

Hurricane hits Puerto Rico

Bella Vista Hospital in Puerto Rico, which is managed by Adventist Health System, was left without electricity and water for several weeks as a result of the damage caused by Hurricane Georges in September.

More than 60 employee families lost nearly everything they owned in the storm. To help these families in need, employees of Adventist Health System's corporate office contributed more than \$5,500. With these funds, Christmas presents were purchased for the 70 children whose homes were destroyed and additional money was given to each of the families.

In addition, Florida Hospital Heartland in Sebring and Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, Texas, also reached out to those in need by collecting additional gifts for the families. Florida Hospital Fish Memorial in Orange City also sponsored a family and supplied them with their essential needs.

AHS names new senior vice president

In November, Robert Henderschedt was named senior vice president of administration for Adventist Health System. He previously served 15 years as an administrator of Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio, including senior vice president and chief financial officer and later as executive vice president and chief operating officer.

He also formerly served as vice president of Loma Linda University Medical Center and assistant administrator and controller at Tidewater Memorial Hospital in Tappahannock, Virginia.

Henderschedt has a bachelors degree in business administration from Columbia Union College and completed graduate studies in healthcare administration from Loma Linda University.

"With his many years of administrative experience in Adventist healthcare, we are very pleased that Bob has accepted the invitation to join Adventist Health System," said Mardian Blair, president of Adventist Health System. "Bob's coming adds strength to the entire management team and the overall corporation. His role is very significant to many aspects of operation, especially during these times of continued growth and expansion and the increasing complexities of the healthcare environment."



Robert Henderschedt

Home Health enhances mission; names Gary Patterson vice president

With its recent acquisition of Housecall Medical Resources, a leading provider of home healthcare services in the Southeast, Sunbelt Home Health Care (SHCC), the home care division of Adventist Health System, has extended its mission outreach.

"With the addition of Housecall, Sunbelt Home Health Care has nearly tripled its market," said LaDonna Blom-Antonio, president of SHHC. "Many of our new employees have no prior knowledge of Adventist Health System's ministry. Therefore, we have been introducing our mission and values to all of our new team members."

To help advance their mission, Gary Patterson, D.Min., joined Sunbelt Home Health Care in October, as vice president of spiritual ministries. Patterson formerly served as field secretary and director of the office of mission awareness for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Patterson, who has 38 years of experience within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, also formerly served as assistant to the president for the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Prior to that, he served as president of the Georgia-Cumberland and Pennsylvania Seventh-day Adventist Conferences. He also served a number of years

as pastor for the Southern Adventist University Church and the Walla Walla College Church.

"We were pleased that Elder Patterson was able to participate in our introduction programs welcoming Housecall leadership to Adventist Health System," said Blom-Antonio. "Our new team members were very receptive to the values and mission of Adventist Health System and look forward to helping us advance the mission of health and healing."

Housecall Medical Resources, officially became a part of Sunbelt Home Health Care on July 31. As a result, Sunbelt Home Health Care is now responsible for 155 home health agencies in 13 states, making it one of the largest home health companies in the nation. The addition of Housecall enhances Sunbelt Home Health Care's comprehensive range of services and products, which include intermittent and private duty home care, infusion therapy, hospice, respiratory therapy, home medical equipment, management services and consulting.



Gary Patterson

Hospitals develop prayer teams to enhance spirituality

Eleven employees from **Florida Hospital Fish Memorial and Celebration Health** recently graduated from **Florida Hospital's** new inservice program, "Prayer Preceptors," a two-part seminar for hospital employees interested in increasing their spiritual impact on the patients they serve.

"The idea is to train our healthcare professionals to feel comfortable praying for patients, families and colleagues. Employees who complete the training will also be able to properly assess the spiritual needs of the patient and chart this information for the chaplain," said Gloria Ceballos, vice president of Florida Hospital Fish Memorial, who helped create the program. "This program furthers the hospital's mission and enhances our philosophy of providing whole person care to the patients we serve."

The free four-hour training session, led by the hospital chaplains and parish nurses, is divided into two sessions. The first session explains the research of intercessory prayer and its positive affect on the health of patients. The second session teaches the participants how to properly assess the patients' spiritual and religious needs and develop active listening skills.

Huguley Health System in Fort Worth, Texas, has developed a prayer team of administrators, clinical personnel, chaplains and volunteers to focus on enhancing prayer for patients, families, staff and physicians.

According to Tammy Songy, senior vice president of patient services, the initial step was to assess the hospital's current environment. Therefore, the team designed a brief questionnaire relating to comfort levels with prayer and how often prayer was used silently, with peers, family or patients. The results of the questionnaire, which was completed by 200 employees, indicated that many employees prayed silently at work but few led out in prayer with other people. However, there was an overwhelming desire to enhance skills in this area as well as to develop prayer partners.

"We used this information to begin developing a prayer training program and to initiate additional resources for spiritual support, such as prayer partners. We have also begun morning devotionals in our hospital units and have made devotional books more readily available," said Songy. "We are very excited about the opportunities this initiative has brought forward and will continue to focus on ways to further develop and meet our employees' spiritual needs."

General Health increases chaplain ministry

In November, 65 members representing area Adventist churches responded to the need for additional chaplain support in the nursing home division of General Health System in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which is managed by Adventist Health System.

"Recognizing that General Health System's five chaplains cannot meet all of the needs in an organization so large, we sought additional support to help fill the void and serve as volunteer chaplains," said Milton Siepman, Ph.D., president of General Health System. "Once this approach to chaplaincy has proven successful, additional volunteers will be recruited from churches of other denominations so that eventually every patient and resident in the two hospitals and five nursing homes operated by

General Health System will be visited by a chaplain every day."

Chet Damron and Charles Watson, chaplains at Florida Hospital Fish Memorial in Orange City, Florida, along with the chaplains of General Health System, combined their efforts to train the 65 volunteers. Instruction was given covering a wide range of principles essential for successful chaplaincy, which included role-playing, critiquing and active participation.

Graduates of the training program will be interviewed by the General Health System chaplain staff for assignment to specific facilities where they will work under the supervision of a professional chaplain. In this way, guidance and support will be available to them in this specialized ministry.

Reaves honored for community service

Benjamin Reaves, D.Min., vice president of ministries for Adventist Health System, was recently honored as the first recipient of the **Candl Light Award** from the **Candl Foundation**, a national organization which promotes community service. Dr. Reaves was honored for his many years of service at **Oakwood College** in **Huntsville, Alabama**, and for being a "light" in his community by serving as a leader, mentor and minister. In addition to his award, Dr. Reaves received a \$5,000 fund to be donated to the charity of his choice.

The **Candl Foundation**, which was established to embrace the idea of "bringing light to the whole community" and allowing others to "let their light shine," provides avenues for people to share their resources and talents in support of educational programs in schools and churches and to assist those with special needs.

The Foundation is currently involved in supporting the *Grandfather Reads* literary video program to encourage children to read and learn about the world around them. The series, which is hosted by Dr. Reaves, began airing on January 2 on public television in Alabama and parts of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.



Louis and Carolyn Brown, founders of the Candl Foundation, present Dr. Benjamin Reaves (right) with his award.

NEWS NOTES

Sunbelt Health Care Centers changes its name

Sunbelt Health Care Centers, the extended care division of Adventist Health System, recently changed its name to **Adventist Care Centers (ACC)** to more adequately reflect its relationship with Adventist Health System and its affiliation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ACC currently manages 27 nursing homes throughout the Adventist Health System region.

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial opens new ER

In December, **Florida Hospital Fish Memorial**, in **Orange City**, opened its newly constructed 16,000-square-foot emergency room. The new ER, which has the capacity to serve about 37,000 patients a year, features 19 examination rooms and several observation beds, six fast track beds for patients with minor injuries, a special examination room for emergency OB and pediatric patients, and a 150-square-foot sound-proof child play area.

GlenOaks names new administrator

In December, **Brinsley Lewis** began his new role as regional vice president and administrator of **GlenOaks Hospital** in **Illinois**, a part of the Adventist Health System Midwest Region. Lewis formerly served as a vice president at **Sherman Health Systems** located near **Chicago**.

AHS enhances website

The Adventist Health System homepage at <http://www.ahss.org> has been reconstructed to provide the most current information on the organization and its member facilities. The homepage offers the latest AHS news, services provided by the hospitals, a complete directory listing and more. The site also provides hyperlinks to the homepage of member hospitals and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Adventist Health System strives to forge ahead with communicating in the 21st Century by offering a comprehensive and user-friendly homepage. We hope that this site will allow us to reach more individuals as we continue to forward our mission of health and healing," said **Mardian J. Blair**, president of Adventist Health System.

RELIGIOUS

LIBERTY:

IT'S

FOR

EVERYONE

Around the clock in the ideal world, newborns nurse, sleep, get changed—nurse, sleep, get changed. They are lovingly, fiercely, parentally protected from the real world. Every squeak, squawk, burp, and gurgle is accommodated. No questions asked.

Through the seven-day cycle of a real-world week, *spiritual* newborns nurse on the word of the Lord. They work, play, and rest in the strength and safety of the Lord, as they continue to be changed by the Spirit of the Lord. And, they are lovingly, fiercely, parentally protected from every problem—by the government.

I don't think so!

There's a newborn (*you?*) with a Big Time Conflict: Newfound faith versus long-held job. Issue: Working on the Sabbath—sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. And here's a newborn (*you again?*) Who can't work at all.

Your cry for accommodation was rejected. You weren't even asked *why?* All you got was *Don't hafta, not gonna.*

Enter the Seventh-day Adventist Church's ministry of religious freedom. The public affairs and religious liberty department is here to help you.

The PARL professionals on the staff of your union conference:

- Know the applicable national and state or provincial laws prohibiting religious discrimination—the laws providing accommodation for religious belief and practice.
- Understand the sometimes not-so-easy steps to be taken to achieve what the laws provide.
- Will recommend a course of action—and, from start to finish, walk with you through the whole procedure.

And, they won't bill you a penny for their time and expertise.

The ministers, attorneys, paralegals, and office secretaries of PARL keep busy helping hundreds of Adventists, and folks of other faiths as well, find freedom in the workplace. But that's not all.

Consider what we call *government relations*. In Washington and Ottawa and

in every state and provincial capital city, this non-partisan, non-political, never-ending program seeks to preserve religious liberty and to foster the growth of religious liberty. So we'll support good bills which would make good laws and try to block bad bills from becoming bad laws.

You too have a role in government relations—a double role, in fact.

Every January, on Liberty Sabbath, you'll be challenged to give liberally for religious liberty. The offering helps deliver to thought leaders everywhere the best journal on the topic. *Liberty, a magazine of religious freedom.*

Also, just about anytime your state or province's legislative assembly is in session, you may be urged to help the cause of religious freedom by contacting lawmakers from your district regarding a specific bill.

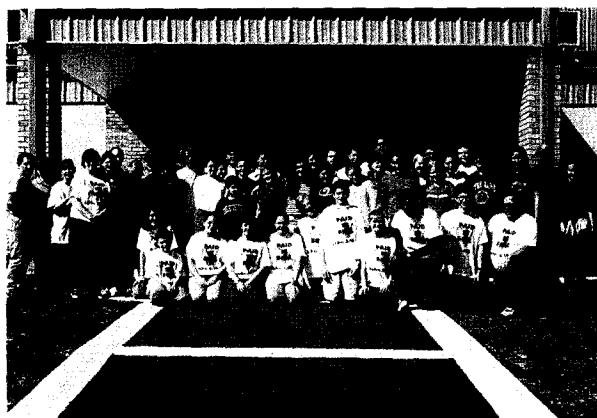
Religious liberty has been a concern of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since its founding and organization. At the Adventist world headquarters near Washington, D.C., John Graz, a scholar and author from France and Switzerland, works as director of the General Conference Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and secretary general of the highly-respected International Religious Liberty Association. Clarence E. Hodges, once a high officer in the U.S. Department of State, is director of the North American Division Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and president of the North American Religious Liberty Association.

In New York at the United Nations, the Church has an office on First Avenue, directly across from the Security Council. In Geneva at the UN Human Rights Commission, we're officially recognized as a non-governmental organization. And, in 207 nations of the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is at work for religious freedom. Not just for you who are a newborn, and not just for the rest of us in the Church. Religious liberty is for everyone.



Madison Academy's Awesome Adventure

Our Appalachia Outreach Team spent a week amidst the brilliantly colorful hues of a panoramic North Carolina landscape.



The Appalachia Outreach Team from Madison Academy.

I am so thankful for programs like these at Madison Academy. Our students receive a wealth of promise in their spiritual nurture and a fortune of opportunities in their service for Christ.

The days are long and physically exhausting. Students repaired rotted flooring, installed doors, nailed and taped drywall, fixed damaged ceilings, and painted. They became enthusiastically involved in a variety of tasks for elderly and impoverished families. It gave our students a fresh appreciation for the many blessings we so often take for granted. It also helped them develop some practical and household skills.

Perhaps, the most valuable part of each day was our worship time—especially at the close of the work day. Worship included singing, sharing time, Bible study, and prayer. Often our worships exceeded well over two hours. Ask any student from

Madison who participated in this year's outreach. He or she would tell you that worships gave them

the depth of meaning behind their labor for Christ. I heard one student say that he would have paid all the money needed for the trip just for one of those worship sessions. It was a time that helped everyone understand more clearly how Christ was leading in their lives. The theme of this year's outreach trip was

Paid in Full. It focused on the immeasurable significance behind the cost of our salvation. The enduring miracle behind this year's trip was one surprise revealed to our students on the last evening of our outreach program.



A team of students clears land in preparation for the housing project.

Through the kindness of donors and sponsoring friends, this year's trip was truly *paid in full*. Students were refunded



Rachel Day (left), and Andrea Keele tape sections of drywall to finish the ceiling.

all the money they paid to participate on this trip. This act symbolically gave them a fresh appreciation of what Christ did for them on the cross when He paid the supreme price for our salvation *in full*.

Our special appreciation is extended to Alan Craig, our maintenance director at Madison Academy, and to Don Keele, youth leader for the students of Columbia Adventist Academy in Washington state. Students from the two schools joined once again, as in the past, on our Appalachian adventure.

Outreach experiences like this give Madison Academy a special and unique role in Christian education. It helps us to step above an education of the head and reach out to training the hand and captivating the heart for Him. As the new principal here, I praise the Lord for our wonderful

young people at Madison Academy and their desire to reflect Jesus through their lives.



BY HELEN KELLEY

A Haircut Results in Baptism

Ask Chuck Young how having his hair cut off resulted in someone's being baptized and he'll tell you, emphasizing that God had a hand in it. Chuck's normal hairstyle was a 30-inch long pony tail. When his nephew lost his hair following chemotherapy, Chuck empathized by shaving his head, leaving only a Mohawk fringe.

An acquaintance at the "Y" where Chuck works out noticed the change in hairstyle and questioned Chuck about it.

Providentially, the conversation turned to the Bible. This is when Chuck invited his new friend, Cesar Corzo, an attorney who had only been in Nashville a month, to the

NET '98 meetings in Ridgetop, a small town just north of Nashville.

Cesar attended the meetings as often as possible and studied with Steve Rose, pastor, for many hours. He concluded that the truths taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church agreed with the Bible and, after his questions were answered, he requested baptism.

Chuck had invited a number of people to the NET '98 meetings, praying that at least one

would come. What a thrill it was for Chuck to witness the baptism of one of the people he had personally invited to the meetings.



Chuck Young (left), Cesar Corzo, and Steve Rose, pastor.

Couple Celebrates 60th Anniversary

BY ALBERT DITTES

Irwin N. and Betty Nan Williams of the Highland church in Portland, Tenn., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year. Married August 2, 1938, in Water Valley, Ky., they transferred into the Highland church in 1958. Betty taught the next 18 years at Highland Elementary School. Irwin helped build the boys' dormitory at Highland Academy and spent the next 24 years working there and at Highland Hospital. They have three children: Robert W. Williams of Loveland, Colo.; Nan Collier of Portland; and Jenny Jewett of Hendersonville, Tenn.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Irwin and Betty Nan Williams.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 28th regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Highland Academy auditorium, Highland Academy campus, Portland, Tennessee, Sunday, April 25, 1999. The first meeting is called for 10:00 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

R. R. Hallock, President
M. G. Lowman, Secretary

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 28th regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Highland Academy auditorium, Portland, Tennessee, Sunday, April 25, 1999. The first meeting is called for 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

R. R. Hallock, President
Lin Powell, Secretary

The Seventh-day Adventist Conference Association of Kentucky

Notice is hereby given that the 46th regular session of the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Association of Kentucky, a corporation, is called to meet in the Highland Academy auditorium, Portland, Tennessee, Sunday, April 25, 1999. The first meeting is called for 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

R. R. Hallock, President
Lin Powell, Secretary



Women's Day in Marion

The women of Mount Olive church in Marion, S.C., shared their gifts and talents on Women's Day, October 31, 1998. With the theme "We are One in the Spirit," and dressed in their purple and off-white, the program began with the Sabbath school hour. "Stop the Abuse," a skit which addressed domestic violence in the church, was presented. A panel of professionals were present: Lisa Seabrook, Pee Dee Coalition for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Peggy Bryant, Marion County DSS; and Bernard C. Williams, pastor. Each panelist addressed the issue of domestic violence from his or her professional areas, giving information such as: agency protocol, resources available in the community, and solutions to obvious problems. They also noted that abuse happens to men as well as women. Special music was provided by BUDS, a group of nine girls from the ages of four to twelve.

During the worship hour, Esther Spicer-Greinion of Mount Olive was the speaker. Greinion and Elista Davis conducted a health seminar after dinner.



The BUDS of Mount Olive church.

Parade of Continents

BY BEATRICE BANKS

"It's a Small World" was the theme on December 12, 1998, as 137 preschool through eighth graders, fully costumed, marched down the aisle of the Rosetta C. Baldwin Educational Center in High Point, N.C. The occasion was the "Parade of

Continents." As a fund-raiser to provide stage and window curtains in the newly constructed educational center, each class represented a continent. The class raising the most funds was declared the winner and received a plaque along with 10 per-

cent of the funds raised by the class. The continent of Africa, presented by the third and fourth grade classes, won first place with \$2,162. North America, by the second grade class, placed second with \$1,570. The grand total raised by kindergarten through eighth grades was \$5,711.

The preschool crowned a king, Anthony Cunningham, who raised \$700, and the queen, Imani Williams, who raised \$350. The total raised by the preschool was \$2,500 which will be used to furnish equipment for the preschool building.



Students dressed in cultural clothing representing their continent, paraded across the stage.

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRY: ITS HISTORY, PRESENCE, AND VISION

"The great Christian revolutions," said H. Richard Niebuhr, "come not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when somebody takes radically something that was always there."

One hundred and fifty-five years ago, a Christian "revolution" started because a group of young people decided to do just that. They read the scriptures, and they were convinced. And that's when these youth and young adults gave life to a Church that didn't mind raw truth and radical Christianity. They lived Christ unashamedly, and since then, their example has inspired millions across the world to do the same.

Now you are a part of that movement. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, even though human, has the God-driven goal to help youth experience the grace of Jesus Christ in such a way that it engages them in "dangerous" ministry. A risky goal it is, with unpredictable results. But to abandon this goal would be to shortchange God's purpose for this Church.

Let's be honest. The Church has at times shortchanged itself. But let's be accurate. The Church is in constant motion to recapture the heartbeat of its youth. Through the years it has been committed to nurturing, training, and empowering the young for radical discipleship. It has developed schools, programs, centers, publications, and materials that help youth live Christ unashamedly.

Take, for example, the Center for Youth Evangelism. It is not only a resource center for youth leaders across the North American Division, it is staffed by youth and young adults, a clear example of how the leadership is handing over the reigns to the young. But this is only one of many examples.

All across North America, Adventist youth and young adults are creating rapid fire changes by initiating ministries such as eXtreme 98 and conneXions 99. They seek to give Generation X ownership of their Church.

Giraffe University and First Serve are training volunteer and veteran youth workers for radical leadership. Giraffe University helps them carry out the "7 Principles for Youth Minis-

try Excellence," a curriculum for effective ministry.

The YouthNet eXtreme is pushing the front lines of cutting-edge evangelism. It is a four-member team that travels the country in a truck and trailer, putting on programs for schools and churches.

The Adventist Youth Service Network (YouthNet), is calling the young to become missionaries to places near and far. It represents the service center for the Adventist Church.

Pathfinders, a long-time youth organization, is giving students, grades five to ten, countless opportunities for learning through arts, crafts, nature, recreation, and outreach. On any given day of the week across the world, you can find these youth involved, especially as many of them are preparing for Discover the Power International Camporee this summer in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Elementary, secondary, and college teachers are encouraging Christ-like values in their students while preparing them for a life of service. Many of them work alongside other organizations, such as Adventurers (grades one through four) and Adventist Youth (AY).

Conference youth directors also are complementing youth ministry. Many of them direct summer camps, which provide opportunities for life-long friendships.

Youth Federations are bringing thousands of youth together to worship and be challenged to live their calling. The African American com-

munity leads out in these regional and national events.

Supporting ministries such as Adventist Frontier Missions and Piece of the Pie Ministries are mobilizing hundreds of students for missions.

The Christian revolution that young people started 155 years ago has gone a long way. The examples I gave you are just the beginning. To know more about how the Church helps youth LIVE CHRIST UNASHAMEDLY, and to get involved in youth or young-adult ministry, contact your local church youth leader, conference youth director, or call PlusLine at (800) PLUS for contact information. You can also contact the Center for Youth Evangelism at (800) YOUTH-2-U.



Adventist youth across North America are creating rapid fire changes by initiating ministries and getting involved in their churches.



How to Submit Your Advertising

(1) Have your pastor or a local church elder write "Approved" and his signature on the sheet of paper containing the advertisement, (2) write your name and address on the same sheet, (3) specify how many times the ad is to run, (4) send the approved ad to your conference office 6 weeks in advance of the publication date and (5) don't forget to enclose payment in full for each month the ad is to run. Make checks payable to SOUTHERN TIDINGS.

RATES: *Southern Union:* \$30 for 20 words or less, including address. \$40 for anything longer than 20 words up to 45 words. \$1.30 per word beyond 45. *Out of Union:* \$40 for 20 words or less, including address. \$50 for anything longer than 20 words up to 45 words. \$1.50 per word beyond 45. Accepted as space is available. Ads may run in successive months as space permits.

SOUTHERN TIDINGS makes every reasonable effort to screen all advertising, but in no case can the periodical assume responsibility for advertisements appearing in its columns, or for typographical errors.

PROPERTY

GATLINBURG STREAMSIDE CONDO & MT. VIEW CHALET FOR RENT. 2 to 5 bdrms., fireplace, full kitchens, heart-shaped Jacuzzi spa, heated pool, cable T.V., Dollywood, winter skiing, and hiking. Let us build an investment vacation chalet for you. Reserve early. John or Lois Steinkraus (423) 428-0619. (C)

BED & BREAKFAST, CABIN RENTALS, GREENEVILLE, TN. Fantastic mountain views, full breakfasts, picnic pavillion, jacuzzi, children's play area, and campfires. Asheville, Gatlinburg, historical sites, antiques, fishing, Appalachian Trail nearby. From \$390/week and daily rates also. For brochure or reservations call (800) 842-4690. (C)

AVAILABLE NOW. 2/1 apartment for lease; 3/2 home with detached garage for lease or entrance fee; and room with private full bath for rent. 13.5 acres, Adventist church on grounds, lovely dining room, many amenities. 20 minutes from Orlando. Call Sharon Schlipp at Florida Living Retirement Community for more information. (800) 729-8017. (2)

FOR SALE. 3-bedroom, 3-bath, FR, DR, LR, 2-story French provincial brick on 1.2 very, very private acres, excellent condition, private water, mountain views, deck, patio, fireplace, 2-car garage, long paved drive. Located in beautiful Andrews, N.C. Two churches and school nearby. Owner pays closing and selling for appraisal 150K. Call (828) 321-3269 after 6 p.m. (2)

FOR SALE. Home plus 4 rentals, view, 5 open acres, garden, secluded. Located 30 minutes to Knoxville; Athens, Tenn. church, and school 20 miles. \$100,000 down, \$125,000, owner financed 6%; (423) 337-9738. (2)

MUST SELL! Perfect country retirement home on beautiful 2.5 acres. 3-bedroom, 2-bath, approx. 1200 sq. ft., masonry home with small above ground pool. Minutes from SDA church, easy drive to Tampa. 1.5 miles from I-75. Located in Webster, Florida, Sumter County. Asking \$62,000. Leave message at (828) 685-9135. (2)

FOR SALE. Avon Park, Florida. 12 lots approximately two acres with many trees, block to block. \$10,500. (305) 885-6373. (1)

FOR SALE. Five minutes from Collegedale—House with 3-bedrooms, 2½ baths, large LR, kitchen with two ovens, dishwasher, and dining room. Basement with two finished rooms with fireplace, utility room, garage or shop area. Lovely corner lot with fenced yard. (706) 769-9077 or (423) 396-2013. (2)

FOR SALE. Wholesale Plant Nursery 11 years in business, located in the growing I-75 corridor between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Employing academy students and adults. This is an excellent opportunity for the right family to live in a rural environment and help students attend one of our Christian academies. Serious inquiries only, please. For information, call (706) 625-8352. (C)

MAUI OCEANFRONT CONDO FOR RENT on sandy Kahana beach. Beautiful views. Great kitchen. Sleeps four. \$89/night. Marge McNeilus (507) 374-6747. (2,3,4)

FOR SALE. A 1782 sq. ft. brick country home with full basement, near SDA church and school, on 1½ acres. Seven rooms, 2½ bath, central heating/AC, sewing room, garage, porch, deck, paving side/back, greenhouse, tool house, and fenced garden. \$74K. (864) 944-2912. (2)

TWO HOUSES FOR SALE BY SAME OWNER. Buy both for \$120,000; save \$5,000. 1. New, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, beautiful mountain view, next to National Forest/Appalachian trail, 3/4 acre, deck, carport, stream, SDA church 2 miles away. Roan Mountain, Tenn. \$87,500. (423) 772-3042. 2. Two bedroom, 2 bath house, carport, large Florida room, two acre lots, citrus trees, SDA church 3 blocks away. Inverness, Florida. \$37,500. (423) 772-3042. (2)

FOR SALE. 25 acres, 7 miles north of Calhoun, Ga., where an Adventist hospital and Georgia-Cumberland Academy are located. Beautiful front with city water, trees, rolling hills on back of property, with spring-fed stream, great place to build home. An additional 113 acres available with creek and city water. (706) 629-5685. (2)

MEDICAL POSITIONS

MISSIONARY-MINDED SDA FAMILY PHYSICIAN URGENTLY NEEDED to join family physician and physician assistant in sunny southwestern Arizona. Enjoy a diversified practice in a near-perfect climate. Three hours from lovely San Diego. Three hours from the Phoenix metropolis. Thirty minutes from Mexico with its incredible missionary opportunities. Eight grade church school, two English churches, two Spanish. Send curriculum vitae to Ellis V. Browning, M.D., 11837 S. Cassidy Ave., Yuma, Arizona 85367 or call (520) 782-3819. (2)

NON-MEDICAL POSITIONS

MISSIONARIES NEEDED in China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Mongolia. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division English Language Schools seek volunteers to teach conversational English and Bible. Teaching requirements: Adventist and native English speaker. Degreed and non-degreed positions. Dedicate one year serving Christ. Contact Ray James (209) 267-0416; Fax: (209) 267-0342; E-mail: jamegr@cdepot.net. (C)

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY: Opening for plant biologist/botanist at Southern Adventist University, fall 1999, Ph.D. required. Desire Adventist scientist-educator interested in field botany and ecology committed to student learning and involvement of students in research. Send CV, references to: Dr. Stephen Nyirady, Chairman, Biology Search Committee, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn. 37315. FAX: (423) 238-2197. E-mail: nyirady@southern.edu. (2)

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS: Full-time position beginning fall 1999. Doctoral degree in mathematics, statistics, or mathematics education required. Preference will be given those applicants with expertise in probability theory and statistics. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference (at least two attesting to the applicants teaching ability) to Dr. Arthur Richert, Chair, Mathematics Search Committee, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn. 37315. FAX: (423) 238-2299. E-mail: richert@southern.edu. (2)

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37315. FAX: (423) 238-3009. E-mail: pbennett@southern.edu. (2)

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SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY will be celebrating 90 years of history during alumni weekend April 16-17, 1999, and we invite alumni and friends to attend. Activities include:

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Adventist Community Services (ACS) is the domestic humanitarian agency sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Under its umbrella is a wide range of public services including food pantries and clothing programs in almost every local church. As such ACS is the affiliate for domestic relief and social action of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)—an agency established by the Adventist church for the specific purpose of community development and disaster response. ADRA is an internationally recognized nongovernmental organization which addresses world hunger, the needs of developing nations, and major disasters around the world. In Canada the work of community services operates under the agency ADRA Canada.

Community Services includes help for the poor, health screening and health education for the general public, inner city projects, family life education, disaster response, tutoring and other youth activities, day care for both children and the elderly, homeless shelter, soup kitchens, adult education, counseling, drug alcohol awareness and treatment, self-help groups, Meal on Wheels, summer camps for disadvantaged children, address the AIDS epidemic, and encourage conservation of the natural environment. ACS is the organization designed to provide a structure and to facilitate and support these services.

Concern for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of men, women and children is fundamental to the Seventh-



Pathfinders in the Florida Conference prepare to serve the community with a food drive.

day Adventist faith. We believe that God is just as concerned about the physical body and practical aspects of life as He is about religion and the spiritual aspects of life. He asks believers to join Him in acts of compassion for the poor, oppressed, troubled, and hurting.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual mandates that each local Adventist congregation appoint a Community Services director. This officer is a member of the church board, sits on the Church Ministries Council, and plays a key role in coordinating all of the service activities undertaken by the local church and its auxiliaries such as the Pathfinder Club, Dorcas Society, etc. Projects such as an emergency food pantry or community clothes closet, a smoking cessation program or health screening event, cleaning up a neighborhood park or recycling glass bottles or aluminum cans, distributing meals to the homeless, or hosting a 12-step program are all typical local church community services. There is a small but growing number of ADRA affiliates in North America; domestic projects that meet the standards set in collaboration with the international agency and form the core of the ACS network.

The ACS network includes more than 200 multi-service centers, Inner City projects in 30 of the largest cities across North America, health screening van ministries in more than a dozen cities, an Adventist Disaster Response team in each of the 58 local conferences, nearly 100 churches that currently participate in Adventist Refugee Ministries, and scores of other specialized ministries. Communication and in-service education is maintained through local conferences as well as area, state and provincial federations and several annual national training events. For more information about Community Services call 1-800-381-7171.

Adventist Laypersons Share Their Faith

Your new Church family believes that not all ministry should be done by the paid clergy—that every member is called by God to bear witness of the heavenly Father's love.

Most active of all in this envisioned workplace witness are those who belong to ASI, men and women taking not only the name of Christian, but also knitting together in Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries.

Multi-generational and cultural, ASIers take as their motto, "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." They see marketplace ministry as more than providing unswerving integrity in business, however. And that's why manufacturers like Eastlex Machine Corporation in Lexington, Kentucky, have quiet religious music playing in the phone system when callers wait for the desired person. Employees of Grab-on Products in Walla Walla, Washington, may opt to brown bag at lunchtime in a video seminar room with sermons and lectures. Clients of a New York City private investigator receive paid subscriptions to Adventist publications.

An auto dealer in Allentown, Pennsylvania, provides transportation for student literature evangelists. A health club which stocks a variety of books and magazines for patrons,

offers seminars in nutritious eating, and maintains a closed witness during Sabbath hours was still voted number one among Lincoln, Nebraska's seven fitness centers. A Richmond, Quebec, publisher has secured places for his French and English religious publications in general bookstores.

Because ASI grew out of the self-supporting concept for Christian education and healthcare prominent early in the 20th century, ASI member organizations also include a half-dozen boarding high schools such as DayStar Adventist Academy near Moab, Utah, and Lifestyle Center of America at Sulphur, Oklahoma.

Some members are committed to full-time ministry and often on a global basis—like Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), with 24-hour Adventist programming; Maranatha Volunteers, with service orientation for building churches and schools where church growth exceeds housing needs; Outpost Centers, Inc., (OCI), which supports 100 smaller outreaches such as vegetarian restaurants and mission training schools; Adventist Frontier Missions, which pioneers Christian ministry in countries where the Church has not established a presence; and Adventist Singles Ministry, with its emphasis on developing an environment where unmarried members of the Church may participate in outreach to a large segment of today's population; and Canvas-

back Missions, which encourages short-term medical assistance in Micronesia from a 71-foot sailing vessel.

At both chapter (unionwide) and international (North American Division) conventions, members are nurtured in their witness through professional and spiritual growth seminars. But the greatest inspiration comes from member testimonies, laypersons sharing with each other how Christ has inspired them to be used in faith-sharing and blessed their stewardship of time and money.

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So, if you'd like to get acquainted with Adventist business or professional people in your field to stimulate your effectiveness in sharing your new-found faith, write the ASI headquarters office at 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904. Call 301-680-6450. Or visit the ASI website at www.tagnet.org/asi.



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Adult Sabbath School Quarterly

Lessons 5-8 in the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for first quarter, 1999, and Chapters 5-8 in its companion book, *Show and Tell*, do not coincide.

Lesson 5 in the quarterly matches Chapter 6 in the book.

Lesson 6 matches Chapter 7.

Lesson 7 matches Chapter 8.

And Lesson 8 matches Chapter 5.

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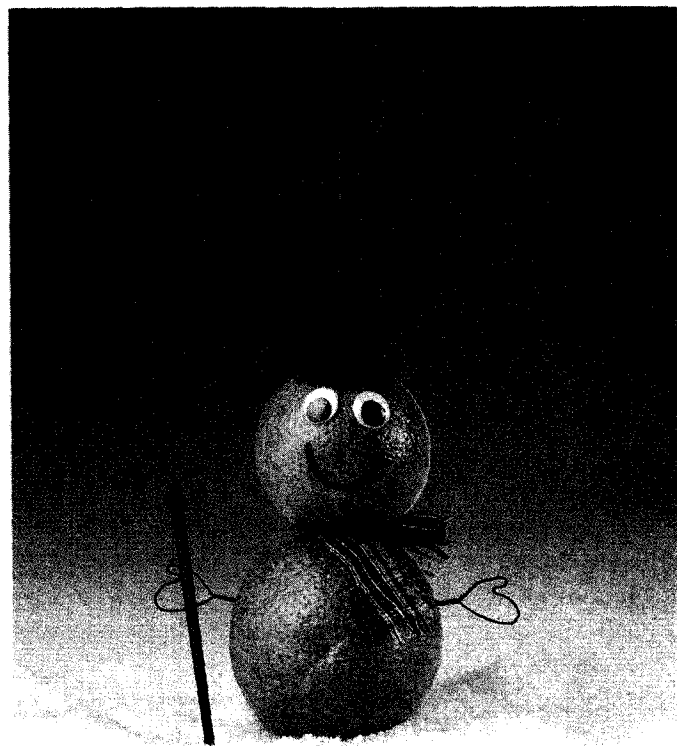
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Unentered Territories

Christ commissioned the church to proclaim the gospel to every language, nation, and people. In the late 1800s the young Seventh-day Adventist Church rose to that challenge and during the next 100 years significantly established the church in North America, Inter America, South America, Europe, the southern half of the African continent, and selected countries on the Pacific rim. However, by 1985 church leaders recognized that there were huge populations and areas that were completely unentered. In 1988-89, the church carefully studied its mission progress and challenge and initiated a global strategy that was voted at the 1990 General Conference session known as Global Mission.

Global Mission is a mission strategy directly connected to the office of the president. Its purpose is to establish Seventh-day Adventist congregations in every unentered area and among every people group in the world. Global Mission has been charged to monitor the progress and challenge of mission and to take direct action developing and implementing plans that would establish Seventh-day Adventist churches in all unentered areas and among all unentered people groups.

China, the Middle East, India, and the former territory of the Soviet Union were named as high priority areas. However, Divisions

outside these areas were also to identify their high priority populations and take direct action to establish churches in their unentered areas.

Global Mission was to initiate a mission volunteer program that involved lay people in planting churches. Religious study centers were to carefully develop new methods and materials for working among Buddhist, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and urban areas. Global Mission was to communicate to the church the challenge and progress of mission.

Over the past seven years a lot of progress has been made. More than 10,000 new churches have been established in unentered territories. This year more than 19,000 lay volunteers are working to plant a church. The territory comprising the former Soviet Union has at the least quadrupled its membership. Church membership in China is almost five times what it was in 1990. Hundreds of new churches have been established in India. Five religious study centers now operate developing new materials and methods. It is a thrilling thing to watch the Holy Spirit work. However, while all of this may sound good we are just beginning to meet the challenge. God needs a people that are willing to become involved in His mission. Pray that God will show you your part in Global Mission.

SOUTHERN TIDINGS

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The Adventist Advantage

Seventh-day Adventists, because of their unique lifestyle, are among the most researched groups in the world. The more than 250 scientific papers that have been



published since the 1950s, have demonstrated that Adventists live longer and suffer less from heart disease and cancer, the leading killers in Western countries, than the general population. Two studies conducted by Loma Linda University from 1960-1982 involving 60,000 California Adventists concluded that "... for all causes of death combined, Adventists were found to have death rates one-half that of the general population."¹ This helps to document that Adventists live longer. Why have Adventists been so blessed?

Ellen White, one of the founders of

Adventism, received several visions during the mid to late 1800s, outlining health principles which, when followed, have proven to be the best formula for health and longevity. In 1905, 90 years ahead of the modern scientific knowledge available to us today, Ellen White wrote, "Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison."² Today the health principles that Adventists have advocated for almost a century have been scientifically verified and are being promoted by both government agencies and health organizations.

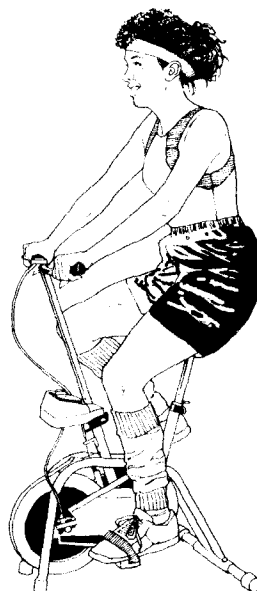
One of Adventism's unique emphases is its belief in the holistic nature of humanity. The mental, physical, social, and spiritual dimensions of human nature are not separate, but are interconnected and dependent on each other for both spiritual and physical health. The Bible teaches that our bodies are the temple of God, and

that we should present them to God as "living and holy sacrifices."³ "Whatever injures the health, not only lessens physical vigor, but tends to weaken the mental and moral powers."⁴ For Adventism, a healthy lifestyle is more than a healthy choice, it's a spiritual mandate.

The Adventist lifestyle offers eight God-given gifts of health in one package.⁵ One package, because they are not individual gifts from which to choose. We must "unwrap" all eight to enjoy maximum emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness. The name NEWSTART⁶ has been coined as an acronym for these eight natural prescriptions for health and happiness.

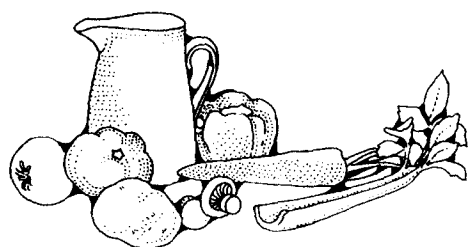
Nutritious food
Exercise
Water

Sunlight
Temperate, drug-free living
Air
Rest
Trust in divine power



Adventists believe that Christ's teaching and healing ministry is an example for reaching the world today. This conviction has largely shaped the Adventist philosophy of mission. Medical missionary work is the "right arm" of the Adventist message. In 1866 at the fourth session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Michigan, Ellen White urged the need for a health institution where the newly-advocated health principles could be publicly demonstrated. Thus the Western Health Reform Institute, which

evolved into the Battle Creek Sanitarium where John Harvey Kellogg joined the staff as medical director in 1875, was established in Battle Creek in 1866.



In 1900, following instructions from Ellen White, property was purchased in Loma Linda, California, on which a sanitarium was established. In 1910, the College of Medical Evangelists, offering a full medical course, was established. In 1961, CME became Loma Linda University, the denomination's largest institution offering professional curriculums in medicine, dentistry, allied health professions, public health, and nursing. Thousands of health evangelists, graduates from Loma Linda, have gone around the world, establishing clinics, hospitals, and health education centers, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

The church, its medical institutions, personnel, and members have not always followed the divine counsel given more than a century ago. But when the inspired



counsel has been followed, blessings have resulted, providing a healthier and happier life on this earth in addition to the blessed hope of eternal life in the earth made new.

Endnotes

1. David C. Nieman, *The Adventist Healthstyle*, Review & Herald Pub. Assn., 1992, p. 39.
2. Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1942, p. 327.
3. Romans 12:8, NAS.
4. See *Ministry of Healing*, p. 128.
5. See *Ministry of Healing*, p. 127.
6. NEWSTART Health Center is operated by Weimar Institute in Weimar, Calif.

The Adventist Health Study

A vegetarian diet is recommended, although not required, by Adventism. The health visions given to Ellen White and the conviction that the original diet given to Adam and Eve before sin is God's ideal, led many of our early pioneers to adopt vegetarianism. Does it make a difference?

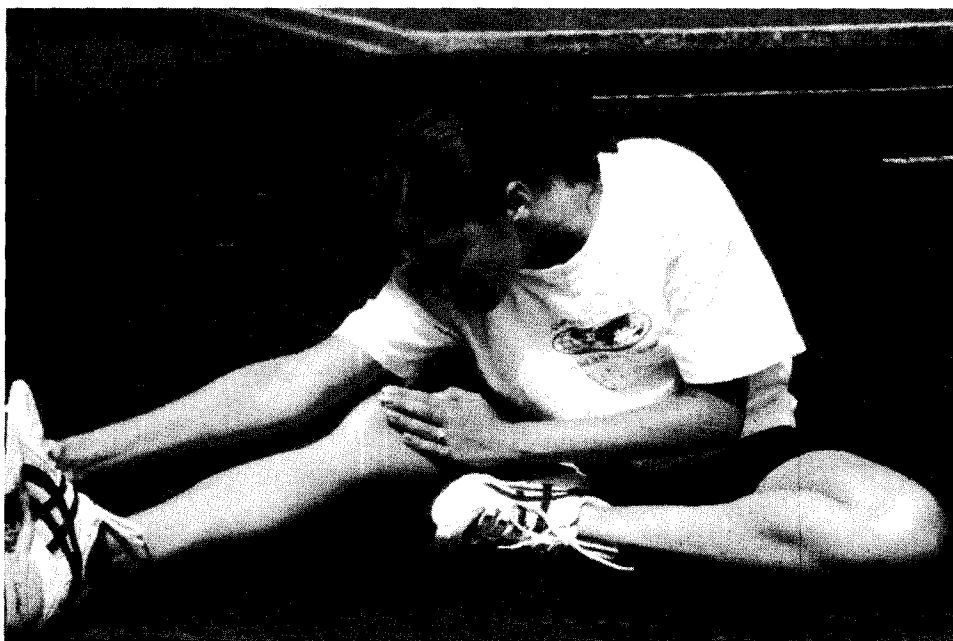
Researchers at Loma Linda University have been studying the health status of approximately 30,000 California Adventists over the past 25 years, making direct comparisons between vegetarians and non-vegetarians. The study is significant because it compares the health of vegetarians (predominately lacto-ovo vegetarians) and non-vegetarians within an otherwise similar population group, reducing the chance that other diet and lifestyle factors are responsible for the health differences. Another significant fact is that Adventist non-vegetarians consume less meat and eat a more healthful diet than the typical meat eater, so the AHS compares vegetarian diets with diets of non-vegetarians whose eating habits are healthier than typical meat eaters.

The results of the AHS are particularly interesting, because they show that

vegetarians have a better health profile, even compared to those who eat a prudent omnivorous diet. The Loma Linda Vegetarian Nutrition and Health Letter reports that, "The study shows that vegetarian Adventists are less likely to develop colon and prostate cancer, and vegetarian men are less likely to develop fatal heart disease. It also appears that vegetarians are at decreased risk for diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, and obesity. The effects seem to be due to both increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts, and to lower (or no) intake of meat.

"Finally, the AHS suggests that vegetarians can expect to gain a few years in which to enjoy their good health. Vegetarian women lived, on average, two and a half years longer than their non-vegetarian counterparts. Vegetarian men gained slightly more than three years."

For more information on the Adventist Health Study, see the Loma Linda University Vegetarian Nutrition & Health Letter, October 1998, Volume I, Number 10. For a copy or a subscription to the newsletter, call (888) 558-8703.



Adventists believe a healthy body is crucial for both physical and spiritual health.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Carolina

- Family Life Workshop**—March 12, 13. Kernesville.
Caring For Marriage—March 19-21.
Pastoral Couples Retreat—March 26-28. Highland Lake.
Caring For You—March 26-28.
Adventurer Fun Day Weekend—April 9-11. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Prayer Conference—April 23-25. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Conference Youth Rally—April 23-25. Mount Pisgah Academy.
Hispanic Marriage Retreat—May 14-16. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Men's Retreats
 Mar. 5-7. English. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
 April 16-18. Hispanic. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Florida

- North and South Area Pathfinder Master Guide Weekend**—Feb. 26-28. Pine Lake Retreat.
Pathfinder National Invitational Bible Bowl—Mar. 5-7. Colorado.
Pathfinder CIT Lock-In. East Pasco Adventist Educational Center—Mar. 13-14. Dade City.
Adventist Bookmobile Schedule—Book Center orders accepted by e-mail: mlthomas@southernunion.com
 Feb. 27. Tallahassee.
 Feb. 28. Perry, Lake City, Gainesville, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores.
 March 6. West Palm Beach.
 March 7. Jupiter-Tequesta, Jensen Beach, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville.
 March 13. Jacksonville Mandarin.
 March 14. Jacksonville Ephesus, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint, St. Augustine, Palatka.
 March 20. Port Charlotte.
 March 21. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.
 March 27. North Miami.
 March 28. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Daughter of Zion, Boynton Beach.
Singles Ministries Fellowship Luncheons
 Feb. 27. Kress Memorial church.
 March 13. Forest Lake church.
 March 27. Kress Memorial church.
 April 10. Forest Lake church.
 April 24. Kress Memorial church.
Retired Workers' Retreat—March 12-14. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: Richard Shepard, (407) 331-8249.
Town Hall Meetings—Reports on Conference priorities voted at the 1997 Triennial Session; 7-9 p.m.
 March 16. Forest Lake.
 March 18. Tampa First.
 March 23. Gainesville.
 March 29. Westchester Spanish.
 March 30. Boynton-DelRay.
 March 31. Walker Memorial.
Men's Conventions
 March 19-21. Camp Kulaqua. Speakers: Glen Altermatt, Fred Harding, Earl Knight, Ben Maxon, Richard O'Fill, Sergio Torres.
 March 26-28. Camp Kulaqua. Speakers: Glen Altermatt, Richard Duerksen, Ron Halvorsen, Earl Knight, Richard O'Fill.
 Registration: (904) 454-1351.
Third Annual Creative Worship Workshop—March 19-26. Forest Lake church. Details: (407) 869-0680 x12 or tpooler@juno.com. Registration deadline, March 9.
Children's Ministries VBS Workshops
 April 9-11. Camp Kulaqua. English.
 April 16-18. Camp Kulaqua. Hispanic.

Georgia-Cumberland

- John L. Coble Elementary School Homecoming**—Feb. 20. Sabbath school church and potluck at school.
Adventurer Family Fun Day—March 14. Cohutta Springs.
Marriage Encounter—March 19-21. Cleveland, Tenn. Details:

- Kelvin and Brenda Hayes at (423) 296-0803 for information.
Elementary Band Festival—March 25. Georgia-Cumberland Academy.
Pathfinder Teen Invitational—March 26, 27. Cumberland Caverns.
Georgia-Cumberland Academy Alumni—April 3. Georgia-Cumberland Academy.
Youth Baptismal Day—April 10.
Building and Finance Subcommittee—April 21. Conference office.
Cohutta Springs Development Associates Retreat—April 23-25. Cohutta Springs.
Academy Days
 April 4, 5. Georgia-Cumberland.
 April 16. Atlanta Adventist.
 April 29. Collegedale.
Convocations
 March 13. Ashburn. South Georgia.
 March 20. Brunswick, Ga. Coastal.
 April 17. Alma. South Georgia Hispanic.
Women's Retreats
 March 5-7. English. Cohutta Springs.
 March 12-14. English. Cohutta Springs.
 March 26-28. Hispanic. Cohutta Springs.

Gulf States

- Meridian School Dedication**—Feb. 13.
Town Hall Meetings
 March 6. Meridian.
 March 8. Columbus.

- March 9. Tupelo.
 March 10. Southaven.
 March 11. McComb.
 March 13. Jackson.
 March 14. Bass Memorial Academy.
 March 15. Bearfork Road.
 March 16. Pensacola University Parkway.
 March 17. Pensacola West Side.
 March 18. Panama City.
 March 20. Marriana.
 March 21. Uchee Pines.
 March 22. Opelika/Auburn.
Women's Ministries Directors Retreat—March 26-28. Camp Alamisco.
Bass Memorial Academy Alumni Weekend—March 26-28.
Bass Memorial Academy Days—April 4, 5.
Ministries Leadership Training Day
 April 17. Birmingham.
 April 24. Pensacola.
 May 1. Jackson.

Kentucky-Tennessee

- Academy Boards**
 March 18. Highland.
 March 18. Madison.
Academy Finance Committees
 Feb. 18. Highland.
 April 22. Highland.
Disaster Response Training—Feb. 12-14.
Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting—March 5-6.

SUNSET

	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:13	6:20	6:27	6:34	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

Why Send My Kids to an Adventist School?

You don't have to listen too long these days to hear horror stories about mediocrity and violence in the public school system. But frankly, most public schools can probably give your child a respectable education. Likewise, there are a great variety of private and parochial schools which can deliver good and possibly even excellent education.

Like many of these schools, Adventist schools offer knowledgeable and caring teachers, comfortable school sites, current technology, and future-oriented curriculum. They provide an education which will successfully see the student into colleges and universities across the country. They try to prepare your child to meet the many changes the future will bring.

Is this worth a tuition check every month? Maybe. Probably. However, none of these things really measure the greatest worth of an education in a Seventh-day Adventist school. Adventist schools are about Adventist education. They are about your kids associating and learning every day with Adventist teachers. They are about lessons and projects which are approached from an Adventist perspective.

Adventist schools are about imparting the beliefs, traditions, and history of the Church to young and impressionable minds—minds that are evaluating right

now what the Adventist faith and hope will be worth to them in the future. It is about the home, church, and school going down the same "road" with the same urgency to guide your child to acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

Adventist education serves as the glue which holds together the church and the community. A study on retention of youth just completed by Roger Dudley (Andrews University), shows that over 50% of young adults in their twenties attributed an Adventist teacher as significant in their decision to remain Adventist. Also, the more years spent in Adventist schools the more likely they are to remain Adventists as adults.

Though spirituality is an individual activity, it grows best in groups. This may be part of the reason why Adventist education seems to maintain such a high influence in the future choices of our children. Adventist teachers incorporate spiritual themes into their curriculum on a daily basis. Discussions on creation instead of evolution, class projects on social justice, and inner-city mission trips are just a few examples of how each student is encouraged to choose God's grace as his or her own.

Adventist education seeks to nurture thinkers rather than mere reflectors of others' thoughts. It promotes loving service

Facts & Figures on SDA Education in the Southern Union Conference 1998-99 School Year

Elementary Schools:	202
Secondary Schools:	16
Colleges/Universities:	3
Total Schools:	221
Elementary Students:	9,258
Secondary Students:	2,681
Higher Ed Students:	4,099
Total Students:	16,038*
<i>*This is the first time enrollment in the Southern Union has surpassed 16,000.</i>	
Elementary Teachers:	685
Secondary Teachers:	238
Total K-12 Teachers:	923

rather than selfish ambition, and focuses the student's mind on an appreciation for all that is beautiful, true, and good. It encourages educators to be more than just teachers, to be "mentors" who will impart to your child an understanding of math, literature, history, courage, hope, and grace.

Why send your child to an Adventist school? Because you know and we know that our children are being prepared for far more than citizenship here on this earth. They are being prepared for citizenship in the New Earth to come.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR • SOUTHERN UNION



Memphis Festival of Faith—
March 13.
Conference Association Board—
March 17.
Conference Executive Committee—March 17.
Conference Constituency Meeting—April 25.

South Atlantic

Married Lover's Retreat—Feb. 12-14.
Georgia Master Guide Day—March 13.
Mission Trip/River Oaks—March 21-27.
Adventist Education Day—April 17.
United Youth Leadership Convention—April 30-May 2.
Education Rally Day
March 6. Georgia.
March 6. Carolina.

March 13. Carolina.
Youth Federation
March 27. South Carolina.
April 10. North Carolina
Western.
April 24. Georgia.

Southern Adventist Univ.

Spring Break—Feb. 26-March 7.
Vespers

Feb. 5. Black History: James Doggette.
Feb. 12. Alex Bryan.
Feb. 19. Ken Rogers.
Church Pulpit Guest—Feb. 13.
John Nixon.

Concerts

Feb. 13. Pops Concert.
Feb. 16. Jitro: Czech Children's Choir.

Feb. 22. Cornel Pana, pan flute.

Special Events

Feb. 1-6. Black History Week.

Feb. 4. Assembly: Buffalo Soldiers.
Feb. 16. Opportunities Career Fair.
Feb. 25. Assembly: College Bowl.

Announcements

Adventist Marriage Encounter Weekend—March 19-21.
Hospitality Inn, Cleveland, Tenn. Details: (423) 296-0803 or (931) 863-8268.

Michigan Academies Alumni Meeting—March 6. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Forest Lake Academy H.H. Schmidt Auditorium.

Out of Union

Valley Grande Academy announces its annual Alumni Weekend March 26 and 27.
Honor classes are 1949, 1959,

1969, 1979, and 1989. A special emphasis is being placed on the classes of 1974 and 1983. Friday night inductee Hall of Fame will be Charles and Annette Boyer. Sabbath service speaker will be Gary Affolter. All alumni are invited and encouraged to attend.

Union College Homecoming Weekend—April 1-4, 1999. All Union College alumni are invited to Homecoming '99, a "Celebration of the Arts." Honor classes are 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1974 and 1989. Details/Reservations: (402) 486-2503 or E-mail: alumni@ucollege.edu.

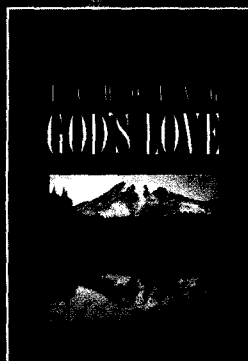
Andrews University Alumni Cruise Visit to Lands of Antiquity—Oct. 27-Nov. 10. Details: (616) 471-3591.

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