

S O U T H E R N

TIDINGS

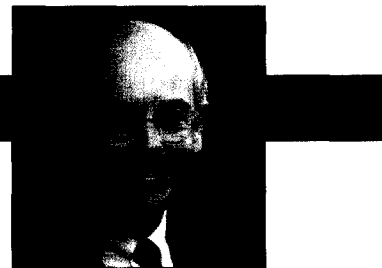
MARCH 2004



Another Year of Evangelism

Marriage Comm
Healthcare Built On More Than Bricks





Another Year of Evangelism

Every year is a year of evangelism in the Southern Union. Every year we want churches to grow, and every year we want thousands to be baptized and discipled in Christ. So, we are excited to be a part of the world Church vision that 2004 is a year of evangelism. For the Southern Union I like to say it's another year of evangelism.

Praise the Lord that in 2003, 8748 individuals were baptized and became members of one of our more than 1000 churches! Several conferences provide an annual special orientation weekend for new members. I welcome you to the family of the remnant and challenge you to seek every day to learn more about Jesus and His way of joy-filled living.

Evangelism is members being kind to each other and to all individuals. Jesus, Himself, said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." Evangelism is praying for specific individuals, that they will be open to responding to God's love. Evangelism is inviting people to a meal or social occasion and showing an interest in their activities. Evangelism is providing a church school for children and financially supporting Adventist education. Evangelism is selling or giving literature and books. Evangelism is having regular family worship and inviting your children to decide to be friends with Jesus.

Evangelism is providing excellent health care with just as much

emphasis on "care" as on "excellent." Evangelism is praying with someone you just met and learned they're in the middle of a storm. Evangelism is writing an encouraging note to a relative who doesn't have much time for God. Evangelism is inviting someone to watch *Breath of Life*, or *It Is Written*, or *Faith for Today*, or listen to the *Voice of Prophecy*.

Evangelism is preaching the everlasting gospel. And preaching is not just for pastors. Evangelistic preaching is for 10-year-old boys with braces and for young women who want to be lay evangelists. In fact, as I write this, Cheryl is at Cohutta with the women's ministries directors from all our conferences, and several other women delegates from each conference. They're all being trained to preach evangelistic meetings. Lay evangelists are women, men, boys, and girls. God may be calling you to be a lay evangelist. The year 2004 may be the year you preach your first evangelistic sermons. If you do, it won't be the last!

By the way, I look forward to preaching an evangelistic series along with several lay persons from the Fayetteville/Austell, Georgia, church district, beginning September 10, 2004. It will be exciting to see what the Holy Spirit will do.

Thank you for participating in some way in another year of evangelism in the Southern Union.

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Cover: The evangelistic proclamation includes: training members to evangelize (Nicolle Brise' at Cohutta Springs); Bible study groups; Pathfinder baptisms; large group preaching; church baptisms; youth public evangelistic meetings (Carolina's Spartanburg Seven—Joshua Grant, Brandon Blake, Daniel Dawson, Jennifer Bailey, Kristen Bailey, Rachel Fehl, and Sophia Cornish); and more baptisms.

Pathfinder Baptisms Tops 500 in 2003

Pathfinding Is Evangelism

Pathfinder baptisms in Florida Conference during 2003 passed the 500 mark for the second time in three years. "Without the blessing of God and the dedication of our Pathfinder lay leaders, this could not have happened," says Cheeko Cotta, Florida Conference Pathfinder director.

Sisters Ruth and Sarah Bonet of the High Springs Pathfinder club were among those who gave their hearts to Jesus last year. They were baptized on October 11, 2003, by their pastor, Wayne Niemeyer, on Pathfinder Sabbath within three days of their birthdays.

"Both girls agreed the timing of their baptisms was 'an excellent birthday gift,'" says Carol Barnett, High Springs director and north area Pathfinder co-coordinator with Kevin, her husband. "Giving their hearts to Jesus is a gift to Him. Their dedication to Pathfinders is a gift to us."

Meanwhile, Calvin and Myrlin Brooks, south area coordinators, are also inspired by the young people in their area. Shevonne Stewart, an 11-year-old Pathfinder at Maranatha church in Miami, told the Brooks' after her baptism, "Every day, I wake up with new energy because God is so real to me now. I want to be a loving Christian and a witness for Jesus." Stewart often invites friends to church and shares with them why she honors God by worshiping Him on the Sabbath.

It is not uncommon for youthful witnesses like Stewart to



Ruth Bonet, 14, presented the Pathfinder Sabbath sermon on the day she was baptized, October 11, 2003.

belong to Pathfinder clubs where 50 percent or more of the members are from the community and do not have a background in the Adventist church. Linda Haines, west area coordinator, is excited about the new Inverness club where eight of the 17 members are neighborhood friends.

The club was the dream of Inverness pastor Hershel Mercer, who prayed that his church members would join him in this mission project. The dream became a reality September 16, 2003, when the club officially organized, with Bonnie Stowe as director.

The following week, Stowe presented a special edition of "Mission Spotlight" in Sabbath School where the new church outreach program was revealed. "Is there any better mission field to support than one in your own backyard and neighborhood?" she asked. "Consider the benefits this endeavor will bring where young people learn the

Christian way of life, then influence family and friends. As a result, a revival for Christ will have begun."

"It is so beautiful to see Pathfinders add to the vibrancy, energy, and focus on mission in their churches," says Cotta. "The new Inverness club has done just that and, at the same time, I have to include the Clermont Pathfinders in central Florida where Richard and Connie Bradley are area coordinators."

"Directors Ben and Julie Bacon bring such dedication to the Clermont club that the kids are excited about serving Jesus in their community," say the Bradleys. Clermont is also represented by a membership where more than half of the young people come from outside the Adventist Church.



Inverness Pathfinder club members: Steven Noles (left), Zachary Ostrander, and Thomas Robinson work on their knot tying honor.



Camp Kulaqua in High Springs is a popular baptism setting for Florida Pathfinders.



A New Home

Ground breaking for the new 140-bed Winslow Nursing Home took place November 6, 2003. The new facility, which is near the Elizabeth City, N.C., church, will be constructed on 18 prime acres south of Elizabeth City on Highway 17.

Plans call for a unique design that places the nurses' station in the center of the facility. Four corridors of rooms span out from the nurses' station, allowing care-givers to view the entire facility from a central location.

The sale of the present building is in the hands of a commercial realtor who has given indication that the sale will be favorable for both the city and the Conference.

It was determined that the present nursing home, which was built in the 1960s, would be too costly to bring up to code.

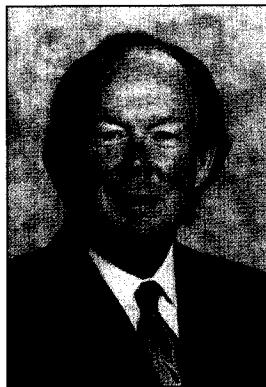
The new building is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Winslow Nursing Home is owned by the Carolina Conference.



Annual Healthcare Seminar

Features Renowned Columnist and U.S. Senate Chaplain

Carolina Health Care will conduct its 24th annual preventive medicine seminar, July 8-11, 2004, in Hilton Head, S.C. This year's program promises to be exceptional, with the theme "Behavioral Challenges."



John Rosemond

A wide variety of topics will be addressed dealing with parenting, marital relationships, pornography, stress, and depression. An outstanding faculty is being assembled, including John Rosemond, renown syndicated columnist in parenting who has authored ten bestseller parenting books, as well as being a national speaker. His column appears regularly in more than 200 newspapers, including *The Miami Herald*, *The Charlotte Observer*, and *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette*.

An FBI agent will address the issue of pornography and the Internet. Following the scientific sessions, a full spiritual weekend is planned with guest speaker Barry C.

Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate. Special music will be provided by musicians from the Southern Union.

Twenty-four years ago, two physicians—Harold Schutte and William Bryan—founded Carolina Health Care, Inc., in Asheville, N.C., for the purpose of promoting wellness and lifestyle change. For over ten years, with the help of specialists, they conducted programs dealing with nutrition, harmful habits, physical fitness, and patient spiritual needs.

Unfortunately, as a non-profit organization, Carolina Health Care had to close its doors when the major local hospital and various corporations began to offer competitive programs. However, the postgraduate health seminars have continued at Hilton Head Island each summer. There have been numerous outstanding speakers over the years for the scientific sessions, including famed epidemiologist Dennis Purkett; Kenneth Cooper; Dr. Anderson, America's well known diabetic specialist; and Richard Maas, PhD, highly respected researcher in epidemiology, to name a few. Past weekend speakers included such well known pastors as Morris Vendon, William Loveless, Benjamin Reeves, and Lonnie Melashenko.



Barry Black

For more information:

Contact **Harold Schutte** at 828-645-7554 or beeper 828-257-1519 (press # and leave message); **Dan Tullock** at 336-998-5001, ext. 203, or fax 336-999-5470; or **Gloria Bareford** at dellastreet@excite.com



Ken Crawley, senior pastor; Dave Hudgins, head elder; Mitch Blevins, planning committee; John Strothers, building committee; Larry Woodring, building committee chair; Bob Ring, contractor; Vernon Banks, treasurer; Gale Lyndon, head deaconess; Larry Brown, Kernersville mayor; Bob Lyndon, finance chair; and Roberto Henriquez, youth pastor, begin the building project.

Kernersville Continues to Grow

Despite the cold weather on Sunday, January 10, attendance at the ground breaking for the family life and educational center at the Kernersville church was very high.

When complete, the 17,000-square foot-facility will fit as many as 1,200 people and will provide members with a fellowship hall that will seat 600 for dinner. It will also be a training center for the Triad area and will provide members with a church library and a Young at Heart room for senior citizens. The center will also feature several new classrooms that can be used for Sabbath school. In emergency situations the new building can be used as a Red Cross disaster center. The \$1.3 million project should be complete by the end of the year.

The Adventist work in Kernersville began in 1889 when a colporteur sold a copy of *Bible Readings for the Home Circle* to the Young and Slate families. From that small beginning has grown a vibrant Seventh-day Adventist community of believers.

Since those early days the Kerners-

ville church has outgrown two church buildings. In 1976 construction began on their third church building. Today the Kernersville church continues to make its presence known with the construction of the family life and educational center.

Nell Ballard collects the soil from the recent ground breaking for the family life and educational center. This 94-year-old member has collected and saved the soil from all three of the Kernersville church building sites.



New Pathfinder Club in Boone

BY YVONNE ALLEN

The newly formed Appalachian Pathfinder club in Boone, N.C., is located in a place Daniel Boone once called home. The Appalachians are as inspiring now as they were then. This club has it all at their backdoor—they can canoe down the New River, ski and ice skate at four resorts, hike the Appalachian trail, or bike down the Virginia Creeper trail. There are gorges with beautiful waterfalls, ferns, and mosses.

Just three weeks after forming, they took first and third place in the Carolina Pathfinder Camporee triathlon.

Pathfinders Josh Condado and Adrian Allen presented a live nativity for Christmas as a fund-raiser and also raised \$300 in a baked-goods auction.

Before winter the club went camping at the Appalachian Outback Christian Retreat Center in Ashe County. There, on the actual land where Daniel Boone's feet trod, they were able to gain experience in the skills he once used for wilderness survival.

Daniel Boone's motto was to do good to your neighbor, do the least harm, and trust in God. That's true Pathfinder spirit. The Appalachian Pathfinder club encourages all young people to always take the high road—the one in the footsteps of Jesus.

Another Year of Evangelism

"For the Southern Union, I like to say it's another year of evangelism," says the Southern Union Conference President Gordon Retzer. "We are excited to be a part of the world Church vision that 2004 is a year of evangelism."

At the 2002 Annual Council, Seventh-day Adventist world division leaders chose 2004 as "The Year of World Evangelism."

This is a bold step forward in fulfilling our Lord's primary commission of Matthew 28:19, 20 and Revelation 14:6-12.

God has given this Church a unique mission, one critical to the people of earth in the closing days of their history. It is to proclaim the everlasting gospel to the whole world in the power of

in evangelistic proclamation through personal evangelism, small-group evangelism, public evangelism, literature evangelism, health evangelism, and every conceivable means of technological communication, including radio, television,



Cheryl Retzer (left), Southern Union women's ministries advisor, discusses methods of evangelizing the Union.

Laura Smith explained that the purpose of the workshop was to equip women to fulfill the mission of the Church.

the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism is nothing new in our Church. God has given us the opportunity to collaborate with Him in the greatest endeavor ever given to human beings: to share Jesus and the reality of His promise to come again to the world, and to call our fellow human beings to the true worship of God.

The "Year of World Evangelism 2004—Reaping God's Harvest" (YWE 2004) is a rallying cry to place our total confidence in God. Year of World Evangelism 2004 is designed to build on all kinds of personal and public evangelistic endeavors, including "Go 1 Million" and "Sow 1 Billion," currently being conducted by God's people around the globe.

Year of World Evangelism 2004 calls on every member, young or old, every pastor, every worker, every administrator, every congregation, every supporting ministry, every school, every publishing house, every medical facility, and every Church institution to participate actively in this worldwide soul-winning outreach.

The initiative involves all of us—laity and pastors—united

satellites, printed media, and the Internet!

Each division, union, conference/mission, and local church will undoubtedly have to adapt and contextualize the format or approach of Year of World Evangelism 2004 programs to fit their local needs. However, the message is clear . . . to lift up Jesus and point people to Him and His soon coming. It's an immense privilege to be part of God's advent movement embraced in the Three Angels' Messages expressed so powerfully in Revelation 14:6-12.

The challenges ahead are huge. Only complete reliance on Christ and His Word will help us to stand the test and do our task well. As we rise to this challenge, we need to spend specially concentrated time with our Lord, in our Bibles, and with the particular gift that is ours in the works of the Spirit of Prophecy, which will be an indispensable blessing to all of us as we walk through this Year of World Evangelism 2004.

During Year of World Evangelism 2004, we need a growing understanding that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's special movement, brought into being to share His message with the world. We need to uplift Christ more in our personal associations and in the pulpit, pointing people to His second coming. Let's proclaim our message with heavenly



Eight Southern Union Conference women's ministries directors and many participants attended the Southern Union Women's Ministries Evangelism Training Workshop at Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

power. We have distinctive beliefs rooted in the Bible, and we must not allow these to be compromised. We must positively point out Truth in all its glory!

Ellen White's counsel is timely: "In a special sense, Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention." (*Last Day Events*)

Ted Wilson, PhD, is a general vice president for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Suggestions for Involvement

1. There's a colorful Bible enrollment card that your church has that you can pass along to neighbors and co-workers. It's called, "A future without fear."
2. You may consider giving a Bible study yourself.
3. You'll certainly want to take part in the evangelistic events that will be going on in your area.
4. Volunteer your services at one of the events in childcare or assisting with refreshments.
5. If you're the more adventurous type, then you'll want to check out the Global Evangelism website. The address is www.global-evangelism.org

Equipping Women for Evangelism in the Southern Union

BY REBECCA BAERG

The Southern Union held its first women's ministries evangelism training workshop at Cohutta Springs Conference Center, January 30-February 1. Twenty-nine women, including the women's ministries directors from each conference in the Southern Union and leaders from local churches, came together to learn leadership skills for ministering to others. The theme for the workshop was "Go, Light Up Your Corner," with presentations by Nicolle Brisé, director of women's ministries for the Southeastern Conference.

Laura Smith, director of women's ministries for the Southern Union, explained that the purpose of the workshop was "to equip women to go back into their conferences and partner with the pastors and church departments to fulfill the mission of the Church—inviting people to Jesus."

"We are living in a time in history when God is calling all of us, regardless of gender, to get out there and do His work," said Jo Dubs, director of women's ministries for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. "I'm excited because women are catching the vision and are ready to get up from the church pew and do something for God."

The Sabbath morning thought for mediation, the simple truth that "Jesus loves me, this I know," was shared by Mary Maxson, director of women's ministries for the North American Division. "Once God empowers you," she said, "He will give you the resources to develop your gifts, as long as your vision is in accordance with what God wants you to do."

"This weekend is exciting because women from all over the Southern Union are gathered here at Cohutta Springs," said Cheryl Retzer, advisor for women's ministries in the Southern Union Conference. "We're not only learning how to hold evangelistic meetings, but we're learning how to apply evangelism in our daily lives."

"I can take what I've learned back to my local church and help teach the other women that there is something we all can do," said Robin Chambers, head deaconess at the Knoxville First church.

"This workshop has served as a great tool—a necessary tool—to equip us to go out and do what God has designed especially for women to do," said Silvia Wilson, director of women's ministries for the South Atlantic Conference. "There are sisters out there waiting for us, and now we feel more confident in the Lord to go and get them."

One Hundred Couples Attend Marriage Commitment Event

Approximately 100 couples from across the Southern Union met at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta on January 24, for a one-day celebration of a marriage commitment event entitled "From This Day Forward."

Willie Oliver, director of family ministries for the North American Division, and his wife, Elaine, addressed topics including, "The Joy of Oneness" and "Sexual Oneness." Mike and Brenda Aufderhar, co-directors of family ministries for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, spoke on "Forgiveness,"



"From This Day Forward" is a North American Division program designed to provide married couples with practical and Biblically-based counsel on how to have a stronger marriage.

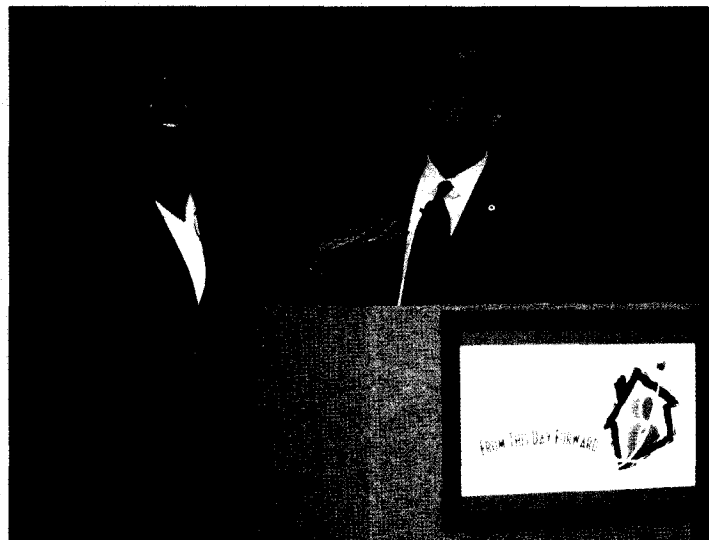
"Problem Solving," and "Communication." The day concluded with a recommitment service that provided each couple the opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

"It's just like a tune-up or maintenance—we maintain everything in our lives, but our marriages sometimes get put on the back burner," said attendee Ellis Smiley, who has been married to his wife, Janice, for 20 years. Ellis added, "I have thoroughly enjoyed [this event], and I only wish more couples would come and receive the benefit that is being offered here."

"Marriage is a creation of God and we want to see marriages that thrive and are the best that they can be, not just 'wow, we avoided divorce,'" said Mike Aufderhar. "My wife and I want to inspire hope for marriages and lift the ideal a little higher."

"We do what we do because our commitment is for the second coming. If families are strong, you have strong centers for discipleship, and you have a strong witness. It's evangelism without pitching a tent," said Willie Oliver.

"Good healthy marriages make our churches stronger," said Southern Union Family Ministries Director Allan Williamson.



Elaine and Willie Oliver discuss the joy of oneness in marriage.

This was the first time the "From This Day Forward" marriage commitment event has been held in the Southern Union. Williamson says the event will be held again in January of 2005 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"From This Day Forward," is a North American Division program being held at five different locations in 2004. To learn more about "From This Day Forward" visit <http://family.nadadventist.org/>.



Couples spent the day discovering various ways to enhance their marriage relationships.

Historic Seminar Breaks New Ground

SOUTHEASTERN FEATURE
BY GEORGE C. WORRELL

Live Oak, Florida, has long been regarded as a graveyard for evangelism. Its history is strewn with the dry bones of failure and unsuccessful evangelistic efforts. In fact, the last evangelistic attempt was aborted midstream when it became clear that the endeavor would yield diminishing returns.

Augmented by Prayer

Its reputation, however, was dismissed and ignored when the five-man membership of the Live Oak church embarked on the historic *Daniel and Revelation Prophecy Seminar—2003*. For four months this small group of members labored to register people for a specially designed Bible course. Homes were targeted, families were selected, and specific areas were chosen to lay the groundwork for this evangelistic effort. A prayer band that met early every Sabbath morning to study the book of Joshua and to emulate his paradigm for success augmented this strategy. During these prayer meeting sessions, the names of every family enrolled in the Bible study were individually mentioned. God was challenged to do for the seminar what He did for Joshua against all odds.

Spectacular Beginning

The seminar took off in spectacular fashion. The visitors outnumbered the members five-to-one.

It was gratifying to see ministers from other religious persuasions and members of their congregations flock to hear the *Three Angels' Message*. The initial impact made by these unusual presentations was certainly not anticipated in the light of what other evangelists had experienced.

Lost Momentum

At the beginning of the second week, the venue where the meetings were held was no longer available, due to a series of double bookings by the proprietor. The situation became so untenable that alternative accommodation had to be found. The local church became the only option. This transition had its effect, since some of the followers were adverse to a "church" setting of any kind. Consequently, the attendance at this stage noticeably lost some of its momentum, although a core group continued to attend faithfully.

Extraordinary

The highlight of the meetings came during the final week. The unusual presentation of Bible prophecy in a simple, yet profound, way was highly beneficial. George Worrell made prophetic history of both Daniel and Revelation relevant to today's culture. After his presentation of the "State of the Dead," in which he summarily dismissed as unscriptural and erroneous the popular view that the soul has an eternal existence, one of the visiting ministers commented, "There goes all the beliefs I've held for the past 30 years."

Rapt Attention

One Sabbath, a month into the series, two events stood out. First, the divine hour surpassed and exceeded what was expected. The sermon, "Failing Desires," will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be in attendance. The presence of the Holy Spirit was obvious, as both Sabbath keepers and their Sunday keeping counterparts listened with rapt attention. Second, it was a picture perfect moment when Andrew and Arlene Baker, husband and wife, simultaneously entered the baptismal pool. The "amens" that echoed in the sanctuary were as resounding as the applause it drew.

Village Atheist

The sound of triumph was significant for two reasons: First, this couple had attended all but one night of the four-week seminar. They were also instrumental in the baptism of another attendee at the meetings. Secondly, Andrew was known as the "village atheist." His vehement denial of the existence of God, coupled with his hostility toward religion and Christians, was publicly known in the community.

Dispelled Myth

After the baptism, the participating churches hosted a welcome luncheon for the new members, their guests, families, and well-wishers. The culinary skills of the members were severely tested and came through with flying colors. Under a more relaxed and social atmosphere, the new babes in Christ were able to share their experiences and the high moments of the seminar. They were then individually introduced to, and adopted into, their new Church family.

Veritable Green Pasture

Live Oak will never be the same again. A territory that was once thought to be an evangelist's nightmare has now been transformed into a veritable green pasture where God's sheep graze. The Herculean challenge that confronts this small congregation now is that of nurturing these new members to maturity, thus making them soul-winning instruments in the hands of God.

George Worrell is a former elder at the Live Oak church.

George Worrell (front row, right) stands with newly baptized members and their families.





Authors Help Celebrate Library Renovation

Local authors and community celebrities were among the guests who participated in the Orlando, Fla., Junior Academy (OJA) library renovation celebration, November 3, 2003. Throughout the day, students filed by grade into their new library, where they were greeted by the guest assigned to meet with them.

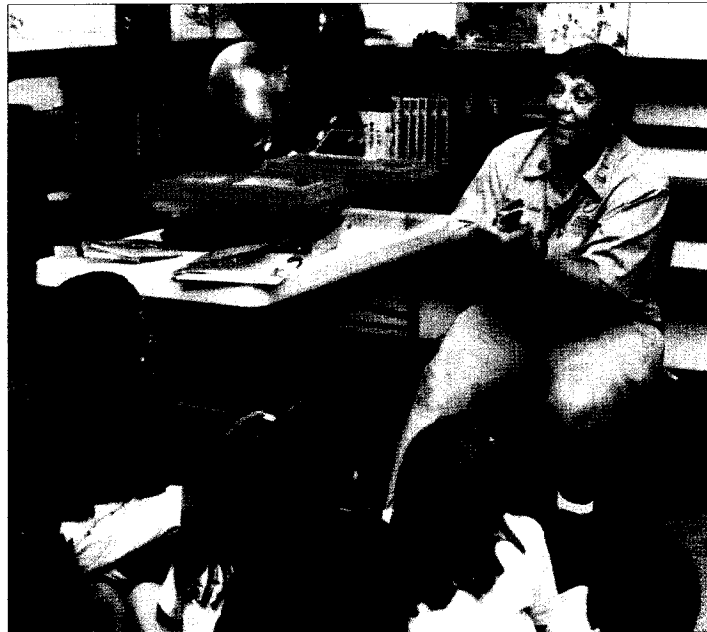
Waldemar Serrano, special assistant to Florida Governor Jeb Bush, read Lynne Cheney's *Patriotic Primer*; Scott Smith, morning show host on Orlando's Positive Hit Radio, Z88.3, highlighted the library's new music appreciation collection; Clifford, The Big Red Dog, accompanied Librarian Donna Gray from Rollins College in Winter Park as she read "Clifford Gets the Hiccups."

Local authors who read their literary works included Sandra Doran, *Nobody's Boy*; James Coffin, *One Thing I Know*; Sue Hancock, *I Can Draw*; and Alison Jackson, *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*. Story Catcher/Photographer Dick Duerksen shared from his world travels, and Melissa Brewer read her poetry.

Carolyn Anderson, OJA librarian, and Janice Banks, development director, coordinated the \$25,000 project to make the library "the heart of the school." Brad and Cindee Jones, Cindy Haffner, and Cindy Stuart contributed their time and expertise to the decorating committee. Completion of the library's make-over resulted in new paint, carpet, shelves, furniture, computers, and 2,000 recent book acquisitions.

Soon, the check-out procedure for any of the 6,000 books will be fully automated.

"We would like to thank the generous donors who made this renovation project possible . . . for their commitment to our students," says Principal Bill Colom. "The new library will have an even greater impact on the students' education, as we encourage their love for reading and provide resources in their quest for knowledge."



The Swamp Lady from the Orlando Science Museum thrilled second-graders with her live snake and baby alligator as she spoke about the library's new nature books.

Three Angels Witness in Art and Lights

BY ERNEST STEED

Ernest Steed, church elder and building committee chair, spoke on the theme, "Why Three Angels?" at the December 13, 2003, dedication service where the new artwork was unveiled. Members from the congregation gathered near the church bell tower as Steed challenged them to "make 2004 the grandest opportunity to carry, with urgency, the end-time message of the Three Angels to a needy world."

Since the new church officially opened, September 6, a health fair; a Five-day Plan to stop smoking; and a Christmas Bible story festival, "He Came, He's Coming Again," have attracted visitors to these free community events.

Arriving members and guests now see the Three Angels on the bell tower and the words of Revelation 14:12 above the sanctuary entrance, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."



Head Elder Samuel Monnier prayed as members and leaders from the DeBary/Orange City church gathered at the bell tower and the new Three Angels sign.

The Three Angels of Revelation 14 on the new DeBary/Orange City, Fla., church are a daily witness in art and neon lights to passers-by on busy highway 17/92 in Volusia County.

IN TRANSITION

PASTOR

Glenn Aguirre
Paul Campoli
Daniel Da Silva

CHURCH

Arcadia/Fort Meade
Wesley Chapel/Plant City
Castelo Forte/
Palm Coast Portuguese
Carrollwood/Riverview
Bellevue
Miami Korean company
Spring Hill
Fort Pierce
Miami Portuguese/
Miami Beach Portuguese
Palm Harbor/Jewish Ministry

Brian del Valle
Mel Landers
Richard Lee
John Sabo
Dan Schiffbauer
Alexandre Vaz

Jeff Zaremsky



Bible Institute Graduates Second Class

BY KIM STAUDENRAUS

The Covenant Bible Institute of the Seminole Meadows church in Sanford, Fla., graduated 29 students, October 25, in its second year of ministry. "Christ and the Gospel in the Book of Revelation" was the theme Kurt Staudenraus, pastor, wove throughout the study of John's apocalypse and its meaning to the original first-century recipients.

The graduating class included 17 Seminole Meadows members and 12 community friends from a variety of church denominations. Ten of the 12 had no previous exposure to the Adventist Church. Guest Linda Hamilton was so excited about "getting a handle on this difficult book," she invited a friend, Irma Ponzella, to attend one of the trimesters.



The 29 Covenant Bible Institute graduates received their well-deserved diplomas and a deeper understanding of Revelation after a year of studies with Kurt Staudenraus, pastor, at podium.

Lakeland School Gets New Playground Equipment

BY RICHARD CLINITE

Newly donated playground equipment worth \$37,000 was dedicated, September 20, at Lakeland Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Lakeland, Fla. Placed in freshly landscaped surroundings, the play area benefits the 17 students enrolled this school year—nine in grades 1-4 taught by Tracy Glass, and eight in grades 5-8 taught by Principal Richard Clinite.

Financial gifts from church members and nonmember friends of the school totally covered the equipment's cost, according to Glenda Thomas, home and school leader and school board chair. Thomas' dynamic volunteer leadership follows years of personal financial support to the school through tuition paid for 10 children—two of her own, four stepchildren, three nieces, and a nephew.



Tracy Glass, lower grade teacher, anticipated the first day of school and the reaction of her students to new playground equipment.

Community Gathers to Express Thankfulness

BY ALLAN MARTIN

More than 200 neighbors in Celebration, Fla., representing area ministry leaders and members of various faith traditions, captured the spirit of community and joy at their eighth annual Thanksgiving gathering in the atrium of Florida Hospital Celebration Health.

The event centered around heartfelt expressions of gratefulness to God through songs, words, prayers, and giving. "It was an amazing evening of worship. I still have goose bumps when I think of it," says Marcy Kraft, worship leader at Celebration Community Presbyterian church.



Leslie Dubin of the Celebration Jewish congregation described the evening as "an opportunity for greater peace, greater understanding, greater togetherness."

Adventist Health System Employees Thanked for Help

Adventist Health System corporate office (Winter Park, Fla.) employees and their families have reserved one Sunday the past three years to help enhance and maintain their community. Their most recent efforts resulted in this note of appreciation in the January/February 2004 *City of Winter Park Update*:

"Forty-five Adventist Health System (AHS) volunteers recently converged on the community playground at Lake Island Park to spread over 100 yards of mulch on the playground and paint and seal picnic tables. On behalf of the city and those residents who enjoy the playground, we extend a most sincere thank you to the hard-working AHS volunteers."

—Jean Sprimont/Keep Winter Park Beautiful

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HEALTHCARE BUILT ON MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR

From outside, the new 75,000-square-foot addition that is under construction at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Georgia, looks nearly complete. But, it's not the outside that has grabbed the attention of North Georgia residents—it's what's going on inside.

Hospital administrators sum it up in three words: "Mission, mission, and more mission," says Charlene Jamerson, Gordon Hospital president and CEO. "We know that a building is only bricks and mortar, but what makes our hospital special is the compassion and caring which is generously administered inside," Jamerson says. "If we concentrate on doing the Lord's will, everything else will fall into place."

And, fall into place they have. As part of the emphasis on increased technology, Gordon Hospital has purchased a new, 16-slice CT scanner—the only technology of its kind available between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Offering the ultimate in speed and precision, this revolutionary diagnostic tool can scan from head to toe in a matter of seconds. This advancement means tests are completed quickly and efficiently, and the images it produces are three-dimensional, offering doctors a unique and unprecedented diagnostic look into the patient.

In addition to new technology, the hospital continues to focus on patient convenience and comfort. A new women's diagnostic center, which will be housed in the new expansion, has been designed by women, for women. Its warm and inviting atmosphere will be conducive to healing, and will offer the latest technology. The rehabilitation department will relocate into the new building, doubling in size, allowing ease of access for patients. The new outpatient surgery center will add 18 private rooms and two new surgery suites. The expansion of this service will increase the volume of procedures performed locally for the convenience of patients. It will also decrease travel and wait times.

"Our goal is to provide family-focused, Christ-centered healthcare," Jamerson says. "With an emphasis on meeting every aspect of their healthcare needs, patients and their families can feel confident they will receive world class care at home."

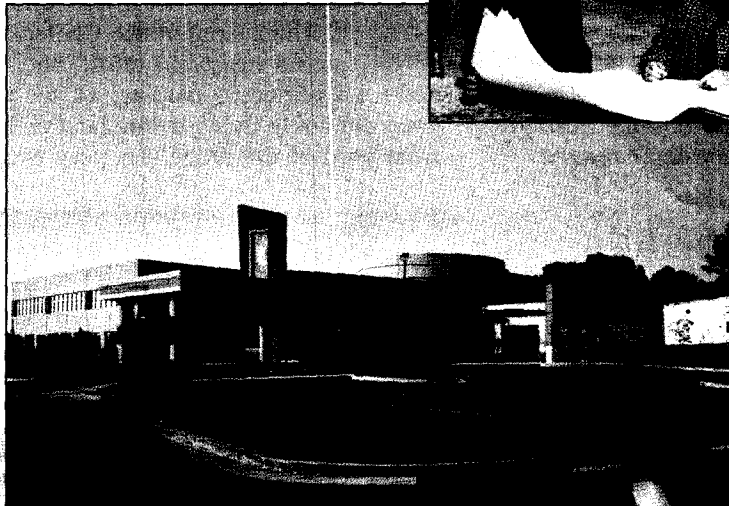
Gordon Hospital continues to demonstrate a commitment to caring for the whole person—including spiritually. This year the hospital will host the third annual community prayer breakfast, which brings more than 400 local leaders and citizens together for prayer and thanksgiving.

Within the hospital walls, prayer plays an integral part of everyday life. "At Gordon Hospital, the top administrator and

the real chief of the medical staff is God, Himself," says Dave Smith, Gordon Hospital chaplain/health educator. "It is His divine plan that we follow each and every day. We know we won't make a wrong turn or stray off course."

Christie Carlson is the marketing coordinator at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Georgia.

*Jake Nellis,
Beth Crew,
and Add
Layson discuss
the building
project, which
is scheduled for
completion in
October, 2004.*



*A group of
employees
meet in the
Chapel of
Hope every
Friday
morning
to pray
for special
requests
from patients
and hospital
employees.*





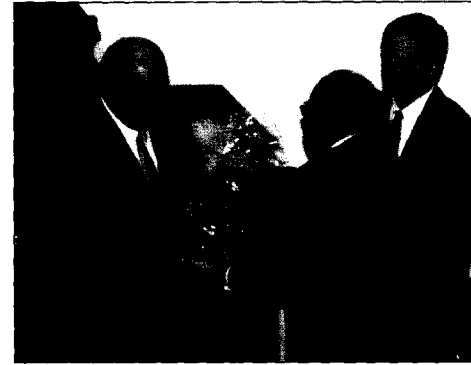
Georgia Governor Visits Cohutta Springs

On Wednesday, January 7, 2004, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue visited the Cohutta Springs Conference Center for the annual banquet for the Chatsworth/Murray County Chamber of Commerce. "This is a beautiful conference facility,"

said Perdue. "We're honored be here and enjoy its beauty."

The meal was prepared and served by the Cohutta Springs staff and a number of volunteers. "The staff is wonderful, and I enjoy being able to market this facility for Murray County," said Dinah Rowe, president of the Chatsworth/Murray County Chamber of Commerce. "Rodney and his staff are just super. I couldn't ask for better treatment or more experienced staff."

"It was very exciting to have the governor here and to host the Chatsworth/Murray County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet," said Rodney Leonard, executive director of Cohutta Springs Conference Center. "It was a real team effort, and we had a lot of people helping. To see the governor come flying in and land on the front yard of the lodge was very excit-



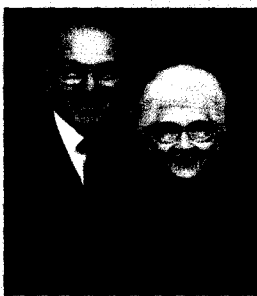
Rodney Leonard, executive director of Cohutta Springs Conference Center, presents Governor Perdue with a fruit basket.

ing. We were very pleased to host the banquet, and praise God that we have such a beautiful facility where we can have the program. That's what this place is about, to honor and glorify God, to make friends, to plant seed, and to share Jesus Christ."



Governor Sonny Perdue speaks to the Chatsworth/Murray County Chamber of Commerce at the annual banquet.

60th Wedding Anniversary



Don and Florence West

Don and Florence West celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 5, 2003. They are members of the McDonald Road, Tenn., church, and have lived in Collegedale for more than 50 years.

Mission Service Honored

BY BARBARA MITTLEIDER

Barney and Marcella McLarty were surprised on Sabbath, January 24, when they were honored for their service to the mission program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr. McLarty, a physician, and Mrs. McLarty, a nurse, worked with people of the Mhong tribe in the mountains of northwest Thailand, presenting health lectures and doing blood pressure screenings during a seminar for the tribe.

Wayne Martin, pastor, and others who had worked with the McLartys in Thailand, came to the Calhoun, Ga., church to present a plaque to the McLartys for what they had done for the Mhong tribe.

The McLartys have also been involved in a number of building projects.



Marcella and Barney McLarty



BY JAMIE ARNALL

Literature Evangelists Meet for Year-End Rally

For 14 years the Conference literature evangelism program has totaled more than one million dollars in sales, with the program leading the Southern Union Conference in total sales and sales gain in 2003. Approximately 100 people gathered in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., on January 9, for the Conference-wide literature evangelism year-end rally. The weekend event provided everyone with the opportunity to rejoice in the ways that God has blessed the literature evangelism program in the Conference.

On Sabbath everyone worshipped and fellowshiped with the Smoky Mountain church in Sevierville, Tenn. Conference President Dave Cress delivered the morning message. Following lunch the literature evangelists spent the afternoon sharing personal experiences from their work throughout the year.

"It's the only department that is out there continually knocking on doors, meeting people one-on-one in their homes; and Georgia-Cumberland had more than 15,000 leads this past year," said Southern Union Publishing Director Bill Beckworth. (A lead is when someone



In appreciation for their faithful service, James and Erica Luke (left) were among the recipients to receive a leather-bound Great Controversy for their involvement in the Conference's literature evangelism program in 2003.



Those present for the 2003 year-end rally paused for a picture at the Saturday evening banquet.

sends in a request for a literature evangelist to visit them and show them their books.) "The literature ministry is a seed sowing ministry that prepares the way for many people."

"I believe it's the most important work that needs to be done — to get the message of salvation to people. Through the printed page it will go where the living preacher cannot go," said Bruce Germsheid, district leader for South Georgia.

Gene Juhl, publishing director for Georgia-Cumberland Conference for the past 20 years, said, "Certainly, we can see how God has placed the books in thousands of homes, and we're praying that as they read them they will discover the truth about God."



Floral Crest Church Remembers a Friend

BY RHODA FERN STEARNS

The Floral Crest church in Alabama recently held a memorial service for Archa Dart, who passed to his rest just two days after his 100 birthday celebration. He was born in Marthaville, La., October 25, 1903.

For 47 years this friend of children devoted his life to the educational work of the Adventist Church. His interest in children led him to conduct many child guidance seminars. He was editor of two Adventist journals, wrote many articles for denominational periodicals, and authored several books. With his sense of humor and story telling ability, he was always in demand as a speaker at camp meetings and other church events.

At age 89, Dart married Sadie Liles. They lived in his home at Daytona Beach, Fla., in the winter, and Sand Mountain, Ga., in the summer.



Archa loved music, and each day, even within a few months of his death, he would sit at the piano and sing.

Fort Walton Beach Church Feeds Homeless

Each Sunday for the last 12 months, the Fort Walton Beach church members have prepared breakfast, given away clothing, and provided showers, haircuts, prayers, Bibles, and literature to the homeless in their community. Bible verses are wrapped in the napkins with the silverware, and Bible video tapes are played while breakfast is served.

The homeless are given bread and other food to take with them. The highest attendance was 90 in November, while 70 is the average fed on a weekly basis. Church members and friends prepare food donated by members, Publix, Albertson,



The church ministers to many homeless families.

and Bruno.

Peggy Brumfield shares the sentiments of several members: "For our church, it is a labor of love."

Couple Celebrates 60th Wedding Anniversary

Guy and Lottie Layfield, members of the Guntersville church, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. They are the parents of three children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Guy served in World War II in the Air Force. Lottie taught church school.



David Braun Retires from the Ministry

David Braun, with his wife, Bobbie, were the special guests for a service honoring them as they retire from full-time pastoral ministry. The Gadsden, Ala., church hosted the special service for the Brauns, as Gulf States Conference President Mel Eisele presented Braun with a plaque recognizing his 25 years of service as a pastor. Conference Secretary Fred Rimer and Ministerial Director Don Shelton were also in attendance.





United Prison Ministries Holds Open House

Recently, the population in the small town of Verbena, Ala., peaked temporarily when many United Prison Ministries International supporters from different parts of the United States and as far away as Poland came to share in a special open house and dedication service at UPMI.

Among those who shared in the grand event were the mayor, the county commissioner, the Conference president, prison officials, church officials, and other local community supporters. The open house and dedication service highlighted ways God had used UPMI

and its supporters for 23 years to reach millions of men and women in prisons and jails around the world.

UPMI supporters with 20 years of service, such as Robert Santani, Chris Davis, Edward Scott, Paul Igersoll, Tony Hall, and the Goodwin family, remembered how the Lord had established and blessed UPMI.

Retired prison wardens Shirlee Lobmiller-Jensen and Neal Davis shared their personal testimonies of how they witnessed thousands of men and women in their prisons change from the inside-

out and give their lives to Jesus Christ as a result of UPMI providing Bibles, Bible lessons, and life-changing books.

This fall's open house and dedication service was a testament of how the Holy Spirit is moving rapidly in the lives of thousands in prisons and jails around the world. It re-emphasized UPMI's commitment to God and His ministry.

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Community Pastors Meeting

The Paducah, Ky., church hosted the Paducah Cooperative Ministry for its September luncheon meeting. Local pastors from the area meet once a month to encourage one another and bring about a deeper level of understanding of the needs in the community. Pastors from the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Seventh-day Adventist, and The United Church of Paducah were present.

Each month, representatives from a community help-agency attend the meeting and explain what they are doing to

help people with special needs such as parenting, helping the homeless, unwed child abuse, addiction recovery, foster mothers, domestic violence, and parent-



Representatives of area churches and community help-agencies met at the Paducah church.

ing. This month juvenile volunteer services was discussed, as well as the need of volunteers for teaching life skills to troubled and at-risk youth, ages nine to 18, in the area.

The Paducah Cooperative Ministry started in 1973 and now includes 46 churches. They support programs like the homeless shelter, food pantry, emergency relief, ecumenical activities, elderly concerns, Meal on Wheels, and Reflections, a religious television program sponsored by Paducah Community College.

Caregiver of the Year

BY ALBERT DITTES

Addie Brewer, a nurse for the past 16 years at Highland Manor Nursing Home, Portland, Tenn., received the **Caregiver of the Year Award** for 2003 from the Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA). Brewer was one of 57 nominees and six district winners from nursing homes across the State of Tennessee.

"We give this award to people who have shown selfless devotion to improve the lives of those requiring 24 hour-a-day care," said Mike Cole, executive director of THCA. "Caregivers like Addie Brewer are everyday heroes."

In addition to a plaque, the award included roses, a three-day Caribbean cruise, and spending money for the trip.

Brewer began her nursing career 41 years ago. She previously worked in the emergency room of Sumner County Regional Medical Center in Gallatin, Tenn. The award is presented annually on Nursing Home Caregiver Appreciation Day to honor one of the thousands of devoted employees who work at Tennessee's 350 nursing homes.



Honoring Addie Brewer on this special occasion were Dennis Burnett (left), administrator of Highland Manor Nursing Home; Judy Eads, assistant commissioner of the health department for the State of Tennessee; Addie Brewer, award recipient; and Michelle Feters, president of Adventist Care Centers based in Orlando, Fla.



BY GAIL MCKENZIE

A Park Bench, a Yard Sale, and More...

When God is at work you never know what can happen. This fall at the Kentucky-Tennessee women's retreat, we saw God's hand at work in a powerful way.

Mary and her daughter were enjoying the Clay County Fair in Manchester, Ky. They sat down to rest on a park bench and noticed a brochure. It was a brochure for the women's retreat at Indian Creek Camp. When they finished reading the information, Mary's daughter told her mother she thought God was trying to tell her something. She registered and drove about six hours (getting lost in the mountains) for what normally was a four-hour trip. She came not knowing one single person, or even who Seventh-day Adventists were. With tears in her eyes and a testimony of what the weekend meant to her, she left Sunday morning, promising to come back next year and bring all of her friends.

Last year Shirley invited her sister-in-law to come to the retreat. This year she asked a second sister-in-law, Paige, to attend with her. On Saturday night Paige was led to give her heart to Jesus by Shirley's other sister-in-law who, by the way, is not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Paige has had many questions since, and has turned to Shirley for answers. Shirley has begun Bible studies with her.

Nancy came as a result of some friends inviting her and paying her way. She met these women when they came to her yard sale. They befriended her and immediately saw she needed to know God. They invited her to attend this retreat with them. She was in the same cabin with ten women, some of whom she did not know.

Sabbath after dinner she asked to talk to me. Her story was one of loneliness and illness. She said she did not know God or much about the Bible. Her heart was touched and she wanted desperately to know who God was. I suggested we get her a set of the *Bible Story* books for her to read. I told her that this would give her an overall picture of the beginning of the world until Jesus would come back for us. Then, she could go to her Bible and would know some of the stories and be familiar with the truths the Bible teaches. She was so appreciative. She was excited about the new journey ahead of her and promised she would come back next year. Her friends left with her and promised to get the books and Bible studies she needed.

Toni began attending our fall retreat about four years ago. She initially came as the result of a co-worker's invitation. She is very enthusiastic and this year came without knowing anyone personally. This is the letter I received following the weekend she attended:

To Gail and all her many helpers,

I want to thank all of you for the sacrifice of your time and energy for the women's retreat. I have grown so much because of my "weekend in October." My desire to take care of my body and to realize it as a spiritual discipline, my reverence for the

Sabbath, and my role as a wife and mother and woman have all changed because of your teaching. Nobody could go to that little spot on Center Hill Lake and not be revived, renewed, and refreshed.

I love you all as my sisters in Christ.

Signed, Toni "the Baptist"

Certainly it can be said that God works in many ways, whether a chance stop at a park bench or beginning a friendship at a yard sale. He is never limited and will use whatever it takes to bring His children home.

Devoted to Each Other and to God

by Judy Trigg

Luther and Eunice May celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 5, 2003. The Mays have resided in Murray, Ky., for the past 27 years.



Luther and the former Eunice E. Magoon were married in Orlando, Fla., October 5, 1943. Elder May, with his wife by his side, has served many years in the gospel ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They have been in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for the last 31 years. Upon the completion of the new Murray, Ky., church, May officially retired in January

of 1994; however, he and Eunice continue to be very active in the church.

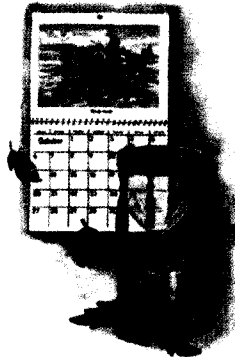
May is a veteran of World War II, serving as chaplain's assistant in the Medical Corps of the Army. Eunice May is a retired registered nurse and registered physical therapist. She has also been very active in Adventist community services and served as a federation officer for a number of years. She has contributed years of her time and talents as a specialist in disaster response work as well.

The Mays have three daughters: Sharrie May of Perry, Ga.; Bonnie Phillips of Madison, Tenn.; and Judy Trigg of Warner Robins, Ga.

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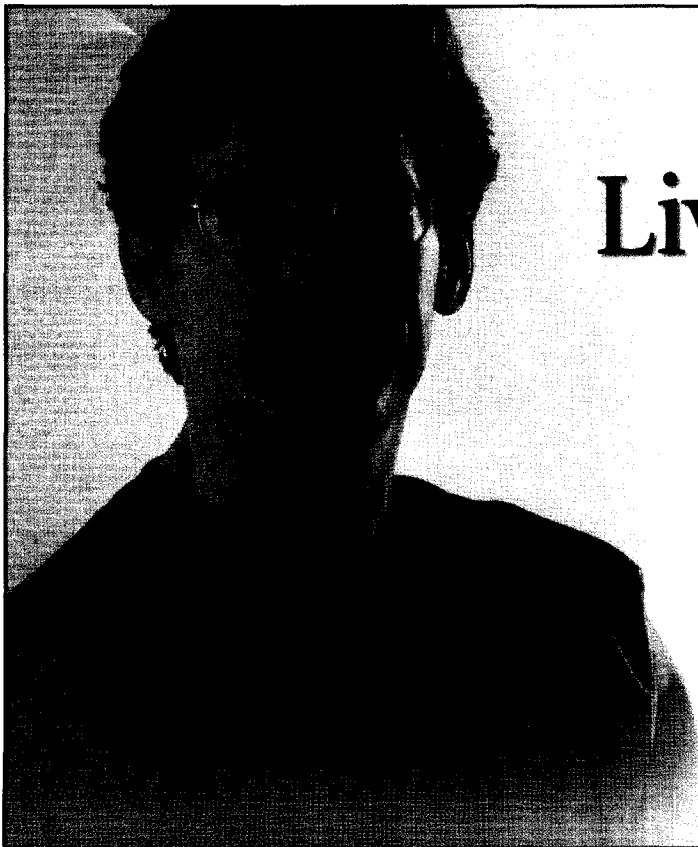
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BY BARBARA L. HALL

Adventist Receives National Honor from Knight Ridder

Just one encounter with C.W. Perkins and it becomes clear why his employer, of only five years, would honor him with a coveted national award. Perkins, building services manager for *The Charlotte Observer*, and an elder at Charlotte-Berean, recently received a Knight Ridder General Excellence Award at the company headquarters in San Jose, Calif. Perkins was among a group of 28 honored from around the country.

The award, in recognition of “his outstanding performance and ability to inspire excellence in others” reflects Perkins’ philosophy toward those he supervises—that *everyone*, no matter what their job, is important.

“My staff must feel good about their jobs, and if they feel good on the inside, it’s going to show on the outside, and when it shows on the outside, it’s going to affect people around them,” said Perkins.

When Perkins arrived at *The Charlotte Observer*, a Knight Ridder owned newspaper, he immediately began to boost the morale of his staff of 23 and, at the same time, enhance the overall appearance of the building. For example, he assigned



a housekeeping team to each floor, telling them to run that area as if it were their own business. “I told them, ‘Go and introduce yourself to every person on that floor and tell them that you are the person responsible for getting things done.’” Employees also often hear encouraging voicemails from Perkins such as, “I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate working with you.”

Perkins’ winning ways quickly made a visible difference in the physical plant, as well as the attitude of employees. In-

stead of being on the periphery feeling isolated, his staff members now serve on committees, participate in company projects, take leadership classes, and consider themselves part of the newspaper—all because of his influence.

The award selection committee, made up of nationally notable names in media and education, said, “It’s hard to overstate the difference someone like C.W. can make—his upbeat attitude affects the mood of the entire building. His idea to assign specific areas to teams of people and empower them to make sure these areas are nice places to work has benefited everyone. His involvement in so many newspaper activities shows how much he cares about *The Observer* and his colleagues.”

Perkins worked for the Los Angeles Public Works Department for 32 years, and the *Los Angeles Times* for eight years, before moving to Charlotte with his wife, Janet, and daughter.

An elder at Charlotte-Berean, Perkins is making a similar positive impact on church members. He treats people the way Christ would.

South Atlantic Forms New Church

BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT AND EVERTON ENNIS



Modrey Dennison, 92, is the oldest member of the new congregation.

Ninety-two-year-old Modrey Dennison led the group as she was voted one of the first official members of the Praise Tabernacle church in Whiteville, N.C., on November 8, 2003. She had seen the

group grow from a mission group to a

company, and now to a church, during the past year. Members of the mother church, Philadelphia, of Council, N.C., were present and joined in the celebration.

South Atlantic Conference Treasurer Linwood Stone commissioned Everton Ennis, pastor, and the 60 members of Praise Tabernacle on this special day. He was the divine service speaker and encouraged the congregation to not waiver, because God is on their side and “they that are with you, are more than are against you.”

A major feature of the Praise Tabernacle church planting process was the heavy involvement of the lay members. Local elders conducted cell group Bible

studies in several homes, simultaneously, in preparation for public evangelism by the pastor. Twenty new members were added to Praise Tabernacle in 2003.

Macedonia company of Lumberton, N.C., in the same district as Praise Tabernacle, was also represented at the celebration. Macedonia company had officially formed that morning, being the first Adventist presence in 50 years in the town of Lumberton.

Among the 60 members of the newly formed Praise Tabernacle church were 11 members who had been baptized the week before.



Charlye Mae Porter-Bliss was born, July 30, 1926. Her survival was indeed a miracle, because her birth weight was only two pounds. However, her parents, the late Charles Sidney Porter and Nellie Henderson Porter, offered "Hanna's prayer," and like Samuel, she was offered to God: her life for His service. God honored their prayer, and Mrs. Bliss dedicated her life to obedience to God and to the service of others.

From the early years, Atlanta's Berean was her church home, where she remained faithful, loyal, and supportive. From her formative years she was educated and excelled at the Berean Elementary School, the Laboratory High School located on the Spelman College campus, and Booker T.

A Life of Service

Washington High School where she graduated. She often spoke with appreciation for the training she received.

In 1944 she boarded the train for Huntsville, Ala., where she would spend the next few years at Oakwood College in preparation for her professional life. She graduated with degrees in secretarial science and English.

It was at Oakwood that she met her future husband, Albert Henry Bliss. They were married in 1950 at Berean. Unfortunately, he met an untimely death, which came just a few months before the birth of their only son, Albert, III.

Despite the challenges of this tragedy, her life was one of service. "Aunt Charlye," as she was so affectionately called, labored at the South Atlantic Conference almost from its inception, in a term of service that spanned from June, 1946, to August, 2003. She served in just about every department. She worked as secretary, payroll clerk, bookkeeper, and assistant treasurer.

When she served as secretary in the Adventist Book Center, she packed books, and hurried to the Post Office or bus terminal on her own time, to ensure the colporteurs received their necessary materials. She worked diligently with students who were

trying to reach their educational goals.

After her official retirement on December 31, 1991, she continued working as Conference receptionist and assisted in the office of the secretariat. Many were blessed because of the time she gave to women's ministries. She continued to provide untold hours in the publishing department in support of literature evangelists, as well as the family ministries, stewardship, and trust services departments.

Bliss rendered noble and notable leadership to the Berean church. She was the recipient of numerous awards for her service as board member, church clerk, associate treasurer, finance and budget committee member, deaconess leader, Sabbath school superintendent, Sabbath school teacher, usher board member, community services, hostess committee leader, memorial committee leader, Pathfinder club deputy director, master guide, church choir member, and Calvary's Call Radio choir member. During evangelistic meetings, she worked as a Bible instructor, where many souls were led to Christ.

To help God's work move forward, she became a member of the King's Daughters Organization—Chapter I, and contributed

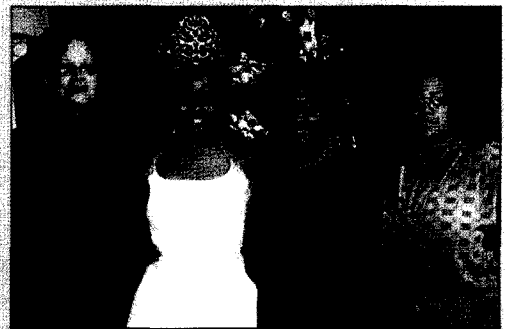
Oakwood College's UNCF Queen is a South Atlantic Repeat

BY LAURIE HASTINGS

For the second year in a row, Miss UNCF 2004 of Oakwood College is a member of South Atlantic Conference, following the path of the queen of 2003, Miss Renee Ramon. Miss Lauren Hastings is a graduate of Berean Elementary/Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy in Atlanta, Ga., a member of Berean church, and proudly represents the Conference again.

Lauren, who is a sophomore, attends Oakwood College with her twin sister. She is majoring in speech language pathology, and plans to acquire a terminal degree in speech and hearing science, and to become a certified interpreter for the hearing impaired. Miss Hastings is involved in various campus organizations, including the *Voices of Triumph*, a student choir, and is employed with the Center for Academic Advancement in the disabilities department at Oakwood.

Lauren credits her accomplishment to the blessings of God, the encouragement of Laurie, her twin sister, the parental guidance of her aunt, Jeanette Lamb, and the continued prayers and support of the members of the South Atlantic Conference. She dedicates her victory in memory of her mother, Jacqueline Hastings, who served as the secretary to the superintendent of education at South Atlantic Conference for more than 20 years.



Pictured are Jeanette Lamb, Lauren Hastings, Laurie Hastings, and Janella Lamb.



Hispanic Churches Begin Evangelism Thrust

BY EFRAIN POLOCHE

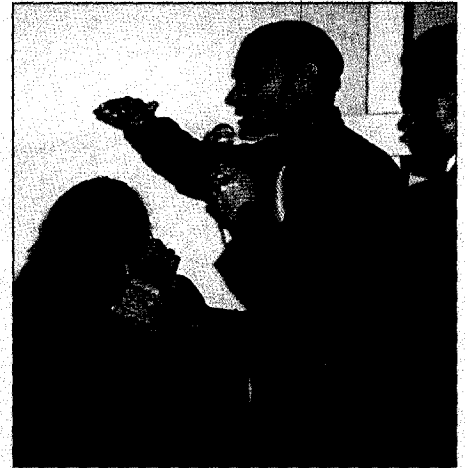
annually to assist worthy students. She was a member of the Georgia Master Guide Club, serving as vice president, and a member of the local church chapter, serving as secretary and treasurer. Her other affiliations included treasurer of the Rainbow Choral Club, recording secretary of the Oakwood College Alumni Association, as well as a scholarship committee member for the Metro Chapter-Oakwood College Alumni Association. Bliss was a supporter of the Gideon's Band, based on her desire to see a new school edifice in Atlanta, Ga.

Throughout her brief illness, Charlye Mae was calm, peaceful, steadfast, and anchored in Jesus. She accepted God's will in her life. Friends remember her saying: "If this is what the Lord has for me, and I will be saved, and my children can be saved, it is all right."

This year is designated as the Year of Evangelism throughout the world. Every church in the Conference is planning to baptize at least 15 individuals. It means that 33 congregations are expecting to add, at the end of 2004, at least 300, if not more. The Spanish church in Carrolton, Ga., is well on its way, as the church of 30 members just baptized six new members.

Roberto Alago is a lay pastor and a fervent lay preacher. He is also quite knowledgeable in the area of computers. He is educating this church in the way of evangelism.

Incidentally, they do not have a pianist, so they use a computer to play the hymns instead.



Roberto Alago, lay preacher, and Efrain Poloché, pastor, baptized a new member.

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Jackson Maranatha Recovering, Still Strong after Tornado



On May 3, 2003, the Maranatha church in Jackson, Tenn., was destroyed by tornado. Under the leadership of Michael Hayes, pastor, the congregation is recovering quickly. They have prepared a temporary worship center (left, bottom right) out of the damaged former education complex (top right). They plan to break ground for a new church in March, 2004, and are busy in a citywide Amazing Facts crusade.

Just seven months have passed since the Maranatha church was destroyed when an F-4 tornado whirled through Jackson, Tenn., on May 3. However, the congregation already is making quick progress towards recovery. The members have prepared a temporary worship center, are planning to break ground for a new church this month, and are busy in a city-wide evangelistic crusade.

Temporary Worship Center

After the tornado the homeless congregation, like nomadic travelers, went from church to church each week, renting from denominations that were kind enough to help them. This moving about affected their attendance, so they began to prepare the one suitable building they owned that survived the storm.

The building was an older, empty, two-story brick, previously owned by the Salvation Army—directly across the street from the church site. The congregation renovated the building so they could worship there until their new church can be built.

Construction crews were called in

to remove the hazardous asbestos tile, install new floors, outfit new handicap bathrooms, and prepare two paved parking lots that will accommodate nearly 50 cars. Carpet was laid, matching window treatments installed, and the kitchen was completely reconditioned with custom-made cabinets. After a sound system and keyboard were purchased, they opened the doors of their temporary sanctuary on January 10, 2004. Already the attendance is building and offerings are increasing.

Plans for Spring Groundbreaking

Currently, Michael Hayes, pastor, and the congregation are planning for their new church that will be located on what is almost an entire city-block in downtown Jackson. Preparing for the future, Maranatha intends to build a sanctuary that accommodates up to 350 people, with a state-of-the-art media facility. Other phases include a family life center, gymnasium, and fully functional community service facility. Once they move into their permanent church, the congregation plans to use the temporary worship center as an educational center and school for children.

Groundbreaking for the new church is scheduled for March, 2004.

Still Focused on Evangelism

Though their church was destroyed and they have been moving from place to place Maranatha has not been distracted from their evangelistic focus. They have joined hands with the Campbell Street church of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and *Amazing Facts* television ministries to reach Jackson for Jesus. Byron Corbett, of *Amazing Facts*, has begun his series on prophecy in the Bible, and many have come out to be blessed.

Hayes says that, "Maranatha wants to continue to make inroads into the Jackson community as much as possible. We want people to depend on us being there for them, and through us, see the hand of God."

Even through these last few months of tough times, Maranatha continues to shine brightly for God. It is because of God's goodness and the courageous spirit of his people that Jackson has continued to thrive.



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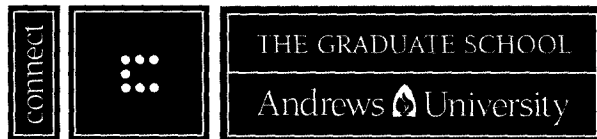


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James Edgecombe, Sr., Celebrates 100th Birthday



The members of the Mt. Olive church in Apopka, Fla., and their pastor, O. E. Gordon, dedicated the divine service to honor Elder James Edgecombe, Sr., on his 100th birthday, and to praise God for His love toward him. A large gathering of family and friends, some who traveled long distances, joined in the celebration.

Edgecombe, one of eight siblings, was born October 12, 1902, to John and Martha Edgecombe in the Bahamas. As a young man, he relocated to Miami, Fla., where he was baptized into the Church.

Leo Rolle, family member and ministerial secretary of the Bahamas Conference, was the guest speaker for the celebration. Nathaniel Higgs, religious liberty director at the Southern Union, presented proclamations. Willie Taylor, president, and Cleveland Holness, executive secretary, represented the Southeastern Conference with greetings and remarks.

After Gordon's remarks, two-year-old Sheldon Glasgow, the youngest member of the congregation, presented a plaque to Edgecombe on behalf of the Mt. Olive church.

Platform chairman James Edgecombe, Jr., community service and inner city director at the Arizona Conference, read congratulatory messages from the General Conference; Arizona Conference; the offices of President and Mrs. George W. Bush; Jeb Bush, governor of Florida; and Glenda Hood, mayor of Orlando.

The members of Ebenezer church in Freeport, Long Island, N.Y., sent their birthday wish to Edgecombe, who was founder and head elder of their church. For the occasion, the North Orlando church senior choir, Harcord Rahming of Jacksonville, Fla., Charles Powell of

Deland, Fla., and Mrs. Leo Rolle, rendered inspirational music.

Edgecombe, Sr., has faithfully served the Church for more than 70 years as elder, along with other offices in the following churches: Bethany in Miami, Fla.; Homestead in Homestead, Fla., known today as the Bethel in Florida City, Fla.; Brownsville in Brooklyn, N.Y., now Brooklyn Temple in Brooklyn; Hempstead Temple in Hempstead, N.Y., now Ebenezer in Freeport, N.Y.; and Emmanuel in Deland, Fla. The Holy Spirit used him to win many individuals to the Church through evangelism and Bible study. He attributes his long life to God's sustaining

power and a healthy lifestyle.

Today, at age 101, Elder Edgecombe, Sr., can quote many Bible texts, loves hearing and singing hymns, spelling, and calculating simple math. He loves the Lord, and continues to witness to non-believers about God's love.

Edgecombe, who is widowed, was joined on this memorable day by eight of his 10 children, foster sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other family members.



Lighthouse Honors its Pastor

BY JULIA TEDIM

Lighthouse honored its pastor recently and recognized him for his dedication and consistency. The members presented gifts of love and appreciation to Barry Bonner and his wife, Tracy. Bonner is unique in his ability to extend his leadership to all areas of the church.





BY OLIVE HALL

Women's Ministries Reaches Out to Children in the Community

Children's story hour, sponsored by Daughter of Zion church in Delray Beach, Fla., began last spring at the Boynton Beach Terrace. The group meets every Sunday under the trees of the apartment complex. The children are taught songs, the Lord's prayer, the 23rd Psalm, the books of the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and other Bible verses. A story about a character or situation from the Bible is followed by questions and answers.

The children participate very well, as Jolanda Blanchard has the children acting out Bible stories, which they love to do.

Prior to starting the program, flyers of invitation were distributed. In the beginning, the women knocked on apartment doors to pick up the children



for story hour. Now the children come and wait for the program to start.

The numbers have increased. On the first day there were three children. By the time they concluded the program on that day, there was a total of eight children. The attendance has now reached 35 children. However, 46 chil-

dren came on the day the Adventurers and Eager Beavers performed.

The Lord has blessed the program. Church members responded to pleas for Bibles, and the children enjoy using them.

The ministry includes door-to-door visitation, delivering literature, and prayer with parents.

Yvonne Odle, Jolanda Blanchard, Winston Grey, Willie Lazier, and Rob Lazier form the staff of story hour. Myrtle Roy, Helen Wright, Denise McFord Taylor, Aisha Amiji, Stephanie Scurdy, and Greg Forde give of their time to make this event successful.

Perrine Church Makes a Birthday Wish

BY MILLICENT TAYLOR

In August, the Perrine church Sabbath school honored Thelma Walker on her 96th birthday. Her daughter, Maria Barnes, and grandson, Miguel Barnes, and his wife and children, joined in the celebration.

Several persons paid tribute to Walker, including Hyacinth Smart, the superintendent for the day. Trevor Beckford arranged a beautiful bouquet of roses that the church presented to her. In reply, Walker expressed her gratitude to the church

members, especially to those whom she says "never forget her birthday."

Walker has been a Seventh-day Adventist for 58 years. She is a Jamaican by birth, but lived most of her adult life in the Republic of Panama in Central America. It was there that she accepted the Advent message and was later baptized by D. Delafield, pastor. Throughout the years she has served in various positions.

When she relocated to Miami, Fla.,

she chose Perrine as her church. It is rare that Walker misses a Sabbath. She is very independent and loved by all. She believes in prayer and spends many hours praying for her family and for the youth of the church.

Walker has four children, 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. However, she is a mother to all in Perrine church. Whenever she has the opportunity, she counsels and encourages the young people to "stay in the Church."

*Eat Smart, Stay Healthy*

March is National Nutrition Month

Words of advice from Oakwood College family and consumer sciences department in Huntsville



Marta Sovyanhadi, program director

The Oakwood College Dietetic Internship Program in Huntsville, Ala.,

supports the National Nutrition Month campaign to expand the 2004 theme, "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy." This program trains interns to work individually, but at the same time emphasizes the importance of teamwork. One of the goals of teamwork projects is to help the interns develop the confidence to share their nutrition knowledge with the public through mass media. This is the third year that we are engaging our interns in promoting the awareness of national nutrition.



Stephanie Bell

Include whole grains in your diet. In studies it has been shown that fiber lowers blood cholesterol levels, reduces the risk of chronic diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. In addition, whole grains have nutrients which are crucial for good health.



Brooke Bohannon

Avoid diets made of processed foods and concentrated calories, that cause weight gain and lack vital nutrients and valuable fiber. So, be smart and eat a variety of foods from each food group, and choose natural foods, including whole-grain products, to stay healthy.



Savitha Chandra

Read food labels. Reading labels will help you to understand the nutritional value of the products. For example, some drinks are only 10 percent juice, while others may be 100 percent. Consumers should learn and understand nutritional lingo to prevent deception. Ask a local dietitian to teach you information that will help you choose foods with confidence and stay healthy.



Marie Charles

Having five servings a day of fruits and vegetables may be the most important lifestyle change anyone will ever make. Eating fruits and vegetables have been shown to improve health by reducing the risk of chronic diseases and cancer. Fruits and vegetables contain a wide range of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytochemicals that your body depends on to stay healthy.



Karla Coffee-Dunning

Make an effort to eat at least two servings of fruit a day. Phytochemicals are found in fruits' pigment and play a role in disease prevention. So, be smart and include a variety of colorful fruits with edible skin in order to stay healthy.



Lauren Davenport

A well-rounded menu for a mid-day and evening meal should display vegetables. Serve at least two vegetables besides potatoes; one green and yellow vegetable during your meal will help you stay healthy.



Elizabeth Helleson

Choose sensible portion sizes, along with regular physical activity. Portion control is a very important, yet often a forgotten piece of the puzzle to staying healthy. Correct portions, coupled with consistent exercise, can induce healthy weight loss or prevent unnecessary weight gain.



Johnson Kamalu

Daily exposure to fresh, clean air will keep you healthy. Living organisms depend on gaseous or liquefied forms of air for growth and development. Full, deep inspirations of pure air fill the lungs with oxygen, stimulate the appetite, and aid digestion.

**Maria Kim**

Use less animal products and saturated fats in order to reduce the risk of high blood cholesterol, which causes arteriosclerosis vascular diseases.

Saturated fats are found in dairy products, meats, and most processed foods such as biscuits and butter.

tion of food, regulates body temperature and blood circulation, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, and removes toxins and other wastes. In addition, water serves as an appetite suppressant, helps metabolize stored fat, and is a major factor in losing weight.

**Siu YukLun**

Sunlight helps the body obtain Vitamin D, which is needed for bone growth and maintenance. Sunlight also

has good effects on the mood. It increases serotonin production, which prevents depression and fatigue.

**Natalie Temple**

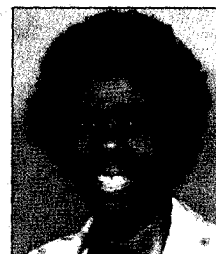
Although life can never be stress free, there are activities that have been proven to help decrease stress,

such as gardening, taking breaks from work during the day, walking, getting a massage, warm baths, eating consistent meals, exercising daily, and getting eight hours of sleep each night.

**Justin Washington**

Most people choose fattening and sugary foods to please the palate, but these foods have a sharp contrast to nutrient needs.

Choose fewer foods that are just pleasurable to the tongue and more foods that give nourishment to the body.

**Ruth Davis,**
department
chair

Thanks for taking time to read the nutrition messages from the

next crop of registered dieticians. We hope this information has been beneficial and will enhance your well-being. Remember, eating smart is the key to staying healthy.

Sandy Lalich

The building blocks of good health starts with eating a variety of foods. The body is complex and demands a variety of

nutrients to support its various functions. Therefore, assess your plate for diversity in color, texture, and the number of food groups represented.

Bonnie Murray

Find an enjoyable way to stay active. Even with a busy lifestyle, you can boost your activity level by using the stairs instead of taking

the elevator, parking the car at the far end of the parking lot, or getting off the bus at a stop ahead to increase walking time and distance. Being active will help you to stay fit, relieve stress, and feel better mentally and physically.

Selena Reed

Drink six to eight glasses of fresh water every day in order to stay healthy. Water aids in digestion and absorp-

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Southern Students Claim Promises

Students at Southern Adventist University journeyed through God's promises during Student Week of Prayer in January.

Student speakers for the week covered Bible promises about love, forgiveness, salvation, growth, grace, peace, prayer, and the Second Coming.

When students walked into the church, they were handed a boarding pass with the Bible promises for the week. The stage resembled an airport baggage claim complete with a conveyor belt, signs, and a waiting area.

"The portrayal of the theme was visually creative and pulled me into the week's theme," said Kory Townsend, senior graphic design major.

Maria Sager, director of Destiny Drama, introduced the week's theme of "Promise Claim" by saying, "In our personal journey, God dispenses promises to us. Take time to notice and accept the promises."

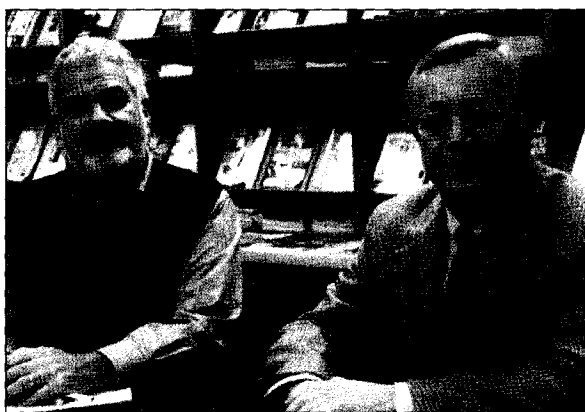
A midweek blackout didn't stop students from attending the evening service. Instead, many showed up with their flashlights and cell phone display lights in hand to participate in an impromptu song service, including "This Little Light of Mine."



Students led out during Week of Prayer, January 26-31.

Judge Visits Media Ethics Class

Tennessee Supreme Court Judge William "Mickey" Barker was a guest speaker at adjunct professor Wes Hasden's Mass Media Law and Ethics class. Judge Barker gave students a judge's perspective of the legal process. "It was interesting to hear about the different cases that he and the Tennessee Supreme Court have ruled on over the years," said Melissa Turner, junior English major.



Wes Hasden with Judge Barker

PreView Southern – April 1-2

Public high school and home school students are invited to campus for PreView Southern, April 1-2. The event includes an academic forum, financial aid workshop and a dinner cruise on the Tennessee River. Call 1.800.SOUTHERN to make a reservation.

New Program in Psychobiology

Students interested in how the mind and body cooperate have new opportunities to study in this field at Southern Adventist University. Starting in the fall of 2004, a new concentration in psychobiology will be added to the current bachelor of science psychology program.

Students will primarily take courses in psychology, but a heavy emphasis of biology is included.

Mike Ryan Speaks at Southern

Mike Ryan, vice president of Global Mission for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, spoke at Southern Adventist University for vespers and for the ministerial trainee induction ceremony, where 24 students were formally accepted into the theology program. Ryan challenged the inductees to be "ambassadors for God."

Ryan also spoke about Church developments around the world during a Sabbath afternoon presentation.



Laura Smith Elected Women's Ministries Director



Laura Smith has been elected to serve as the Southern Union Conference director of women's ministries. She brings to the position years of leadership and professional training. She is a pioneer and trail blazer in the development and organization of the department of women's ministries

for the South Central Conference and the Southern Union.

Her work with women's ministries began in 1988, when she accepted the position of women's commissioner to represent South Central.

Smith has the distinction of being the first women's ministries director for South Central, and for having the longest tenure of service as the women's ministries director of any Conference in the Southern Union. She also has the longest tenure of service as a member of the Southern Union Conference's women's ministries planning committee. She is a servant leader who has experience in organizing conference level activities, including spiritual retreats for women and girls, camp meeting activities, seminars, and other events that have benefited the women of the Conference.

Laura is a native of Montgomery, Ala., where she received her elementary and secondary education. She continued her educational pursuits, earning a bachelor of science and the master of education de-

grees from Alabama State University. She did further study and received advanced certification in the area of administration and supervision at Auburn University at Montgomery.

She was employed by the Montgomery County Public School System in Montgomery. As an educator, her professional career advanced from classroom teacher, to Title I Reading Specialist, to resource teacher, to supervisor in the department of curriculum and instruction, where she supervised the curriculum and the instructional programs of teachers in elementary schools. She was selected to serve on numerous education committees in the Montgomery County Public School System and at the state level.

Laura is the wife of Bennie Smith, who serves as the lay-pastor of First Troy church in Troy, Ala., where she teams with him in ministry. They are the proud parents of one daughter, Lauretta Smith Roe, and one granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Roe, of Columbus, Oh.

A Former Southern Union Conference President Laid to Rest

Donald R. Rees was born in Milwaukee, Wash., March 6, 1910. Most of his early years were spent on a farm north of Portland on the Columbia River. Don attended Columbia Union Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., and Walla Walla College in Walla Walla, Wash.

Don left home at the age of 17 to earn his own living, pay for his education, and to help support his family. He started Church work as a door-to-door colporteur in Colorado.

In 1934 Don married Lilas Marie Becker, an RN in the Boulder, Colo., Seventh-day Adventist Hospital. They were blessed with three children: Donna Lou, Carol Ann, and Ronnie Ray. Donna Lou died in a tragic automobile accident while attending Forest Lake Academy.

After serving as pastor and departmental secretary in the Colorado Conference, he was appointed president of the Kansas Conference. Following his tenure there he



Donald R. Rees 1910-2003

was called to be president of the Florida Conference, and later president of the Southern Union Conference. He also served as administrator of the Louis Smith Hospital in Lakeland, Ga., and his wife served as director of nursing.

While living in Lakeland, his wife Lilas, and his second daughter, Carol Ann, were killed in an automobile accident.

Several years later Don married Pearl Floran, and they moved to Rock Hall, Md. They began spending their winters in Daytona Beach. Early in 2003, Pearl passed away at the age of 89, in the Halifax Medical Center, Daytona Beach, where his son, Ron, is serving as administrator of the facility.

Don Rees passed away nine months later on December 20, 2003, in his home with his only surviving relative, Ron, at his side. He remained true to his faith and spread God's word in the extended care facility where he and Pearl lived, and with the Hospice care nurses, right up to the time of his death.



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SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER (SMMC), a Seventh-day Adventist community service, has a variety of openings for health care

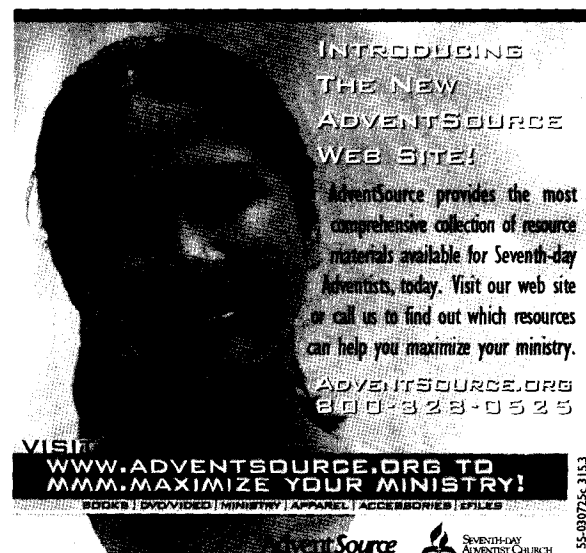
professionals interested in immediate placement. SMMC is a 383-bed acute care facility located in beautiful Johnson County; this family-friendly community offers a safe and relaxed atmosphere, high quality schools and easy access to museums, cultural arts, and professional sports teams. Please contact the job line at: 800-845-6216, or click on Employment at www.shawneemission.org for a listing of open positions. Contact Brad Hoffman, Administrative Director of Human Resources at 913-676-2020 for more information. Resumes may be faxed to 913-676-2019. (3-12)

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE School of Education and Psychology seeks applicants for **tenure-track position** teaching courses in general psychology, human development, and psychological assessment, beginning September, 2004. See details at www.wwc.edu/services. Contact Mark Haynal, School of Education and Psychology, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324. haynma@wwc.edu (3)

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE seeks applicants for **tenure-track position** in Billings, MT, beginning September, 2004. Doctorate in social work or related area, MSW degree and two years post-MSW experience required. Details: www.wwc.edu/services. Interested Adventists contact Wilma Hepker, School of Social Work, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324. (3)

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE announces **tenure-track position** in composition and American literature beginning September, 2004. Position open until filled. Master's in English required; Ph.D. preferred. Details: www.wwc.edu/services. Interested Adventists contact Nancy Cross, English Department, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Avenue, College Place, WA 99324. crosna@wwc.edu (3)

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **professor for School of Journalism & Communication**. PhD strongly preferred but a MA and significant relevant experience will be considered. Teaching responsibilities will be split between journalism/writing and other communication courses. Position opens July/August 2004. Send resume to Volker Henning, Dean, School of Journalism & Communication, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Email: henning@southern.edu, phone: 423-238-2733. (3)

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking **Vice President for Advancement**. Bachelor's degree in related area required. Advanced degree preferred. Must have proven experience in fundraising and administering a multifaceted fund raising program including capital campaigns. Send letter and resume to Dr. Gordon Bietz, President, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, email: bietz@southern.edu, phone: 423-238-2800. (3)

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Assistant Residence Hall Dean. Full-time, beginning June 2004. Requires an energetic, positive, flexible, committed SDA individual, who is able to work with college-age men and women. Bachelor's degree required; masters preferred. Previous residence hall experience also preferred. Send resume with references to Pat Coverdale, Director Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Phone: 423-238-3397, Fax: 423-238-2454, e-mail: plcoverdale@southern.edu (3)

UNION COLLEGE announces its search for a professor of **Composition and Rhetoric**, beginning Fall 2004. Desirable qualifications: experience in teaching composition, willingness to serve as campus writing coordinator, a record of scholarship. Ph.D. strongly preferred. Apply: Humanities Division, Union College, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or e-mail evcornfo@ucollege.edu (3,4)

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COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE seeks a **Vice-President for Financial Administration**. Master's degree in business or finance, and four to ten years related experience preferred; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Submit CV and letter to Human Resources, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Email: hr@cuc.edu Fax: 301-891-4020. (3,4)

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Georgia-Cumberland Academy

Alumni Homecoming Weekend
April 2&3, 2004

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday: Golf Tournament at 11:00 a.m.
Field's Ferry Golf Course, Calhoun, GA
Vespers: 7:30 p.m.

Sabbath: Sabbath Services begin at 10:00 a.m.
Speaker: Roger Bothwell

Alumni Luncheon following Church Services
Honor Class Reunions in the Afternoon
Alumni Sports Night: 7:30 p.m.

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various church locations throughout the Southern Union. For more information please contact Rocky Davis or Peter DeVries at: 404-299-1621. (3,4)

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A Russia Mission Trip

Faculty and students from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences recently had the opportunity to help the Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia. In 2002, the Seminary expressed a desire to host a Christmas program for children in the state-run homes in the Tula Region. Florida Hospital College helped to make that desire a reality.

On December 29, 2003, 20 individuals from Florida Hospital College, Columbia Union College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary went to assist Zaoksky for a second Christmas program.

Approximately 850,000 children are part of the state-run system of orphanages in Russia. Many of these children do not have warm coats for the winter, nor are there enough clothing and underwear to go around. To make do, children often wear the same underwear and clothes for an entire week, washing them only once.

The group took more than 8000 articles of clothing, jeans, coats, underwear, socks, shoes, toiletries, and toys to give to the children. All these items were carried in 67 suitcases that the group checked with the airline.

A miracle occurred when the group landed in Russia. Ann Vining, FHCHS pre-professional faculty and an instrumental person in organizing the trip, encouraged the group to pray. Vining stated that customs could charge as much as \$100 US dollars for each extra suitcase. This was a cause for concern as the group had 27 extra suitcases. The group prayed that they would not get charged by customs, so that the \$10,000 they raised could be used solely for the children. John Dixon, FHCHS nursing student, was the first to venture through customs. Without missing a beat, Dixon handed the customs official a letter that the group had received from the mayor of Tula. This letter explained what the team was doing and what all the extra suitcases contained. After reading the letter and glancing at the team, the customs official waived them through without charging an extra cent.

Seven children's homes benefited from the Christmas parties, with a total of 2500 children receiving warm clothing, jackets, and toiletries. The children, however, were not the only beneficiaries of this endeavor. Team members stated that

their lives were changed forever as a result of going on this trip. They came back sharing not only their incredible experiences and humorous antidotes, but also a deep sense of respect for the students and faculty at the Zaoksky Seminary. Vining remarked about the positive changes that were being made in the region because of the Seminary's influence. She said, "The situation involving the children's homes are not as bad as a few years ago; things are improving as a direct result of the Zaoksky Seminary and its presence there."

Yvette Saliba is the marketing and public relations specialist at Florida Hospital College.



FHCHS team members, as well as children, benefited from the trip.



The FHCHS team posed for a photo outside the Euro-Asian Development Bank.

The group took more than 800 articles of clothing.

TWELVE YEARS IN THE MAKING

about 12 years ago an evangelistic meeting was held by Bob Korzyniowski, pastor, and Dick Pollard, evangelist, in the National Guard Armory, Jackson, Tennessee. According to Bob there weren't many baptisms, but Sue Jones and her husband, now deceased, attended those meetings. They received one of the Bibles with the Harold Metcalf Helps and took it home. Apparently it was left on a shelf for about ten years.

About three years ago a man named Lee Thomas, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, came to an understanding of the Adventist truths through the Internet and through videos and books that Adventists have distributed. He made a trip to our Adventist Book Center in Nashville. He went in and said to Don Erickson, the manager, that he needed help. He said he had given away his entire "Baptist library" and he would like to replace it with Adventist books. He spent about \$600 that day. About a month ago, Don told me he was back and spent another \$500 trying to replenish his library.

Now, here's the connection with Lee Thomas. Lee has not made his decision for the Adventist truth. He believes, but is still trying to work out Sabbath work conflicts. He works with a young man named Ricky Jones. Ricky and Lee started conversing. Lee, not an Adventist, said: "You ought to study these Adventist truths." He started handing out literature to Ricky Jones, who then took it home and began to share it with his brother, Tim Jones. Tim, the younger brother, had also taken his mother's Bible that she received at the Pollard meetings and began to read the Metcalf Helps in the back. He came to the conviction that the Sabbath was on the seventh day. He studied the "helps" and was convicted of the truths of the Adventist Church.

He and his brother decided that they needed to purchase a 3ABN satellite dish and hooked it up at their mother's home, Sue Jones. So they all began watching the Three Angels Broadcasting Network in their mother's home together. Ricky with his son, Ky,

and Tim with his son, Tyler, would all gather at their mother's house and watch 3ABN. They watched many of the evangelistic series and really came to an understanding of the Adventist truth through those three avenues—the literature from Lee Thomas, the Metcalf Helps in the back of the "Adventist Bible," as they call it, and Three Angels Broadcasting.

On June 14 of last year they were all in church, including Ricky's wife, Regina, and Tim's co-worker, Scott Baker. They filled one whole pew. I had never seen these people before. They are out of Henderson, Tennessee, about 15 miles south of Jackson. I greeted them afterwards and told them how glad I was that they were there. Then I asked them if they had a story. After we had fellowship lunch together,

part of the story came out. Then as I followed up and studied with them in their home, more of the story came out. They all had pretty much decided that they needed to be baptized or rebaptized because of their understanding of baptism and because of all the truths they had come to love and appreciate.

They all joined the church through the months of August and September. Tim and Ricky Jones, their two sons, Ky Jones and Tyler Jones, and Sue Jones, all decided that they needed to be immersed like the Bible teaches. Tim's co-worker, Scott Baker, was



Ricky Jones (left), Ky Jones, Pastor Joe Shafer, Sue Jones, Scott Baker, Tyler Jones, and Tim Jones

baptized in early September.

The sequel to all of this is that now they are involved in our evangelistic meetings in Humboldt. They are the ones who are greeting, who are bringing guests, and who are doing the transporting of the guests. They have just become such an integral part of our Jackson church. They have now, in turn, become soul winners, and they have such a passion for souls. They are gearing up for more evangelistic meetings in the future.

Joe Shafer is the pastor of the Jackson church.



Carolina

Hispanic Pastoral Marriage Enrichment—March 12-14. Nosoca.

Pathfinder Work Bee—March 19-21. Nosoca.

Men's Retreat—March 26-28. Nosoca.

Lake Union Academies Alumni (Carolina Chapter)—March 27. Hendersonville Church. Details: 828-697-5649.

MPA Academy Days—March 28,29.

Hispanic Men's Retreat—April 2-4. Nosoca.

Carolina's Africa Mission Trip—April 5-19.

Adventurer Fun Day—April 10,11. Nosoca.

MPA Alumni Weekend—April 16-18.

Hispanic Camp Meeting I—April 16-18. Nosoca.

Outdoor Education—April 20-23. Nosoca.

Pathfinder Council—April 23,24. Charlotte.

MPA Music/Creative Min. Home Show—April 23,24.

MPA Drama Home Show—April 30.

Hispanic Young Adult Retreat—April 30-May 2. Nosoca.

Florida

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

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

Singles' Ministries Events—Numbers of additional events are not in this calendar. To inquire or join mailing list: (407) 869-0275, or mwest@ahss.org

Men's Ministries Conventions—Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 644-5000.

March 19-21. Speakers: David Ascherick and Burnett Robinson.

March 26-28. Speakers: Donald King and Dane Griffin.

Estate Services Clinics and Seminars—March 20. Camp Kulaqua.

March 27. Camp Kulaqua.

April 4. Forest Lake Academy.

April 17. Kress Memorial Church.

Evangelistic Series
April 3-May 15. Clearwater. Bill and Sunshine Waters.
May 8-29. Winter Park Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Seventh Annual West Coast Convocation: POSTPONED—The Convocation has been postponed until autumn 2004 or winter 2005. Details: (727) 360-5826 x0.

Florida Outdoor Club—April 9-11, May 7-9. Camping, rest and Christian fellowship. Held at Florida Baptist Youth Camp on C.R. 33, three miles north of Mascotte. Details: (407) 774-8945.

Singles' Ministries Retreat and training for local singles' ministries leaders—April 16-18. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: (407) 869-0275 or mwest@ahss.org

Camp Meeting in the Keys—April 30-May 1. Knight's Key Campground, Marathon. Details: (305) 743-5268.

Camp Kulaqua Summer Camps—May 31-Sept. 6. Camp Kulaqua. Details: (386) 454-1351 or <http://www.camp-kulaqua.com/>

Georgia-Cumberland

See www.gccsda.org for latest calendar information

Lay Evangelism Day—March 20. Gainesville.

Regional Health Rally—March 13. Oak Ridge.

April 3. Hiram.

April 17. Knoxville North.

Adventurer Family Fun Day—March 14. Cohutta Springs.

Prepare/Engage for Marriage—March 16,17. Collegedale.

Joyful Journey Women's Retreat—March 19-21. Cohutta Springs. Spanish.

March 26-28. Cohutta Springs. English.

April 2-4. Cohutta Springs. English.

K.I.D. University—March 25-28. Collegedale.

South Georgia Camp Meeting—March 26-28.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy Alumni Weekend—April 2-3. Speaker: Roger Bothwell.

GCC Pathfinder Camporee—April 15-18. Cohutta Springs.

Evangelistic Meetings

April 9. Pikeville. Laurelbrook Students.

April 17. Knoxville. B. J. Boles.

Training Seminar for Treasurers and Safety Officers—

March 28. Macon.

April 25. Atlanta.

Personal Ministries Rally—

May 1. Lookout Mountain.

Vegetarian Cooking School—2nd

Tuesday of each month. Hiram, Ga.

ABC Bookmobile Schedule—

March 7. Waycross.

March 7. Lakeland.

March 7. Thomasville.

March 7. Albany.

March 13. Augusta.

March 20. Cohutta Springs.

March 27. Cohutta Springs.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board and Executive Committee—

March 17. May 11. July 20.

Academy Alumni Homecomings

April 2-4. Highland.

April 23, 24. Madison.

Elders' Leadership Training—

April 2-4.

Southern Adventist University

Student Wellness Week—March 8-13.

Symphony Guild Dinner Concert—March 14.

Westminster Choir—March 16.

Health Career Fair—March 18.

Meet the Firms—March 18.

DEEP Sabbath at Southern—March 20.

ASEANS Week—March 22-27.

Fall Registration—March 22-April 2.

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Symphony Orchestra Concert—March 28.

ComputingAndMissions.net

2004—April 16-18. Inspiring, innovative computing ministry weekend at Southern Adventist University. Details: www.computingandmissions.net/ www.ComputingAndMissions.net No registration fees.

South Central

Oakwood College Homecoming 2004—April 8-11. Speakers: Carol Moseley Braun, Raymond Saunders, and Henry Wright.

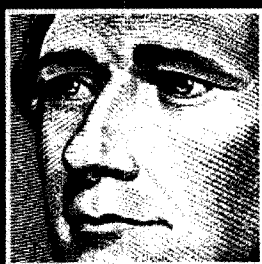
Southern Union Announcement:

The Association of Adventist Women (AAW) is soliciting nominations for its 2004 Women of the Year Awards that will be presented at the annual AAW conference to be held at Andrews University, October 13-17, 2004. Nominees should be Seventh-day Adventist women who have made outstanding and unique contributions to home, community, and/or professional life. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 24, 2004. Request a nomination form by e-mailing (preferable) or writing: Women of the Year Awards Coordinator, Association of Adventist Women, PO Box 25025, Seattle, WA 98165-1925. E-mail: vkwiram@comcast.net

SUNSET

	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26	Apr. 2	Apr. 9
Atlanta, GA	6:38	6:43	6:49	6:54	6:59	8:05
Charleston, SC	6:21	6:26	6:31	6:36	6:41	7:46
Charlotte, NC	6:23	6:29	6:35	6:40	6:46	7:52
Collegedale, TN	6:40	6:46	6:51	6:57	7:03	8:08
Huntsville, AL	5:46	5:52	5:58	6:03	6:09	7:14
Jackson, MS	6:02	6:07	6:12	6:17	6:22	7:27
Louisville, KY	6:41	6:48	6:54	7:01	7:07	8:14
Memphis, TN	5:59	6:05	6:11	6:17	6:22	7:28
Miami, FL	6:25	6:29	6:32	6:35	6:38	7:42
Montgomery, AL	5:46	5:51	5:56	6:01	6:06	7:11
Nashville, TN	5:46	5:52	5:58	6:04	6:10	7:16
Orlando, FL	6:28	6:33	6:37	6:40	6:44	7:48
Wilmington, NC	6:12	6:17	6:23	6:28	6:34	7:39

BRING A NEW FRIEND TO CHURCH



The next time the offering plate comes your way, stop and think about it for a minute.

Think about the missionaries the offering will support. Think about the people it will help.

Think about the places where pioneer missionaries sacrificed to bring the gospel message. Think about the amazing success our missionaries have had, and how the church is growing so rapidly.

And think about the extraordinary challenges facing our missionaries today. It is still our mission to take the gospel to the whole world. Think about the millions who don't know about His grace and salvation.

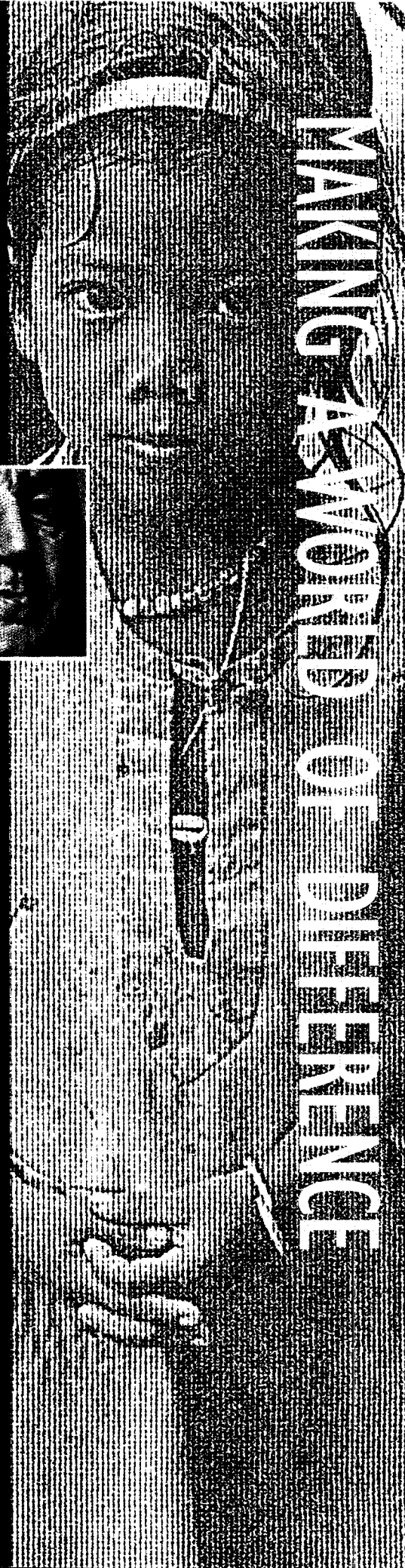
And then think about your gift. How long have you been putting a

dollar bill in the offering plate without really thinking about it? When newspapers cost a nickel were you putting a dollar in the offering plate? When Ronald Reagan was president were you adding a dollar to the mission offering?

The treasury department has been updating the currency, giving it a whole new look. Perhaps this is also a good time to update your giving decision. There is still so much work left to be done, and our mission offerings provide the resources to do it.

You've been sending off those Washingtons to do the job for a long time. Maybe it's time for a Lincoln or Jackson, or even a Franklin, to join in the task.

Think about it.



MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



ADVENTIST MISSION

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

ASI SOUTHERN UNION Spring Convention

Sharing Christ in the Marketplace

Powerful Testimony from

Your Workplace

Your Church

Your Community

And From Around the World . . .



Featuring
DAVID GATES
Man of Faith

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center
Crandall, Georgia

April 9 - 11, 2004

REGISTRATION FEE

(Non-Refundable)

\$25.00-Per member: Free-First time visitors

Mail Registration Form & Fee
(Check or Money Order only):

Southern Union ASI

P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031
678-420-1408

Arrangements

**MUST
be made
separately
before
March 26th**

LODGING & MEALS

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Home Conference _____ Home Telephone _____

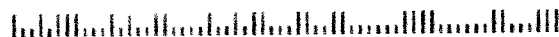
ASI Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

First Time Visitor ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Send registration fee(s) and this form to: Southern Union ASI, P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031)

Southern Tidings
P.O. Box 849
Decatur, GA 30031

Address Services Requested



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12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
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