

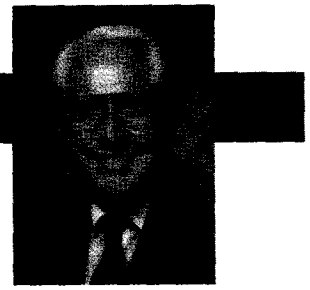
S O U T H E R N
TIDINGS

NOVEMBER 2001



**Desmond
Doss**

Prepared to Serve
Miracle of the Maranatha Towel
Creating Relationships, Communicating Christ



Compassion — God's Comfort in Catastrophe

On September 11, we watched in disbelief as passenger airliners were turned into weapons of mass destruction in New York City, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania. Then and now, we struggle to understand and express the loss that pierces our hearts and the hearts of those who lost loved ones.

God's Word helps us when catastrophe strikes. As Christ hung on the cross, He referred to Psalm 22, a passage that gives us some insight into His experience. It opens with a cry of despair. Yet in verse three it shifts to recounting God's track record for deliverance.

The narrative moves back to the humiliation being experienced amid hovering darkness. As I read verses 6-18, graphic pictures form in my head. I see people hurt on September 11 in these verses; I hear the words of anguish that have spiraled heavenward since then.

"O my Strength, come quickly to help me!" (v. 19)

As I pause in my reflections, the words also echo from a distant land — a land stalked by drought for several years. Afghanistan has the world's lowest per-person caloric intake and highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Prior to October 7, fully half of the more than two million people living in the capital were children. Throughout the land, disease and other fac-

tors blight the lives of all children, making it likely that fully one-quarter of them will die before they reach their fifth birthday.

And then there are the land mines, a heritage from another war. Every month these hidden horrors maim or kill an average of 88 people.

Can we live up to the challenge in verse 24? "For He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help."

In the face of such stark need, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) is supplying water and containers, blankets, and tents to refugee camps along Pakistan's northwestern border. In Tajikistan and neighboring Central Asia republics, ADRA is arranging for thousands of blankets and tents as winter's subzero temperatures near.

Confronting our pain by helping others brings healing and the promise that "the poor will eat and be satisfied." (v. 26)

Please accept our deep gratitude for the support you have provided to those who have been so adversely affected by these tragedies. Together we are sharing hope with a hurting world. Compassion is God's comfort when catastrophe strikes.

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Cover: Under constant enemy fire, April 1945, Pfc. Desmond T. Doss dragged more than 75 wounded to the edge of a cliff and lowered the injured one-by-one, to safety.

Project New York City

SOUTHERN UNION FEATURE
BY KERMIT NETTEBURG



When terrorists tried to destroy the will of Americans on September 11, they may have sparked an interest in religious things instead. There seems to be a new receptivity to things religious, especially in New York City but also in cities across America.

You see evidence in many places. Crowded churches. People who talk to each other on the street about religion. Adults who hurry home to hug children. Talk and news shows on television.

The tragic events of September 11 can bring out the best in people. As an Adventist Church we'd like to see that happen.

Disaster Response Work

People saw the buildings on fire and longed to help. Some called ADRA and donated money; even before sundown September 11 they were calling. Some went to blood banks and stood in lines for hours to give blood.

Others simply went to New York. They learned that this was no job for amateurs. Urban Search and Rescue Teams, trained in safely combing rubble for survivors, were the only people allowed near the World Trade Center or the Pentagon.

Still they went to New York. Students from Oakwood College brought their musical instruments to New York, and played impromptu concerts on street corners and in parks. They brought comfort and "Amazing Grace" to New Yorkers.

Students at Valley Grande Academy in Texas decided to forego their annual Beach Day and spent the day raising money

for New York. Their goal was \$2,000, but they raised \$4,000.

Adventist Community Services has been involved. The Church's disaster response units are operating four warehouses for donated goods and asking people not to donate more goods. "What people need in this disaster is money to replace lost income, to rent temporary housing, to cover unexpected needs." Funds can be contributed to ACS through ADRA by calling (800) 424-ADRA.

ACS also trained more than 100 grief counselors. The massive loss of life and the uncertainty of the fate of loved ones has produced an immense need for counseling. ACS responded by asking Martin Feldbush of the Division's Chaplaincy Ministry to train pastors and qualified lay members in grief counseling.

Evangelistic Response Work

The church also has developed a plan to reach the spiritual needs of New Yorkers, who are responding to spiritual information in brand new ways.

The North American Division has divided New York City into 200 grids. The Division is asking conferences and unions and institutions and ASI members to adopt a grid or more.

Just days after the challenge by Division President Don Schneider, the Texas Conference committee voted to adopt on the grid section. The Pacific Union decided to take several sections of the grid near each other, so that its conferences can cooperate in the most effective way.

The ASI board met in New York City in early October. They adopted several grids, then planned how to best reach people in that area.

Dwight Nelson, along with religion professor Gary Russell, announced in the Andrews University chapel service the first week of October that a bus would be going to New York City for the weekend to witness to residents of the city. Students had to pay \$100 to be able to volunteer for this venture.

The plans have developed so rapidly, and the response has been so tremendous, that this project doesn't look like any other the Church has ever launched. To keep up to date with the latest developments, check the website at: www.nadadventist.org/NYCPProject

"God is doing great things in our Church. Young and old, rich and poor, all are thinking about New York City. Let's continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will bless all of these efforts," said Schneider.



People came with donations of all kinds to Pier 40, traveling by foot and bicycle. Pier 40 in lower Manhattan was set up as a command center and donation area to aid in rescue and relief.

Prepared to Serve In Times Like These

FLORIDA FEATURE
BY MARTIN BUTLER,
CINDY KURTZHALS

“What can I do to help?”

Millions of Americans asked this question following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Questions quickly turned to action. Thousands lined up to donate blood. Millions dug deep in their pockets to offer financial help. Houses of worship opened for prayer services and grief counseling. Men and women were assigned to Ground Zero to personally lend a helping hand.

Four members of Florida Conference’s Disaster Response Team left Orlando for New York City on September 22 to manage one of four donated goods warehouses for the State of New York and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Pastors David Swinyar, Orange Cove and Starke; Bill Barrett, Daytona Beach; and Rick Esterline, Coral Springs, with Marsha, his wife, spent two weeks at the warehouse in Long Island.

“When we arrived in New York, we met Danny and Anette Sullivan from the District Attorney’s Office of Queens County,” says Swinyar. “They organized members from their office, along with others, to completely handle the sorting and repacking process of our 130,000 square-foot warehouse. With additional help from the New York Guard, employees of Keiger Enterprises, and Marcor Environmental Services, our Florida team completed the assignment we were asked to accomplish.”

“As I retrace life’s experiences, I can see how God was preparing me to help in times like these,” says Esterline.

He enlisted in the army after high school graduation. Eight years of service included stints in Korea and Vietnam. His training in “self-contained living” made it possible for him to move in among the rubble to assist after Hurricane Andrew devastated south Florida in 1992.

Rick became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1971. He left the army and joined the Augusta, Georgia, church where he managed their Foods For Better Living store. Next, he worked for Collegedale Distributors, a wholesale food industry,



Glen Altermatt, deputy director of the emergency assistance management team for Florida Conference, prayed with David Swinyar, Bill Barrett, and Rick and Marsha Esterline—the four-member team that was taken to New York City by an Air Lifeline flight from Orlando Executive Airport.

Torres Goes to New York City on a Mission

Eugene Torres, Florida Conference estate services representative, flew to Newark, New Jersey, September 16, on a mission. First, he checked on relatives living in New York City. He found that all were fine. Then, he reached out to people who were hurting.

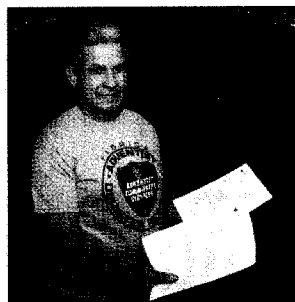
Desiring to represent the Church in a visible way, he put on a Community Services disaster relief t-shirt and helped the American Red Cross distribute information to those traumatized by the disaster to help them recognize their feelings, reduce stress, and begin the healing process. Then, Torres and Michael Flores, his nephew, who worked across from the World Trade Towers, walked to Ground Zero. While Torres prayed with families, gave encouragement, and

passed out Bible study enrollment cards, Flores was interviewed by *El Vocero*, a Spanish daily newspaper, about events he witnessed on September 11.

Torres and Myrta, his wife, had been scheduled to fly to New York on Friday, September 14, for a short vacation. Events of September 11 changed their plans, yet, Eugene felt compelled to go alone. “I had a mission and nothing could

keep me away. I needed to go and represent my Church with words of hope to someone who needed to hear them,” says Torres.

Since his return home, he has contacted two of the victim’s families by telephone to express sympathy and to assure them the Adventist Church is praying for them.



MARTIN BUTLER

“The stark reality of the rubble, the suffering, and the devastation is something that couldn’t be sensed on television.

Coming to New York City to help really made it sink in.” —Bill Barrett

and gained warehouse management and distribution experience.

He added custodial, student worker supervision, bus driving, and maintenance experience at Spalding Elementary School in Collegedale, Tennessee, while taking religion classes at Southern Adventist Uni-

versity. He graduated in 1983 and joined the pastoral team of Florida Conference.

“I believe that God was leading me in those early career experiences to prepare me for service in disaster situations today,” says Esterline.

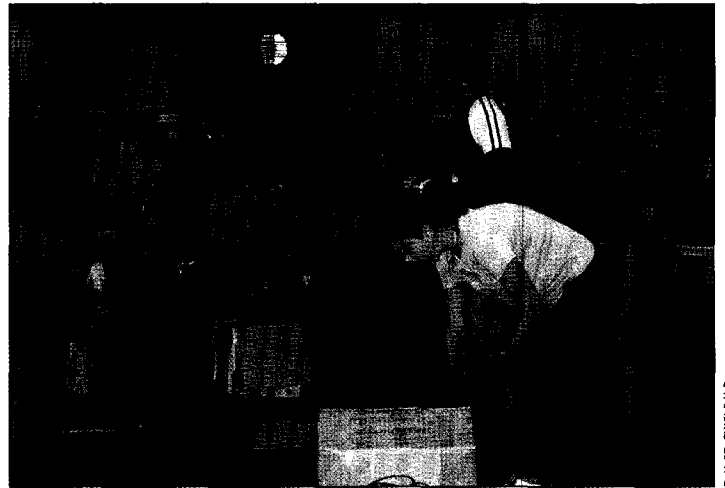
Esterline testifies that two weeks in

New York City gave him a new vision—one he hopes to pass along to fellow church members. “I want to be known as a Seventh-day Adventist for what I do—not what I don’t do. I want to be present in the community, making a difference in people’s lives for eternity—for Him.”



A. LEE BENNETT, JR.

Bill Barrett was interviewed by Orlando’s CBS affiliate, WKMG-TV, Channel 6, about the group’s assignment to manage a warehouse for two weeks.



DAVID SWINYAR

Local volunteers joined the Florida team in Long Island to sort and pack donated goods. “The volunteers were unbelievable,” reports David Swinyar, warehouse director.

Close Call for Payroll Accountant's Family



MARTIN BUTLER

Brenda Long, Florida Conference payroll accountant, reads the *Akron Beacon Journal* story about hijacked United Airlines flight 93 which crashed, they thought, on her family’s homestead in Pennsylvania.

Long, who was in Akron for her father’s funeral, was scheduled to return to Orlando on September 12. When family members learned about the September 11 crash in Somerset County, they attempted to reach their aunt, Mildred Sturtz.

The telephone was dead, so they called another aunt, Blanche Peterman, who drove seven miles to check on her sister. “I saw the plane go over my house about 50 feet above the ground. I thought I was going to die,” Mildred told the family. “Then the plane disappeared into a wooded area behind the house, I believe right on our property.”

Later, it was learned the jet had come so close to Mildred’s house that it took

out her telephone and power lines. Because authorities on the scene wouldn’t let anyone near the disaster site, it wasn’t confirmed until a few days later that the jet actually crashed on the adjoining farm just beyond their property.

Mildred’s son and Brenda’s cousin, Richard Sturtz, was at work near their home watching the terrorist attacks on television. The *Beacon Journal* article quotes him as saying to his co-workers: “We’re lucky to live in a small, rural community where these things don’t happen.” After he learned of the crash a few miles from his front door, Sturtz said: “We won’t think that way anymore. We feel vulnerable now.”

In the Heat of Battle

COVER FEATURE
BY LES RILEA, NSO
REPRESENTATIVE

lived a life of
service to God.

heroism during
World War II
stands as an

WORLD WAR II—April 1945, Okinawa, Maeda Escarpment. In the midst of an epic fire fight, over 75 battle-hardened soldiers came to owe their lives to one man—a small-town country boy they once ridiculed for his refusal to carry a gun. While Japanese crossfire sliced through the retreating men of Company B on the 50-foot escarpment, one lone Medic remained behind, Pfc. Desmond T. Doss. He dragged more than 75 wounded to the edge of the cliff. Devising a litter from a single piece of rope, Doss, under constant enemy fire, lowered the injured, one-by-one, to safety.

Thus begins the dramatic script of a documentary currently being produced by a Hollywood film crew. It's a stellar story that Hollywood producers have been anxious to film for decades—a World War II soldier who refused to touch a gun and who continually requested a Saturday pass so he could worship God on His Sabbath. For years, filmmakers have repeatedly attempted to get Doss to release the story rights. "Hollywood has been after my story ever since I received the medal of honor," shares Doss. "The producer of the *Sargent York* movie wanted to do my story and said I'd make enough money to buy a nice house and have a lifetime income. But I wouldn't sell my story lock, stock and barrel for any amount of money. I'd have no control over whether Hollywood would make money on glamorizing whiskey, cursing and killing." He concludes, "I'm not interested in a good movie, but rather in the good it will do."

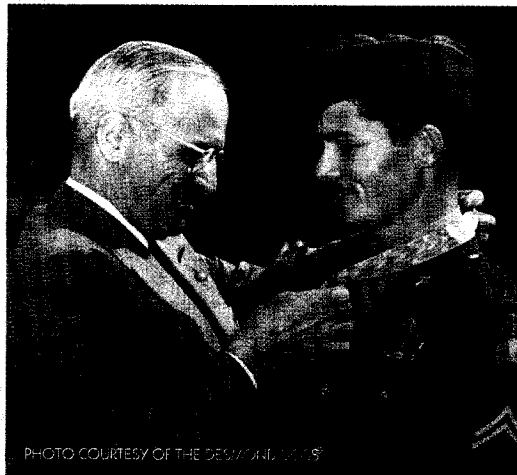
In 1967, a book about Doss' experience, *The Unlikeliest Hero*, was published. "As a kid, I read the book and remember how Desmond Doss came to my school, told his amazing life story and demonstrated how he used a rope to save dozens of men in the heat of battle," states Fred Knopper, former communication director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. "He

made an impact that stayed with me. So, when he came to my office one day in 1999 and asked if the Conference could help make a documentary about his story, we readily agreed to help."

With the support of Conference administration, the Desmond Doss Council was established—a committee designed to plan, fund and explore possible media and production avenues and to serve as guardian of the story. Along with several Conference staff, and Desmond and Frances Doss, the Council includes the following volunteers: Ken Mittleider, retired General Conference vice president; Attorney Barry Benton; retired Col. Charles Knapp; Les Rilea; and recently retired Army Chaplain Larry Smedley.

"One of the major challenges is funding," states Knopper. "We've already received \$263,000 from interested individuals who believe in the educational potential of this documentary and \$50,000 committed. But that's less than a third of what will be needed to complete the project, so any help is greatly appreciated."

According to Mittleider, funding is being sought worldwide. He states, "In addition to numerous individual gifts, we have received significant support from the General Conference, the North American Division, the Southern Union, and the Georgia-Cumber-



For his outstanding bravery, Desmond Doss was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman. As he was presented with this award, Truman told Doss, "You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honor than being President."

During July, a film crew under the direction of Terry Benedict, a Hollywood producer who is also a Seventh-day Adventist, spent nearly two weeks interviewing Desmond Doss both at his home atop Lookout Mountain in northern Georgia and in Lynchburg, Virginia, the town where he grew up.

land Conference." Les Rilea relates that the Seventh-day Adventist Military-Related Chaplains Association (SDA-MCA), a chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, has also committed funding. He adds, "When servicemen at a retreat in Europe heard about this, they generously donated an offering."

"Recently, Desmond told me how much he appreciates the interest the denomination is taking in this project," says Knopper. "Then he pulled out his checkbook and made a serious contribution to help support the documentary."

After researching and discussing various aspects of doing a first-rate, feature documentary, the Council asked Terry Benedict, an Adventist producer, to spearhead the production. "This is making a buzz in the Hollywood community," says Benedict. "We began with the intention of shooting on film since we wanted optimum quality, but our research led us to Panasonic and their



new high-definition video camera. They've agreed to donate the use of the camera for this project."

In addition to Doss' own story, the documentary will include interviews with other soldiers. Their story is a dramatic turnaround in attitude from seeing Doss as a gun-avoiding shirker to appreciating him as a heroic medic who not only treated their wounds but also prayed with them. One day on the battlefield, the lieutenant announced that Doss wanted to pray for their company before they engaged in battle. Doss did, and not one life was lost in Company B that day.



Terry Benedict (right), and Desmond T. Doss, Sr. (left), discuss an outdoor scene prior to filming. Now in his twilight years, Doss agreed to filming his life story for the benefit of future generations.

Benedict, along with Council members, has been busy searching for survivors of the 77th Infantry Division who witnessed Doss' actions or were rescued by him. "We have located a number of survivors," states Benedict, "but more than 30,000 WWII vets are dying each month, so it's imperative that we record these soldiers and their stories as soon as possible."

Production will continue for several months, and the filming of a reunion is planned on Okinawa that will hopefully include Japanese survivors. "For the first time in 56 years, we hope to reunite these old soldiers with their frail-looking medic on the very soil of this amazing story," Benedict says.

"The purpose of this documentary is to examine what made Desmond Doss tick," Benedict continues. "He clearly sought to serve his country honorably, yet, when crouched a mere ten feet



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRED KNOPPER

The Doss documentary is one of the first projects to be done with new Panasonic technology. There are only two of these cameras in existence, and news of this production quickly became the talk of the town as Terry Benedict (left), along with his director of photography, Suki Mendencevic (right), were photographed for the cover story of Film & Video magazine, a premiere trade publication.

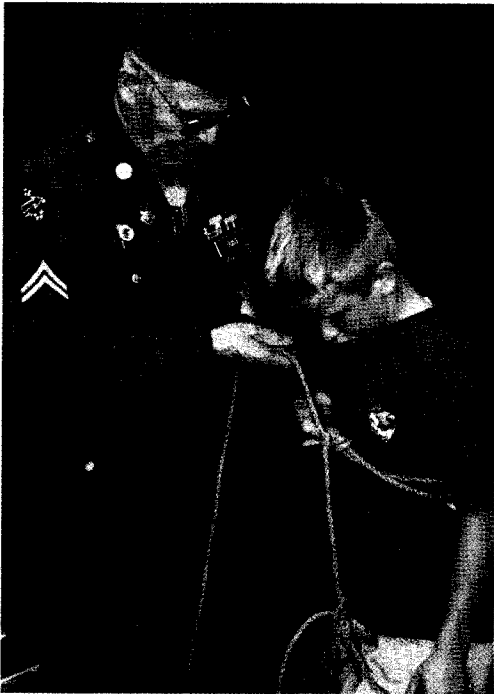
from hidden Japanese soldiers, why did he refuse to kill them with grenades? In the throes of battle, when fear can paralyze and death is all around, what drove this soldier to such extraordinary behavior?" queries Benedict. "These are the questions we are attempting to answer. By exploring the nature of Doss' heroism, viewers will discover his beliefs and convictions."

When completed, the 90-minute documentary will be available on film as well as video and can be used for private and public viewing. "We are also planning on a broadcast release to PBS, BBC or the History channel," Benedict continues. "In addition to the film, we are looking at the possibility of doing a DVD that will allow viewers to interact with the story and see additional footage not in the final film."

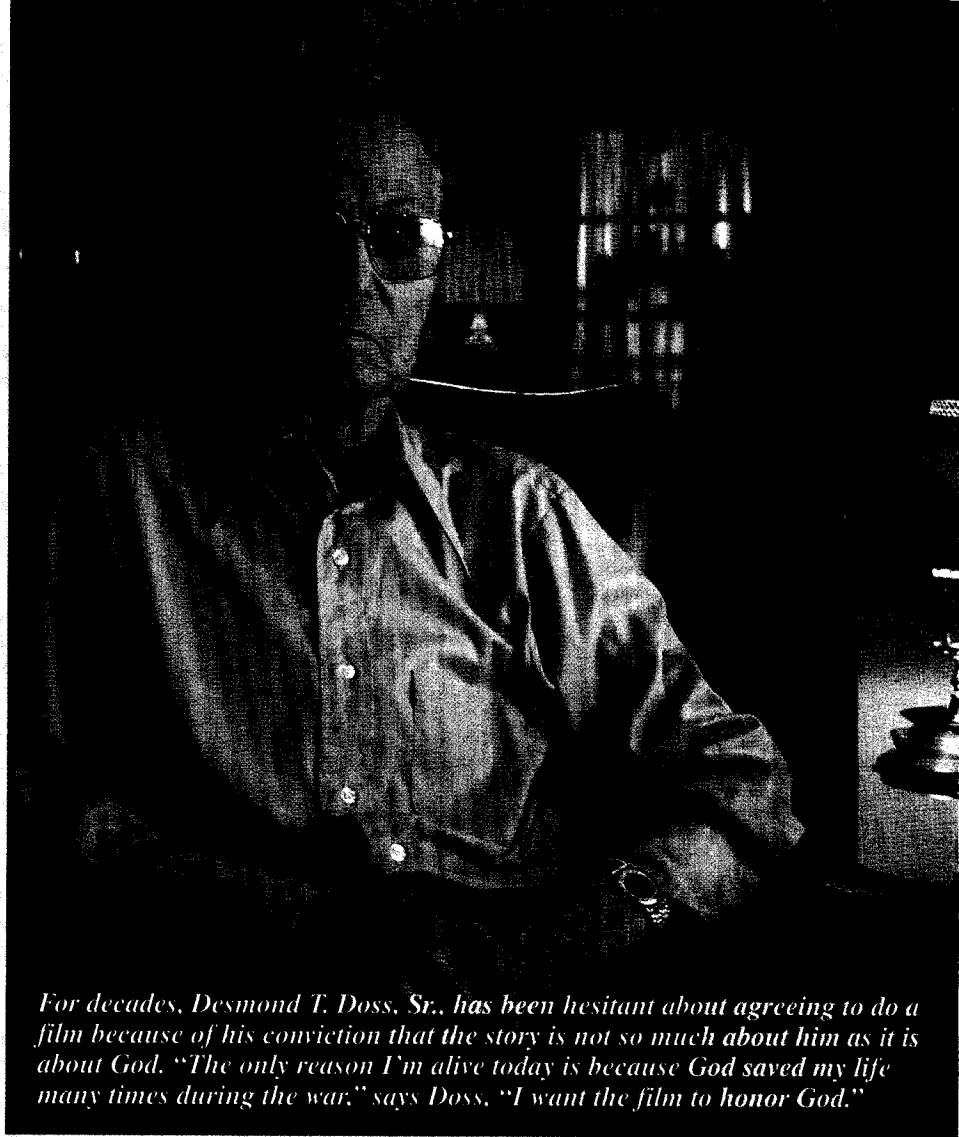
"It will permit a secular audience, who might not be interested in traditional evangelism, to witness the power of an incredible testimony of a Christian who made God first—especially in times of extreme stress," Knopper concludes.

Today, Desmond Doss continues to share his story in person wherever he is invited. He visits schools and is a big hit with Pathfinder groups. Imagine a group of kids whose

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARON WILLIAMS



Desmond Doss regularly travels to speak with young people about how God saved him during World War II. Here he demonstrates how he saved wounded and dying soldiers by lowering them from a cliff using his double bowline knot.



For decades, Desmond T. Doss, Sr., has been hesitant about agreeing to do a film because of his conviction that the story is not so much about him as it is about God. "The only reason I'm alive today is because God saved my life many times during the war," says Doss. "I want the film to honor God."

attention span has been greatly reduced through the effects of TV and other media, sitting spellbound as this octogenarian shares his story. It's incredible to see there's no generation gap. Although it happened more than 50 years ago, the story of Desmond Doss has the power to make an impact with today's youth and with a worldwide viewing audience.

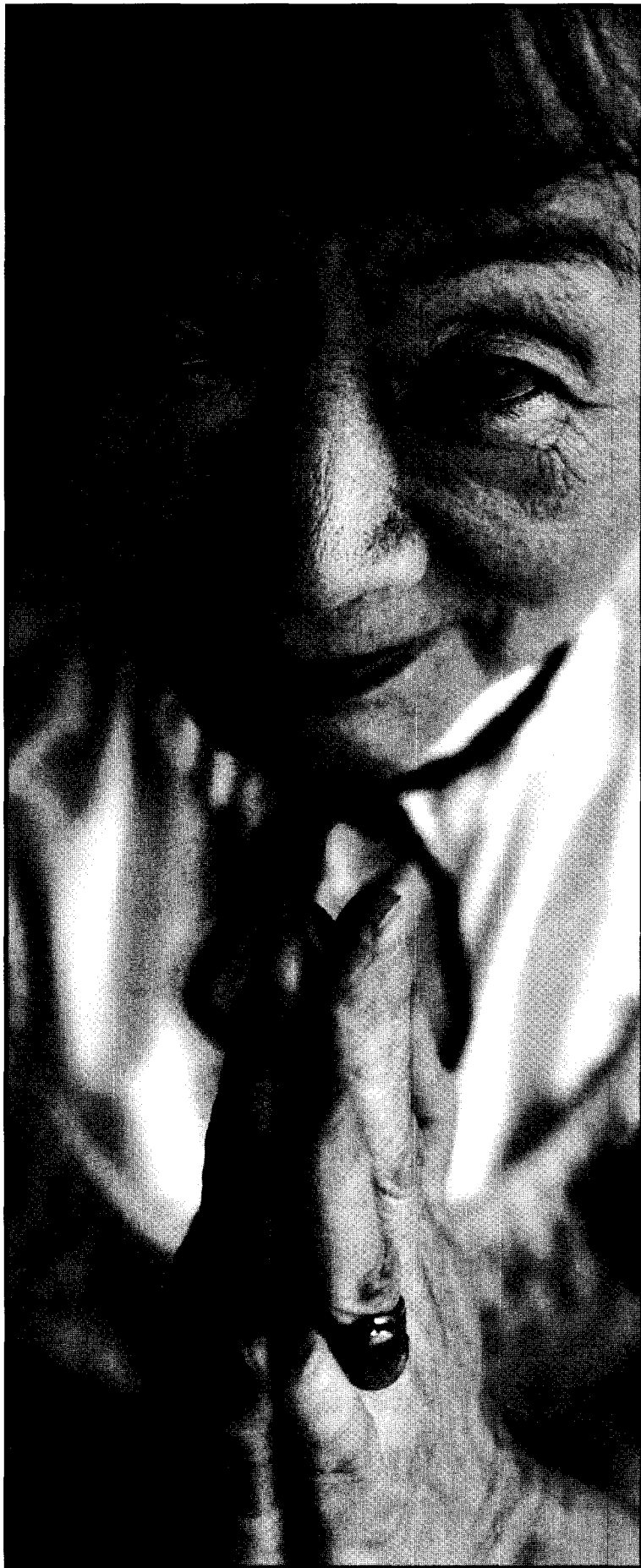
We need and covet the prayers and monetary support of our members. For more information call (800) 567-1844, ext. 348, or to help support this historic project, please make your check payable to the Georgia-Cumberland Association, and mail

to: Desmond Doss Council, Georgia-Cumberland Conference, PO Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703.



Desmond Doss is committed to youth. At a recent Pathfinder camporee, he instructs a young camper on just how to do a proper salute.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BARON WILLIAMS



TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS

China—no longer a sleeping giant—
is responding to the Adventist message!

In 1951, when the Adventist Church was expelled as part of the Cultural Revolution, there were some 23,000 members in the church in China.

For many years little or no information was known about the state of the church in China—until 1986, when research revealed that the number of Adventists had climbed to nearly 70,000. These members worship under strict surveillance, and the work of the church is closely monitored and watched.

But God has blessed His church abundantly, and in China today, in spite of hardships and difficult circumstances, there are approximately 300,000 Seventh-day Adventists! The Adventist congregations in China are large and small, rural and urban. Many of the members, particularly in urban areas, are young people.

Every Adventist believer is a part of the community of believers in China. Your prayers help sustain them. Your offerings to World Budget and Sabbath School help support them and the mission work of the church around the world through many church outreach ministries.

Your generous gift will make a world of difference. You can give to the World Budget on the second Sabbath of each month, or place an offering for World Budget in an offering envelope on any Sabbath.



ADVENTIST MISSION

Seventh-day Adventist Church
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 USA

Making a world of difference.

The Miracle of the Maranatha Towel

This is a story about a simple, white, terry cloth hand towel—a towel that Jesus used to transform the life of a high school senior named Steven Hinger.

The towel was sent to me in 1996 as a promotional gift by Maranatha Volunteers International as a token of their appreciation for my leadership in short-term mission projects. I had passed it on as a special keepsake to Steven.

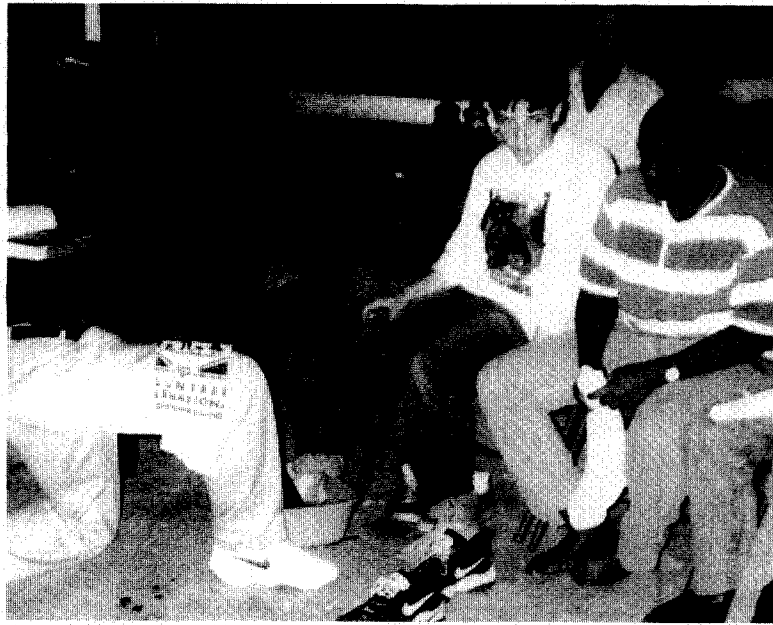
The tropical sun glistened with diamond-like sparkles on the still waters of a small river that flowed into a shallow, emerald basin. Around its banks, large boulders and lush forest enveloped us in a setting open only to heaven's window of light and sky. It was my first Sabbath in Panama—March 29, 1997. I can still close my eyes and capture the moment as if it was yesterday.

I was serving as the team leader of a group of eighth graders from Greater Nashville Junior Academy who had come on their first short-term mission trip to participate in the building of a church in La Chorrera.

Walking down the hill from that Sabbath afternoon's meeting at a little church, we had wound our way past tall stalks of sugar cane to this riverside baptismal service. Steve Case was our mission project coordinator, and as he completed the baptism of the last person, he felt compelled to extend an invitation to those standing along the rocky ledges.

"I believe that there are some among us to whom the Holy Spirit is speaking at

this very moment. Jesus is calling you to give your life to Him. If there is any such one who would like to prepare for baptism and make that commitment to the Lord, would you so signify by raising your hands toward heaven?" In the quiet hush and reverence of that moment, I bowed myself in prayer. As I raised my face, a smile of heartfelt joy radiated through my



Steven Hinger receives the Maranatha towel from Leslie Louis, principal, at the dedication of the church in La Chorrera, Panama, on April 4, 1997.

whole being as I watched one of my students, Steven, courageously raise his hand.

As his principal, I had known Steven Hinger from the day he walked into his first grade classroom. Even as a child his pace had shown an astute determination and resolve. His eyes had always appeared to beam with a keen sense of intelligence and wit.

Steven loved to tease and took advantage of every opportunity to underscore his good-natured, mischievous grin. He knew I loved hot sauce with my food. He knew it and decided to challenge it. One day as I was getting ready to eat my lunch in the office, he came down and offered me a bottle of this new sauce that would test my grit. I told him that I was up to the test. After all, the hotter, the better.

A bit overconfident, I generously poured it all over the food on my plate. I was going to show him that I was tough enough to handle the test. I ate it like a pro. He couldn't believe his eyes.

Just as he walked away, shaking his head in disbelief, I couldn't believe my eyes. They were flooded and welling over with great big teardrops. My nose was running, and I realized that I had met my match.

Over the course of his eight elementary school years, we shared many great moments and memories together. There were fall campouts and class trips. I taught his pre-algebra class and his eighth grade English class. As a class we memorized the poetry of Robert Frost such as "The Road Not Taken" and the entire 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Steven could say it word for word. Culminating Steven's eighth grade year was his Maranatha mission trip to Panama.

Realizing that Steven had taken the bold step toward being baptized, I asked him if I could serve him by washing his



Steven was baptized by Louis with his Maranatha towel at the Madison Campus church on his graduation weekend—May 19, 2001.

feet at the communion service in which we dedicated our completed church project in La Chorrera, Panama. As I washed his feet, I dried them with my Maranatha towel. We then prayed together. That was the moment in which I transferred the ownership of that towel to Steven. I told him that I wanted him to keep that towel as an enduring reminder of his commitment to being baptized and giving his life completely to Jesus.

A change came over Steven. I began to notice an inner struggle—a quiet battle in which he would have to choose sides. At that time, he prefaced his decision with that of his family's willingness to join the Church. After leaving Panama and returning back to the States, the last few weeks of that school year hurriedly ushered us to the big moment of his elementary graduation.

The next school year Steven opted to attend a private high school rather than Madison Academy—the Seventh-day Adventist high school serving the Nashville area. Although we saw each other occasionally, time and circumstances had distanced us.

The following year I was offered the position as principal of Madison Academy (MA), and I accepted the invitation. It was God's leading that helped Steven decide to also transfer to MA. On that first day of school, Steven met me as I walked down

the hallway. Standing by his new locker he called out to me, "Hey Mr. Louis, remember that towel you gave me? I still have it. And I still haven't forgotten."

I thought my life as an administrator was busy at the elementary level. Academy life—even at a day academy—with its myriad of activities mingled with study and work programs took what I considered "busy" to a new level of intensity. Steven too became absorbed in his studies, his work, band, ACROS (our gymnastics team),

his car, and his new girlfriend, Michelle. Michelle's influence was instrumental in drawing Steven into worshiping regularly on the Sabbath day at the Ridgetop church.

During the past year my wife Carole and I shared a burden to begin a Bible marking program at our home. We opened it to any seniors who had a desire to mark their Bibles with the great truths of scrip-



Louis and Steven share a moment of joy after his baptism.

ture. We called it Senior Soup and Bible Study nights. We closed each evening with a circle of prayer.

As senior students at Madison Academy, Steven and Michelle came pretty faithfully to these Wednesday night meetings. One evening Steven stayed after everyone else had left to talk with me about his concerns regarding the breakup of his

parents. It was an opportunity for us to share together and pray for God's guidance and strength through this trying time.

In April of this year Steven joined our Madison Global Mission team to serve in the Maranatha church project in Chomes, Costa Rica. It seemed God ordained that I would once again have the privilege of washing his feet at the dedication of that church. On that night, Steven told me that he wanted to be baptized on his graduation weekend. Two weeks before graduation, the faculty honored the seniors with their blessing in what is traditionally regarded as our senior vespers. At the conclusion of that meeting, Steven asked me if I would be willing to baptize him with the Maranatha towel that had been a symbolic reminder of his pledge to give his life to his Lord. I was moved with emotion as I told him that I would be honored beyond measure to do this for him. I was so excited that I hardly slept that whole night. This was to be my first baptism.

It was Sabbath morning, May 19, 2001, at the Madison Campus church. There at the baccalaureate service of Madison Academy in the presence of God and hundreds of witnesses, by God's grace Steve pledged to be faithful to each of his baptismal vows. Then he and I stepped into the baptismal waters. In my hand I held the renowned Maranatha towel. Embracing his face with that towel, I gently placed Steven into the water as he bade farewell to the past and rose to a miraculous transformation in which a new heart had been created in Christ.

Some have often wondered whether Adventist education and short-term mission trips are worth all the effort and expense. In the light of eternity, let the testimony and miraculous power of a simple hand towel proclaim a clear and convicting message. For Steven and thousands more like him, Adventist education and participation

in short-term mission trips have made, and will continue to make, all the difference in the world.

Leslie D. Louis was the principal of Madison Academy in Nashville, Tennessee, when this article was written. He is now the superintendent of education for the Gulf States Conference.



Raymond Earle (left), director of computer services for the Carolina Conference, and Jim Davidson, Conference ministerial director, recently trained more than 30 lay evangelists in the use of the new laptop computers. These computers were purchased specifically for use in spreading God's word through lay-led evangelistic crusades and efforts. Many of these meetings are already taking place throughout the Carolina Conference.

A Giant Leap for Evangelism in the Carolinas

Without a doubt the Carolina Conference is making great strides for evangelism. Just a few years ago we were talking about the NET satellite uplinks. Today it's a different story. As time grows short the need for more evangelists increases. However, budgets don't allow for a multitude of full-time evangelists. With this in mind

the Conference has literally placed an evangelistic meeting into the hands of our lay-people. Through the use of laptop computers anyone who desires to conduct an evangelistic series can utilize this cutting-edge equipment, complete with sermons and graphics to facilitate the spreading of the Gospel. This past August a group

of dedicated lay-people gathered at Nosoca Pines Ranch for training on this new technology. Jim Davidson, ministerial director, along with Raymond Earle, director of computer services, conducted the meeting.

Adult Ministries Training a Success

Nearly 100 adult ministries lay leaders from across the Conference packed the Conference office September 22. They came for training in the areas of personal ministry, prison ministry, Sabbath school, family life, community service, disaster response, health ministry, and men's ministry.

Guest speaker Bill Einhellig kept the group spellbound. He told how the Springtown church in Arkansas started just three years ago, and now has more than 300 members. It is made up of formerly nonattending Adventists who use friend-

ship and faith to bring people to Christ. Other guest speakers and seminar presenters were Marcia Trott, Ben Kemorooski, Mike Ortel, Mark Cadavero, Lynn Ortel,

Mary Ann Cirigliano, Marilyn Justensen, Suzanne Harpine, Byron Saavedra, and Sue Blake.

Mike Ortel, director of adult ministries for the Carolina Conference, presented a seminar at the Adult Ministries Training Workshop that took place September 22, 2001.





A Day to Pray

Every day, all around the world, it is a day of prayer in an Adventist church school. However, on Friday morning, September 14, things were tragically different. On that day the entire nation was in prayer. Pictured praying for their country and those in sorrow are young students from Adventist Christian Academy in Charlotte: Jack Vong (left), first grader; Mia Saunders, second grader; and Jacob Case, first grader.

Schools Show American Spirit

Like many schools across the country our Adventist church schools throughout the Conference are trying to help students make sense of the unthinkable. Teachers tried to temper some of the more alarming images on television, answered questions about rescue workers buried in rubble, and reassured children that their school was safe. Perhaps the most important difference in the Adventist school is the daily prayer and worship that provides hope and encouragement to youth.

In the aftermath of the terrorist events that have taken place, the church school students have been

doing whatever can be done to help ease the pain. In every classroom prayers have ascended for the victims. Other students have been writing postcards. At Columbia Adventist Academy students made a red, white and blue chain that continues unbroken around the school hallway. Pictured in the hallways under the unbroken chain are Loren Herbert, principal, and Cheryl Herbert, a teacher.



Peddling for Fun and Fitness

BY CHARLOTTE TAYLOR

This past July 25 Pathfinders, from several clubs throughout the Conference, peddled their bikes from Asheville in the mountains to Nags Head on the coast. The theme for the five-day event was, "Teens for Fun and Fitness."

The Pathfinder club even received public notice when they were featured on the front page of the July 25 edition of the Asheville, N.C., *Courier-Tribune*.

Each day of the long ride began with a wake-up call at 5:00 a.m. Then around 6:30, after worship and a hearty breakfast, they hit the road. Sleeping and bathing took place at various churches, schools, and YMCAs.

This was the third such trip. The first "cross-country" ride was two years ago when 15 brave cyclists rode 1200 miles from Charlotte, N.C., to Oshkosh, Wis., where they attended the Pathfinder Camporee. Then last year, a trip of 320 miles took them from Beaufort, S.C., to Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Fla.

Although one young rider stated that this was as much a social event as exercise, the leaders did all they could to make it a learning experience. Everyone had responsibilities not only for himself but for each other. The evenings were spent sharing the day's experiences and drawing spiritual lessons. Sabbath was spent at the Elizabeth City church where the riders were asked to tell the children's story.

And even after battling all the different elements, such as 18-wheelers flying by, potholes, and a slight sprinkle that turned into a drenching downpour, some of the riders had comments on what they liked about the trip. "It's fun" . . . "Being with everybody" . . . "The challenge" . . . "Doing it for God." And one individual said, "The greater the challenge, the greater the reward." Even though these comments were made before the drenching downpour.

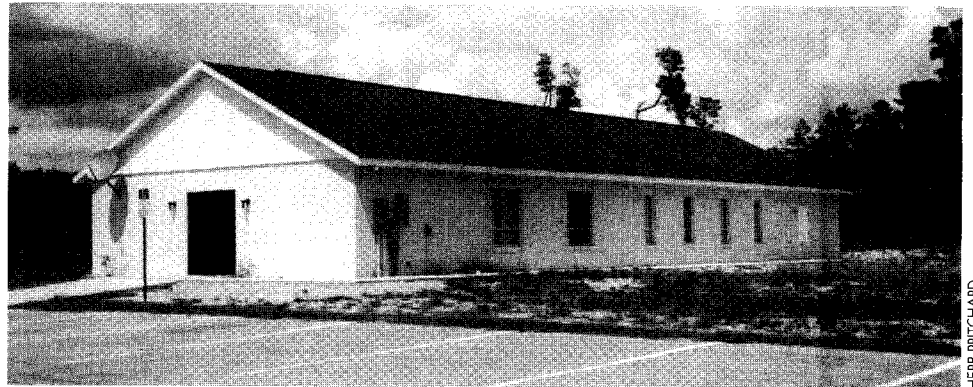


Marion Oaks Spanish— From Living Room to Church Building

Seven years ago, the Marion Oaks Spanish company was an unnamed dream of two Adventist women in the Ocala area. Now it has a church building and a membership of nearly 100 and growing. The company will be organized into a church early next year.

How did the dream of Claudina Ortiz and Concepcion Nadal become reality? Growth took place in steps:

- First Ortiz offered her living room as a meeting place and a small group began meeting there on Sabbaths.
- After several months, the group outgrew the living room and moved to the garage.
- As more Hispanic people moved from the big cities of south Florida to the tranquil area of Marion County, the group increased, moved to a store front that accommodated 25 people and began planning for their own church building.
- The group was blessed with new arrivals and baptisms and found it necessary in 1998 to find another store front that could hold 60 people.
- When Marion Oaks, the subdivision where the group was located, donated land for a church, the group drew up plans for a facility that would seat 120 people and began raising funds.



HEBB PRITCHARD

- Ground breaking occurred April 24, 1999, under the direction of Minner Labrador, pastor, and the backing of Jorge Mayer, Florida Conference vice president for Spanish language ministries.
- Attendance at the storefront reached a critical point before the new church was finally completed. When the group first met in the new church on April 25, 2000, the facility was packed. Their new pastor, Daniel Schiffbauer, Jr., lead out, and Labrador had returned to preach the inaugural sermon.
- In March of this year, 22 new members were added after Robert Gorenson conducted the first major Spanish evangelistic meeting to be held in Marion

County, representing nearly a 30 percent increase in membership.

- Now more than 100 people, representing 10 nationalities, attend Sabbath services. Sabbath school classes have been organized into small cell groups that meet during the week in homes throughout Marion County. The company has an active youth group, Pathfinder club, and women's ministries program. Plans are under way to start a community food bank, a prison ministry, and hold another evangelistic meeting next year. There is even talk of starting a second Hispanic church within the city limits of Ocala—even before the Marion Oaks company itself is organized into a regular church.

News Notes

COMPILED BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Filipino American Church in Orlando—Fifteen adult students graduated from an eight-week seminar on health and wellness under the leadership of Julie Seabrun, RN.

Interlachen Church—Representatives from six different denominations joined members in taking part in the

World Day of Prayer conducted under the direction of Frankie Cheney, women's ministries director.

Ocala Church—Twelve teens and four adults donated 480 hours of community service work in the Atlanta, Ga., area which included cleaning apartments of the elderly and serving lunch to the homeless and AIDS patients.

Family Life—As a community service for the Orange County sheriff deputies and their families, Ken Bryant, family

life director, conducted a 16PF Personality Factor Inventory Program which included the dynamics of family relationships and on-the-job stresses.

Central Florida—Singles joined with the Samaritan's Purse in Operation Christmas Child to fill shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items, and nonperishable food items for children in third world countries.



BY KEITH MCBETH AND TAMMY SMITH

Evangelism in Dickson County

When the Dickson church hosted an Amazing Facts evangelistic crusade, it proved to be a busy yet glorious time. One can only marvel at the miraculous workings of the Holy Spirit. Just over a year ago, when they began a season of all night prayer meetings, they raised up their petitions to the Lord, asking that He would prepare their hearts and the hearts of those in Dickson County for the soul-winning work ahead. One year later, there is a story to tell.

Rich Cavaness began his Amazing Facts Crusade on Friday, July 20th and continued through August 25th. Attendance, at first, was very good, with as many as 124 nonmembers attending in one night. Throughout the course of the crusade attendance decreased, however, the congregation believed that precious seeds of truth



Those baptized were (front row kneeling) Corey Grimm, Sean Davenport, Abby Smith; (second row) Lester Feltner (kneeling), Ruben Perales, Tammy Smith, Daniel Cochran; (back row) April Black-George, James Franks, Pat Perales, Don Smith, Billy Edmondson. Also included in the picture are Keith McBeth, pastor, (kneeling far left) and Amazing Facts evangelist Rich Cavaness (standing far right).

were planted in the hearts of those who attended that may someday result in fruit for the kingdom.

Scripture tells us there is joy in heaven over just one repentant sinner. On Sabbath,

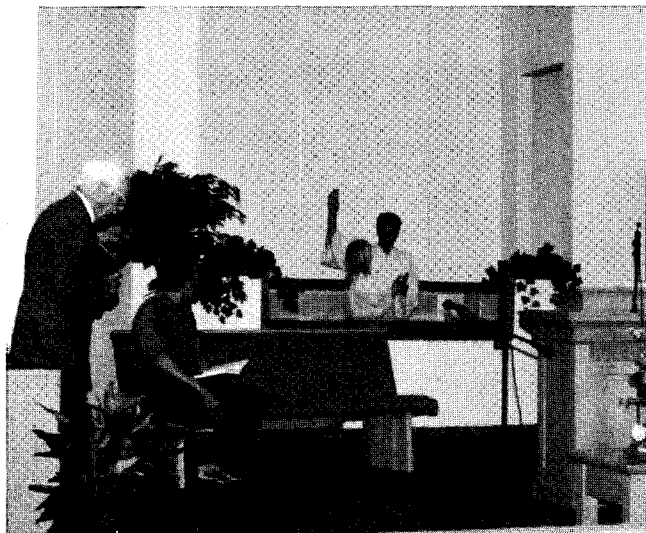
August 18th, five people committed their lives to Christ and were baptized. The following week, seven more people were baptized and four children were dedicated to Christ.

Pathfinding Leads to Baptism

BY KATHY MCBRIDE

One of the exciting things happening at the Hopkinsville church is its interest in and support of the young people. The Pathfinder club has fostered an interest in the church locally and in the global community.

A happy highlight of the summer season for the Hopkinsville club came when 11-year-old Victoria Forry surrendered her life to Jesus and decided to be baptized. On the day of her baptism by Jerrett Brown, the church celebrated the entire day in Victoria's honor. Victoria is the daughter



Jerrett Brown, pastor, baptized Victoria as local elder Raymond Harold (far left), and Victoria's father, Steve Forry watched.

of Steve and Darlene Forry of Herndon, Ky.

Murfreesboro Church Sponsors Meals on Wheels

The Murfreesboro church is in its fourth year of participating in the Mid-Cumberland Meals on Wheels program. The church has been providing meals to senior citizens and shut-ins since May 1997. During the last four years members have delivered more than 15,000 lunches. Currently, they are preparing and delivering nearly 100 lunches every Saturday.

The program started as a short-term mission project by the Pathfinder club delivering hot meals Monday through Friday. At the end of the project, the church decided to continue by delivering the lunches once a week. "There's a two-fold blessing from the program: recipients get a healthy lunch while the givers get a big, heartfelt 'Thank You,'" says Perry Loudon, a Murfreesboro member.



It Took a Prayer

It began with a group of dedicated laymen, a prayer in a rented house, and ended with a church building on the main street of Jamestown, Tenn. For years, the members of the Deer Lodge church have worked in Jamestown but never had a place to worship.

It was on Sabbath, February 3, that a quick work began. Following a challenge and a special prayer for direction in obtaining a place of worship by February 2002, events happened rapidly. The next day, a "Church for Sale" ad was seen.

Inquiry learned that it was on the main street of town and could be acquired for the outstanding mortgage of \$39,704. Investigation proved it to be worth many times the asking. The building seated 130, with several rooms in the base-



ment for classes, a kitchen, and paved parking.

Thirteen days later, with \$27,000 cash in hand, a note was signed for the remainder of the cost. Seventh-day Adventists now had a place of worship in what was at one time a county with no Seventh-day Adventist Church. February 24, three Sabbaths from "the prayer," found them meeting in their own sanctuary. Four new members were baptized.

August 3, six months to the day of "the prayer" for their own place of worship, found more than 100 gathered to praise the Lord for His goodness, dedicate the building, and burn the mortgage note.

Dan Purple, Ron Bogley, and Diane Mullinix look on as pastor Harold Kuebler and Conference treasurer Michael Park burn the Jamestown church mortgage.

LifeStyle Center of Benton Celebrates Grand Opening

BY JAMIE ARNALL



Dr. John Sines, Chamber president Greg Swyers, and Lifestyle Center executive director Jane Sines offically open the LifeStyle Center.

On Sunday, September 25, 2001, members of the Benton church, along with local community leaders, gathered together to celebrate the grand opening of the LifeStyle Center of Benton. This new facility, built within walking distance of the church, is a dream come true for the Benton church family.

The new LifeStyle Center will provide many helpful resources for people in search of better health. The 9,000 square foot facility houses medical and dental facilities, an 85-seat conference room, physical therapy and hydrotherapy treatment rooms, a fitness center, and *The Vine*, the LifeStyle Center's very own vegetarian restaurant.

"The whole reason for anything we do is to win souls for the kingdom," said Bruce Trigg, a pastor. It's with this philosophy that the center opened its doors and will serve the people of Benton and beyond for years to come.



BY NEFTALY ORTIZ

“Atlanta, Jesus Loves You”

A five-day evangelistic series was recently held in the metropolitan area of Atlanta with the theme “Atlanta, Jesus Loves You.” The speaker was the well-known evangelist and ministerial secretary for the South American Division, Alejandro Bullón. In the Hispanic world, he is the best known and the one with the most success in evangelism.

The series of meetings, held September 5-9, was a joint venture among the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and the South Atlantic Conference. The average attendance of 1,800 people filled the church to total capacity. More than 200 people have already joined the Church. The goal is to baptize 250 people between the two conferences.

Another blessing was the great financial support of those who attended. With only 1,000 Hispanic members in the metropolitan area, approximately \$35,000 dollars collected in offerings spoke of the giving hearts of members and visitors.

Bullón declared that this evangelistic series has been one of the most outstanding series in which he has ever led out.



RON QUICK, PHOTOGRAPHER

Alejandro Bullón, pastor, spoke for the five-night evangelistic series that drew an average of 1,800 each night to the Berean Adventist church.

Health Watch Shares New Ideas

BY JAMIE ARNALL

With health being a major concern by so many Americans today, it is without question a perfect avenue for many Adventists to share their faith. “But what method would best serve the needs in my community?” you ask. Chances are you might be inspired with the perfect solution when you see the next Health Watch video that is being sent to churches across the Conference.

This video magazine shares stories about church and lay programs being conducted within the community, such as health fairs, water aerobics classes, and cooking schools.

The Conference’s communication and health ministries departments first began producing the quarterly video magazine in the spring of 2000 with the intent of encouraging more churches to take part in health ministry.

“The purpose of this video is two-fold: first, it is designed to inspire laity into action, and secondly, by focusing on various activities within the Conference, it provides others with ideas to try in their own communities,” says E. W. Dempsey, health ministries director for the Conference.

Karin Covi, an ER physician, hosts the quarterly video magazine.



JAMIE ARNALL, PHOTOGRAPHER



Hispanic Camp Meeting A Highlight of the Year

More than 400 people attended the third annual Hispanic camp meeting held at Camp Alamisco September 7-9. Roberto Eubanks inspired the attendees Friday evening, and Sabbath morning and afternoon with his dynamic presentations on getting to know God. Eubanks is a former vice-president of Columbia Union College. Before that he served as president of the Guatemala Conference and the Nicaragua Conference. He is currently pastoring the New Orleans Hispanic church.

The young people were enthralled with the puppet ministry led by The Sunrise Street Patrol Puppet Ministry of Orlando. Jose Pagan, the coordinator of the ministry, conducted a workshop on children and youth evangelism.

Special music and an afternoon concert was performed by Group Shalom from the Meridian, Miss., church. Five people were baptized by Saul Aispuro, the new pastor of the Albertville and Fort Payne, Ala., districts. Others on the pro-



Five were baptized into the Fort Payne church.

gram were Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Hispanic coordinator; Exequiel Osario, pastor of the Meridian district; and Aurello



Hispanic camp meeting is fun for everyone.

Astacio, Bible worker for the Laurel, Miss., church.

"Each year the Hispanic camp meeting gets better and better," says Tui Pitman, the Conference Hispanic coordinator. "It's one of the highlights of the year."

Working Together Results in Baptism

BY BECKY GRICE

When the Tupelo First church, the Tupelo Maranatha church and the Amory Maranatha church, worshiped together, August 18, it seemed the perfect time to give Linda Ambrose the Bible she had earned four years earlier. Linda was introduced to the Adventist message when Bruce Moon, a literature evangelist, visited her home and enrolled her in a Bible course.

The first lessons were sent to the Conference office where, as part of the publishing program, they were graded and returned to her. After that the lessons were sent to be graded



Bruce Moon gives Linda Ambrose the Bible she earned. Merrill and Jesse Wilson (right), graded the Bible lessons.

by Jesse and Merrill Wilson, members of the Tupelo First church. "Linda was a very good Bible student. She always answered

all the questions correctly," says Merrill. The Wilsons visited Linda several times, gave her a couple of books, and invited her to come to their church, but she was hesitant to attend.

When Linda completed the Bible course, the Wilsons gave her name to Joseph Privett, pastor of the Tupelo Maranatha church. Now, as a result of the work of a literature evangelist and two lay members from the Gulf States Conference, and a pas-



BY DOTTIE PALMER

Church Focuses on Ultimate Homecoming

On September 15, sunshine, blue skies, and a perfect temperature greeted members and guests, as they attended the sixth annual homecoming of the Phil Campbell church. Coming on the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, many were tense, but soon relaxed as they focused on the ultimate homecoming when Jesus comes to take His people home forever.



The Gospel Tones added their musical talent to the program. From left to right are: Milton Jones, Marilyn Stout, and Annette and Leland Snead.

Cars filled the parking lot and as a stranger passed by the church she noticed all the people attending. She liked the way the church looked and decided to go in and see what was happening. As this lady walked inside and began talking with the

members she discovered that she and another member had attended nursing school together more than 20 years ago. She asked for information about what the church believes and requested an online Bible study course.

Evangelism Committee Plans for the Future

BY CHRISTOPHER BEASON/BECKY GRICE

Under the direction of Don Shelton, Conference ministerial/evangelism director, an evangelism committee has been created. Besides Shelton, the committee includes selected pastors from across the Conference. Factors that were considered when choosing pastors for the committee were their spiritual contribution, innovation and evangelism skills.

The committee makes decisions regarding evangelism plans, goals, and budgets. It finalizes budget requests that come from the churches. It has developed a "master plan" designed to ensure that churches are ready to commit financially and to invest the time required to nurture and grow new members.



Members of the evangelism committee are: Scott Tyman (left), Paul LeBlanc, Ray House, Christopher Beason, Don Shelton, and Mark Waters.

"The idea for an evangelism committee grew out of the need for us to get input from the pastors and the field," says Shelton.

Scarbrough Earns Fellowship Award From the Academy of General Dentistry



Roddy Scarbrough, DMD, of Richton, Miss., and the head elder of the Hattisburg, Miss., church was awarded the Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship Award August 4.

Dedicated to remaining current in his profession and to providing excellent patient care, Scarbrough earned the fellowship award after completing a minimum of 500 hours of quality continuing dental education and passing a comprehensive written exam given by the Academy.

Scarbrough graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in 1989 and is currently practicing dentistry in Richton. He is president of the Mississippi Academy of General Dentistry, and is a Board Trustee on the Mississippi Dental Association and serves on its executive committee.



Southern Sets New Enrollment Record

Officials at Southern Adventist University recently announced Fall 2001 undergraduate enrollment is 2,098 students, eclipsing the University's previous enrollment record by seven, which was set in 1980.

"We are gratified that we are experiencing such significant growth in the number of students that wish to partake of the unique educational experience that we provide at Southern Adventist University," said Gordon Bietz, University president.

"We're experiencing the highest enrollment in the 110-year history of the school," said Rob Howell, director of public relations. "God is certainly blessing us."

In addition to its extensive undergraduate program, Southern has many graduate-level students as well. The graduate enrollment numbers fluctuate throughout the year and are not included in the 2,098 figure.

More good news for Southern is the current housing situation. The construction of new housing facilities has adequately accommodated the influx of students.



Students worship at the Third, a young adult service of the Collegedale church that meets on the campus of Southern Adventist University.

School of Nursing graduate results

Before a nursing student becomes a registered nurse (RN), he/she must successfully complete the National Council of Licensing Examination (NCLEX), commonly referred to as "State Boards."

Southern's School of Nursing recently announced the results of the May 2001 associate degree graduates. Of the 34 Southern students who took this exam, 100 percent passed on their first attempt. This is the second consecutive year the School of Nursing has produced these results.

The faculty takes great strides in preparing students for the examination.

What's Happening

- Southern Adventist University was proud to honor former and current faculty and staff at this year's alumni weekend. October 27 marked the highlight of the weekend as Marvin Robertson presented a special musical program. Complete with historical sketches, this event honored former and current presidents and the faculty who served with them.
- Last month Southern hosted more than 500 high school seniors from around the Southern Union during ViewSouthern. This program gives seniors a chance to check out Southern's campus and get acquainted with the programs offered.
- Revival Prayer Groups have begun meeting every hour of every weekday on campus. With more than 80 prayer group leaders and as many prayer groups, students are becoming more active in promoting positive spiritual influences on campus. With the instruction of Ron Clouzet, students are learning how to become more effective leaders in their prayer groups.
- Southern Adventist University has decided on next year's tuition increase. Set at a modest 5.24 percent, this figure is well below the national average. Southern is currently the third least-expensive Seventh-day Adventist institute of higher learning in the North American Division.
- Following the tragic events of September 11, Southern Adventist University hosted a panel discussion on Muslim-Christian relations to help students and community alike learn how to cope and respond to this event. The event received local TV news coverage and was broadcast live on both radio and TV.

Sacrificial Labor in Soul Winning

SOUTHEASTERN FEATURE
BY GEORGE C. WORRELL

Holy Spirit Ignites Churches in Blaze of Evangelism

September 22, 2001, will go down in the annals of history as the day when two churches redefined cooperation and working together. It was on this date that Nazareth church, Live Oak, and the newly formed Upper Room church, Tallahassee, came together to celebrate months of hard work and sacrificial labor in soul winning.

Thirsting for Truth

Under the leadership of Willie Walker and Daisy Cousins, the Upper Room church launched into the deep with an eye single on reclaiming the lost. First, they conducted a *Daniel and Revelation Seminar* in the upstairs of a business place in the heart of Tallahassee. Night after night, for about three months, these dedicated leaders combined their day jobs with their nightly commitment and opened the Word of God to those who attended, hungering for truth for these last days.

A Great Challenge

At the end of the seminar, the interest was so high, the leaders acceded to the demand for a continuation of the meetings and a deeper explanation about how the messages of the Apocalypse could be applied to the times in which we live. This was indeed a great challenge to both elders, but it was one they relished. They immediately started an *Amazing Facts Seminar*, combined it with house visitations, an all night prayer meeting, and a spiritual retreat, during which time pleas were made for the outpouring of the Spirit of God. As a result of this intense seeking for a closer revelation of God, there was a noticeable increase in church attendance and a heightened spirit of love and unity among church members.

Overwhelming Success

While this spiritual revolution was taking place, George C. Worrell, pastor, and members of the Nazareth church, Live Oak, were at work executing a similar program called Outreach 2001. Outreach 2000 was an overwhelming success and calls for an encore did not go unheeded this year. With both churches working together with one purpose in mind, the winning of souls for the Kingdom, the program was celebrated on August 18. At that time the entire membership visited the hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins, spreading the good news of the Gospel and confronting both young and old with the Gospel of salvation. Health

Fair 2001, put on by both churches, was the highlight of the afternoon.

Wonderful Spectacle

The day the churches came together, a date was fixed for the gathering of the sheaves that were ready for harvesting. And on September 22, the Nazareth church was transformed into a veritable baptismal pool, with an ambiance akin to the banks of the river Jordan. It was a joy, and indeed a wonderful spectacle to witness 11 people proclaim their faith and love for Jesus Christ by baptism.



Newly baptized members with George C. Worrell, pastor, back row, left, are: Daisy Cousins, Marslyn Campbell, Rochelle Cousins, Eugene Campbell, Angela Forshee, Nathalie Roberts, and Willie Walker. Front row: Jarrett Yulee, Preston Cousins, Tiffany Joseph, and Krystal Walker. Unavailable at time of this picture were Comfort Onubogu and Stella Onubogu.

Presence of the Holy Spirit

As the candidates were being baptized by Worrell, there was an unmistakable sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit. An enthusiastic crowd comprised of friends, relatives, well wishers, and the members of both churches who worked long and hard to make this historic day the tremendous success it was, gathered to witness the manifestation of God's power.

Laity and Leadership United

From this experience two lessons were learned. First, there is no limit to what can be accomplished when small congregations harness their resources and labor together with one common goal—the salvation of man. Surely, the time has come for leadership and laity to be united in taking the Three Angel's Messages to a sinful world. Second, despite the incessant knocking on the doors by secularism to infiltrate the church with

worldliness and compromises, when the gospel is presented in a "primitive" form, men and women whose hearts have been touched by the Spirit of God will hear His voice and follow Him.

New Spirit

Full credit must be given to both churches for the insight shown, the hard work done and a willingness to cooperate with Spirit-filled leadership. Already, plans are in place to keep the flames of evangelism burning. Bible studies are being given, seminars are being conducted, prayer meetings are being held, and a new spirit of involvement has taken hold of these churches. Join them in prayer as they labor for the Master in readiness for His soon return.

Creating Relationships, Communicating Christ

Only two years into its existence as a national organization, the Society of Adventist Communicators drew a group of 150 to its annual convention, October 4 to 7, in Chicago, Illinois. Convention participation grew by 36 percent this year in the rapidly expanding society.

The theme "Creating Relationships, Communicating Christ" was reflected in the messages of numerous speakers and workshop presenters. Chris Drake, associate director of marketing at Walla Walla College, provided a wake-up call to Church workers and secular professionals, alike, to not let the cynicism of the profession dampen the "Joy of Christ," which is their calling to communicate.

Church-employed communicators were implored to turn their message outward. "You are wonderful at communicating your message to each other," noted speaker Patricia Dean, associate professor of journalism at Northwestern University, but she shared that only 30 percent of the American public had ever even heard the term "Seventh-day Adventist" in a 1995 poll.

Christianity Today International's executive vice president, Harold Smith, praised the Adventist communicators for a pertinent litany (see sidebar) that complemented his message of communicating truthful convictions.

Participants in a communications tour on Friday visited several locations, including the Museum of Broadcast Communications, Hill and Knowlton Public Relations Agency, Northwestern University Broadcast Facility, Christianity Today International headquarters, Moody Broadcasting Institute, and *The Chicago Defender*, among others. It was the perfect opportunity for students to identify areas of interest for future employment, and for practitioners to stretch their own professional habits by observing new approaches.

Everyone seemed to appreciate meeting peers and networking. "I had no idea that I would gain so much and enjoy the

convention so much. I got professional contacts, widened my horizons, and had a lot of fun," said Tim Hale, book editor at Pacific Press Publishing.

Oprah Winfrey was honored with a new SAC award, the Irene Morgan Award for Courage and Integrity, at the Saturday night Gala and Awards Ceremony. Named for the Adventist woman who refused to give up her seat on the Greyhound bus in 1944—11 years before Rosa Parks did the same, the award honors "the courage to step out and stand for something." Though unable to attend the event, Oprah sent a letter thanking the group and expressing the honor she felt at being considered for such an award. Other professionals recognized for their outstanding contributions included Mark Bond, owner of bondesign graphic excursions and creator of the new SAC logo, Logo Design Award; Ray Dabrowski, director of communication, General Conference, Influential Leader and Professional Communicator Award; Paul Harvey, internationally known radio host, Golden Microphone Award; Oscar Heinrich, creator of "Mission Spotlight," Lifetime Achievement Award; and Paul Moore, founder of LifeTalk Radio Foundation, Award of Pioneering Innovation.

Sunday's roundtable breakfast provided opportunity for a meeting of the Adventist Editors International and presentations of research by educators and students. Ten workshops followed, with topics involving communication technology, editing, video production, web development, logo design, marketing, radio, television spots, and storytelling.

The convention was attended by professionals in all areas of media, including radio, TV, publishing, marketing, and web design. More students than ever before attended, traveling from Andrews University, Columbia Union College, Oakwood College, Southern Adventist University, Union College, and Walla



GIANNA NORMAN

Audrey Stovall Hayes, editor for extension communications, Alabama, and Roy Brown, news reporter/commentator for National Public Radio in Florida, were two of the many professionals enjoying the Saturday night Gala Awards Banquet.



A. LEE BENNETT, JR.

At 150, the number of participants at SAC 2001 was the highest in the history of the organization.

Walla College. All levels of Church communication were represented, from the first-year interns of several institutions, to the directors of the General Conference and North American Division, as well as professionals from the Canadian, Lake, Mid-America, Pacific, Southern, and Southwestern Union offices.

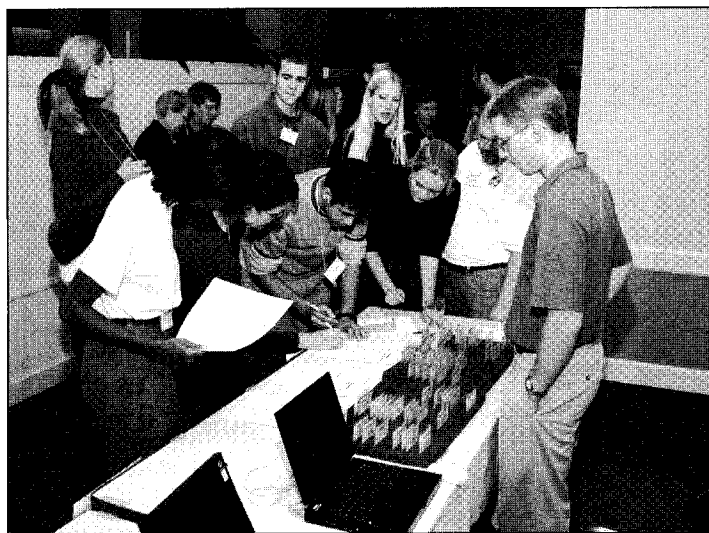
At the closing meeting, officers were elected for the coming year, and a location was determined for the convention. Rita Waterman, director of corporate communications for Adventist Health, was voted SAC president; Brenda Wood, news anchor for WXIA-TV Channel 11 in Atlanta, was named as president-elect. The West Coast was designated the area of the 2002 convention, with greater-Los Angeles being the most likely site, and a return to Atlanta was tentatively suggested for the year 2003.

The Southern Society of Adventist Communicators, launched from the Southern Union in 1989, was established to provide a support system for communicators in the trenches of the secular media, to encourage growth and offer professional opportunity for students, and to build a network for Church-employed communicators. In 1999 SSAC voted to go national, as the Society of Adventist Communicators. "Watching the growth of this organization has been truly exciting," says Brenda Wood, who has been with the Society since its inception. She continues, "Each year more communicators are recognizing the value of an organization where they can interact, grow, and encourage each other."

"I really look forward to building upon what SAC has already achieved," adds Rita Waterman, "and I hope to create an even broader vision for what this organization can become. It has enormous potential, and there are a lot of wonderful things that we can make happen together."

If you are interested in joining SAC or learning more about the Society, please contact the Southern Union office of communication at 404-299-1832, x313; email selwin@southernunion.com; or visit the website at <http://northamerica.adventist.org/sac/>.

Sheila Elwin, Southern Union webmaster, is also the SAC communication coordinator.



Approximately 50 students from Adventist colleges enjoyed the convention. Those pictured are being registered by Brian Bell, Walla Walla College, one of two elected SAC student representatives for the 2002 board. The other student representative is JeNean Johnson, Oakwood College.



Several organizations donated door prizes for the meet-and-greet luncheon. Here, Kermit Netteburg, assistant to the president for communication, North American Division, presents a t-shirt to prize winner Harold Smith, executive vice president of Christianity Today International and guest speaker at the convention.

Litany for Communicators

(Compiled and adapted by R. Lynn Sauls from the Bible and prayers in The Student Prayer Book, Association Press, 1954, pp. 112-13, 125.)

- Good Lord, we praise you for all communicators who open our eyes to the beauties of nature and to the sadness and sweetness of humanity.
- We praise you for all communicators who open our eyes to your goodness,
- Who open our hearts to the saving love of your son,
- Who help us know the comfort and power of your spirit.
- We praise you for calling us to serve.
- We praise you for calling us to be communicators.
- Deliver us, O Lord, from having communication skills, with nothing to communicate,
- From caring for smooth expression and technical prowess more than for rugged truth,
- From having ready words upon our lips, but a sparse vocabulary of the soul.
- Show us that great communication comes from great conviction.
- Deepen our everyday life so that our opinions, our impressions, our sharing of the excitement of life, may all be prompted by our joy in knowing you and witnessing to your manifold goodness, wonder, and beauty.
- Let the meditations of our hearts, the visuals we capture and create, the words of our mouths and computers be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.
- Amen.

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Our faith may be constant, but personal and financial challenges keep changing.

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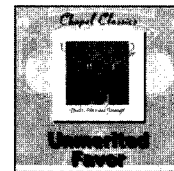
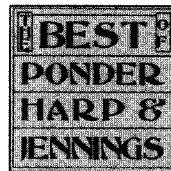
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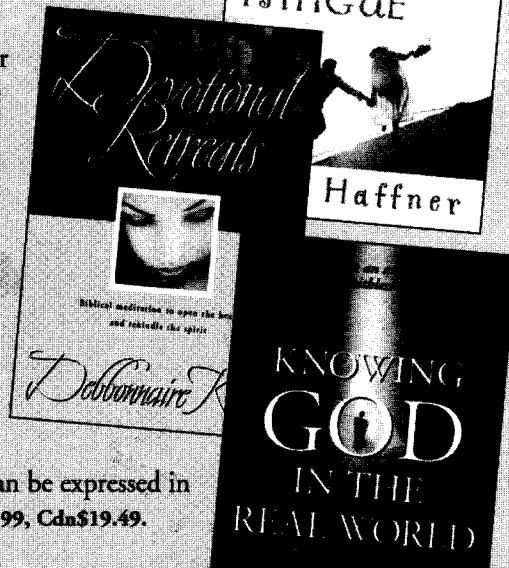
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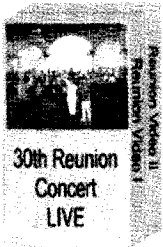
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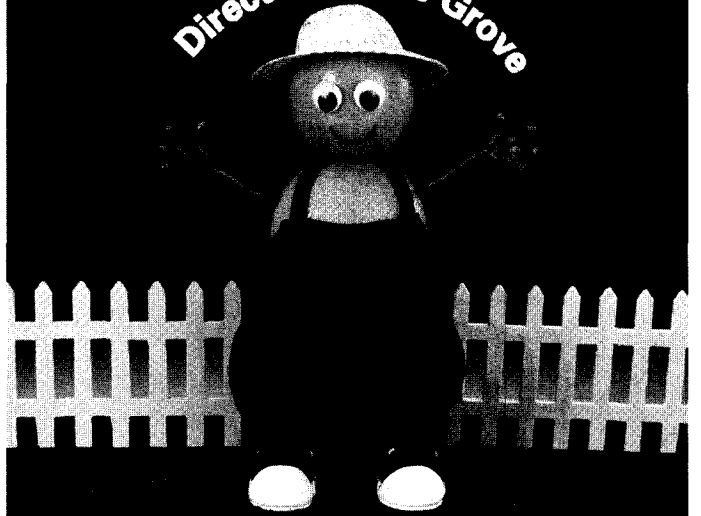
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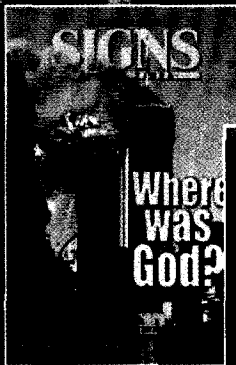
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Phone: (301) 680-6416

Email: adamca@nad.adventist.org

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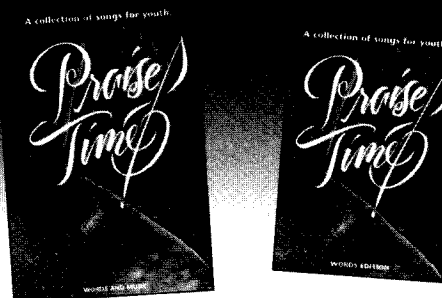
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The average number of copies each issue of this publication distributed through the mail during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was 66,850. The actual number for the previous issue is 67,645.

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BY ROSEMARY GRAHAM

Berea Recognizes Sabbath Greeter

Jacquelyn Herrington, a member of the Berea church in Sumter, S.C., has a special ministry. She is the unauthorized "greeter" of the church. Every Sabbath beginning with Sabbath school, Jackie starts greeting visitors and church members. By the time the welcome is completed in divine worship, she has hugged, kissed, and shaken hands with each church member and guest. That's almost 250 people.

August 25, 2001, was no exception, although on this Sabbath, she would be recognized. It was a disability awareness emphasis Sabbath. Jackie received a plaque "Friendliness toward Humanity," along with other church members who received flowers and plaques for their support in disability ministry. Jackie is special, for she was diagnosed at birth with Downs Syndrome.

This special emphasis weekend began Friday evening with praise and testimony. Sabbath services were highlighted with Calvin B. Rock, vice president of the General Conference as guest speaker. Berea was



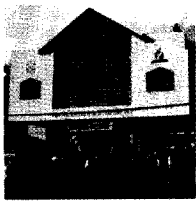
Jacquelyn Herrington

the first church Rock was assigned after graduating from Oakwood College.

Harry Swinton, former Oakwood College bookstore owner for 40 years, and native of Sumter, was a guest soloist along with Jeremy Williams, a 10-year-old with cerebral palsy from Atlanta. His 12-year-old brother, Samuel, accompanied Jeremy on the piano. The afternoon concert included two pastors, Eugene Mason, current pastor; and Frank Harrel, Northeast church, Charlotte, N.C.; Swinton; the Williams brothers; and congregation members. Church members presented Lillie Wright, church disability ministry coordinator, with flowers. All enjoyed a wonderful, spirit-filled weekend.

The divine worship service was taped, and shown on one of Sumter's public service venues.

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Florida

Complete calendar online: <http://www.adventist-fl.com/calendar.html>

Florida Pathfinder Events—<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call (407) 644-5000 x127.

Additional Singles' Ministries Events not in this calendar—Request complete singles' ministries calendar from Diane Miller, (386) 789-3235, or djm4000@n-jcenter.com

Singles' Ministries Spiritual Renewal Bible Study—Every Friday evening. Forest Lake Church. Details: Diane Miller (386) 789-3235.

Singles' Ministries Thanksgiving Dinner—Nov. 21. Ryan's Steakhouse, Apopka. Details: Diane Miller (386) 789-3235.

Portuguese-language Camp Meeting—Nov. 22-25. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: (386) 454-1351.

Singles' Ministries Fellowship Dinners—Note Kress Memorial/Markham Woods switch. Nov. 24. Markham Woods. Dec. 8. Forest Lake. Dec. 15. Kress Memorial. Dec. 22. Markham Woods.

Singles' Ministries Prayer Breakfasts—Nov. 25, Dec. 30. Ryan's Steakhouse, Apopka. Details: Stan Shave (407) 774-2589.

Association of Adventist Camping Professionals—Nov. 28-Dec. 2. Camp Kulaqua. Registration: (386) 454-1351.

Florida Adventist Bookmobile—Shop online: <http://www.adventist-fl.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@southernunion.com. Dec. 1. Port Charlotte. Dec. 2. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First. Dec. 8. Maranatha. Dec. 9. Plantation, Lauderdale. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Olivet.)

Dec. 15. Jacksonville Southpoint. Dec. 16. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Singles' Ministries Picnic—Dec. 1. Lake Lotus Park, Altamonte Springs. Details: (407) 862-1331.

West Coast Area-wide Youth Outdoor Celebration—Dec. 1. Sawgrass Lake Park during daytime. Vespers/social program, Treasure Island beaches. St. Petersburg. Details: Mark Schiefer, (727) 360-5826.

Singles' Ministries Christmas Party—Dec. 15. Forest Lake Church. Details: Carol Pisarek, (407) 869-1264.

Singles' Ministries Annual New Year's Retreat—Dec. 28, 2001-Jan. 1, 2002. Camp Kulaqua. Registration: (386) 454-1351.

Florida Conference Workers' Meeting—Jan. 6-9, 2002. Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 644-5000 x149.

Youth Leadership Conventions—Jan. 18-20, 2002. Spanish. Camp Kulaqua. Jan. 25-27, 2002. English. Camp Kulaqua.

Georgia-Cumberland

Atlanta Convocation—Nov. 3. **South Georgia Preaching Blitz**—Nov. 10.

South Georgia Church Ministries Leadership Training—Nov. 10. Macon.

Building and Finance Subcommittee—Dec. 5.

Association Board—Dec. 6.

Southwest Georgia Elders/Deacons/Deaconesses Training—Dec. 8. Savannah.

Gulf States

Women's Ministries Retreat—Nov. 2-4. Camp Alamisco.

Young Adult Retreat—Nov. 9-11. Camp Alamisco.

Senior Presentation—Nov. 17. Bass Memorial Academy.

Elders/Deacons Meeting—Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Camp Alamisco.

Minister's Meeting—Dec. 3-6. Camp Alamisco.

Conference Executive Committee—Dec. 11. Conference Office.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board—Nov. 27, Jan. 15, 2002. March 19, 2002.

Conference Executive Committee—Nov. 27, Jan. 15, 2002. March 19, 2002.

Conference Finance Committee—Dec. 13.

Academy Boards—Nov. 8. Highland and Madison.

Jan. 17. Highland and Madison.

March 21. Highland and Madison.

Ministers' Meeting—Dec. 3-6. **Prayer Conference**—Feb. 8-10. Indian Creek Camp.

Spring Women's Retreat—Feb. 22-24.

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting—March 1, 2.

West Tennessee Festival of Faith—March 9.

Couples' Retreat—April 12-14. Indian Creek Camp.

Elders' Retreat—April 19-21. Indian Creek Camp.

Business & Professional Foundation Retreat—April 26, 27. Indian Creek Camp.

Southern Adventist Univ.

Winter Pre-registration—Nov. 5-16.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Deadline—Nov. 18.

Thanksgiving Vacation—Nov. 21-25.

Christmas Tree Lighting—Dec. 4.

Wind Symphony Christmas Concert—Dec. 8. 8 p.m.

School of Music Christmas Program—Dec. 15. 3:30 p.m.

Announcements

3ABN Specials

Nov. 8. Hans Diehl.

Nov. 15. Behind the Scenes at 3ABN.

Nov. 22. Thanksgiving Special.

Nov. 29. Agatha Thrash, M.D.

Out of Union

Camp Wawona is looking for all alumni, campers, and staff—Please let us know where you are now, when you attended Camp Wawona and in what capacity. E-mail Heidi Bergan at: hbergan@cccsda.org or mail info. to PO Box 770, Clovis, CA 93613 or phone (559) 291-7700 x226.

Michigan Academies Alumni—March 2, 2002. Forest Lake Academy. Details: (407) 464-0262.

SUNSET

	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7
Atlanta, GA	5:41	5:36	5:32	5:30	5:29	5:30
Charleston, SC	5:24	5:20	5:16	5:14	5:13	5:14
Charlotte, NC	5:24	5:18	5:14	5:12	5:11	5:12
Collegedale, TN	5:41	5:36	5:32	5:29	5:28	5:29
Huntsville, AL	4:48	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35	4:36
Jackson, MS	5:06	5:01	4:58	4:56	4:55	4:56
Louisville, KY	5:38	5:32	5:27	5:24	5:23	5:23
Memphis, TN	5:01	4:55	4:51	4:49	4:48	4:49
Miami, FL	5:36	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:30	5:31
Montgomery, AL	4:50	4:46	4:42	4:40	4:40	4:41
Nashville, TN	4:46	4:40	4:36	4:33	4:32	4:33
Orlando, FL	5:37	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:29	5:30
Wilmington, NC	5:14	5:09	5:05	5:03	5:02	5:03

Gulf Wind Ministries

GULF STATES FEATURE
BY BECKY GRICE

When terrorists attacked the Pentagon and World Trade Center, September 11, our world changed. Before the terrorist attacks, there was a wind of change sweeping over the Bass Memorial Academy students, staff and church community. A change from going about school and work in the usual way. A change that was speaking to hearts and empowering students, staff, and church members to work together for the common cause of sharing God's love with everyone.

Believing that God has plans for our youth beyond our wildest imaginations, the Conference leadership and Bass Memorial Academy administration have established on the academy campus, Gulf Wind Ministries, a youth-centered outreach and evangelism institute.

Goals for the institute include multi-site public evangelistic meetings with academy youth as speakers; working with other Southern Union academies, church youth groups, and colleges through an Internet site devoted to outreach, prayer, and evangelism ideas; the ongoing development of the old summer camp area as an outdoor training site where large groups can be trained for effective outreach by student instructors at camp meeting time and at other occasions; and the training of students to serve in teams of two as Bible workers assisting pastors during summer breaks.

According to Graig Ziezmer, academy principal, research has shown that up to the age of 21, most decision-making occurs in the emotional portion of the brain, after 21 it occurs in

the thinking portion of the brain. "We have tried for too long to entertain youth with better contemporary programs to keep them involved with God," says Ziezmer. "Unfortunately, we cannot out-entertain the devil. Youth need active involvement in ministry where the emotional senses are stimulated by helping others and worshipping God actively."



Refuge is one of four Christian music based groups. Some groups mix short Christian drama and preaching.

Skip Johnson, the academy chaplain, is the director of the new institute. Johnson served for the past five years as academy chaplain, Bible teacher, outreach coordinator, multi-site youth evangelism writer, and trainer at Hawaiian Mission Academy in Honolulu. While there, 140 students were engaged in ministries that resulted in 100 known baptisms within the past two years.

Johnson says, "Our goal is to train each student in the essentials of Biblical, practical Christian ministry—and to do so with such thoroughness that they can train others in these skills."

The ministries are built around action teams. Each team must consist of a three-person core of leadership with one representative from the student body, another from the academy staff, and a third from the church community. A total of 7-12 people are required to form a team. Once a team has formulated its specific ministry goals, and has chosen a name for itself, it may apply for commissioning. This is done through laying on of hands and prayer by the academy church community. Currently, more than 20 Gulf Wind Ministries action teams have already been commissioned or are in the preparation stage.

"Please keep Gulf Wind Ministries in your prayers," Johnson requests. "We look forward to what God will do."



Community Gym Nite is one of two action teams that engage in recreational ministry to build relationships with community athletes. They have a short worship and prayer part way through the evening.

January 20-27, 2002

Orlando, Florida

Empowering Leaders for Health Evangelism

NORTH AMERICAN & INTER-AMERICAN DIVISIONS

HEALTH SUMMIT WEEKEND

held at Hilton Orlando / Altamonte Springs Hotel & Forest Lake Academy Gymnasium



David Williams, Ed.D.
Director of Health Ministries
North American Division



David White, D.Min.
Coordinator Certification Program
Health Ministries
North American Division



Allan Handysides, MD
Director Health Ministries
General Conference



Elie Honors, MD
Director Health Ministries
Inter-American Division

Friday Evening

Health Success Stories
Dr. Don King

Sabbath School Panel

Discussion on Health Ministry

Sabbath Worship

Dr. Allan Handysides

The Philadelphia Story

Gwen Foster

Church Based Community Assessments

Dr. Gregory Allen
Dr. Carol Allen
Immediate Past President
American Public Health Association

Special Features

Dream Big for Community Outreach
Sung Kwon
Dr. Gary Gunderson

Awards Dinner

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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MORNING SEMINARS

- Regeneration
- Fitness Training (*Exercise*)
- Vegetarian Cuisine Instructors
(Must Take morning and afternoon to be certified)
- Van Ministry
- Breathe Free
- Grief Recovery

AFTERNOON SEMINARS

- Eight Weeks to Wellness
- Stress Management
- Diabetes Mastery *NOTE: This certification is for Health Professionals - Physicians, Nurses, Dentists, Dietitians & other Health Professionals*
- Hydro Therapy Home Remedies
- Vegetarian Cuisine Instructors
(Must Take morning and afternoon to be certified)
- CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project)

You must register for seminars before summit.

Early Bird Special - Register now or by December 11, 2001

Health Certification Week	Early Bird	\$200.00
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Includes morning, afternoon seminars & evening sessions

Weekend Health Summit	Early Bird	\$ 40.00
	After Dec 11	\$ 50.00

Package (Health Certification Week & Health Summit Weekend)		\$ 220.00
	After Dec 11	\$ 260.00

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