

August 2010

T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



Passing on Values

Following Through On a Big Idea

Have you noticed that sometimes in the Church we vote ideas or talk about plans and then, if we're honest, the implementation is minimal? At times good ideas fizzle for lack of follow-through. In January 2004, which seems like a long time ago, we reported in the *Southern Tidings* our plans for Atlanta 2010. It was a bold idea of involving the churches and members of greater Atlanta in an evangelistic endeavor that would focus on reaching people prior to the General Conference Session. Far from fizzling, the follow-through was fantastic!

It is a thrill to report that Elder Mendinghall, president of South Atlantic Conference, along with Elder Wright, president of Georgia-Cumberland Conference, led their respective teams in one of the most well-coordinated evangelistic initiatives I have ever observed. The whole effort was bathed in prayer. The teams maintained momentum, and relationships were forged that will be in place until the Lord comes. Departments of the Church worked together toward one objective — Good News Atlanta. Youth and young adults were involved in literature distribution and literature evangelism. Women's ministries held a huge convention where thousands of women from around the Southern Union met in Atlanta to reach out to the underprivileged, poor, and the down-and-out.

During the past five years, hundreds of evangelistic meetings have been held in Atlanta, and dozens of new churches have been planted. Prayer groups were formed to pray for the Holy Spirit and to pray for sections of Atlanta. Pastors and conference office personnel from both conferences met together many times. It is a first for the remnant Church in this great city. Greater Atlanta convocations were organized, and members gathered for prayer, training, and inspiration. Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University students preached evangelistic meetings all over the city. The Good News Atlanta effort included specific strategies to reach such groups as Muslims, secular young adults, and others.

And while this effort was a long-term, five-year strategy, the momentum was maintained, and in fact there was a great crescendo to the moment of intense focus as 42 evangelistic meetings were conducted throughout Atlanta during the weeks just prior to the General Conference Session. All of this culminated in the four-night, city-wide reaping meetings which were held at the World Congress Center during the weekend preceding the Session. What a time we had with more than 6,000 attending the last meeting! Through the preaching of Elders Finley, Bullon, and Gracia, the Holy Spirit led hundreds of individuals to respond to the Gospel invitation. More than 1,000 were baptized as a result of this coordinated effort, and there will be hundreds more. God be praised!

We affirm the leaders and members of South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences for your careful, Spirit-inspired follow-through of the big idea we dreamed way back in 2004. Good News Atlanta has brought unity and focus, and has resulted in a great harvest in metro Atlanta. I hope many pastors and members in other cities are meeting together to pray and strategize how to evangelize the entire city.



Gordon Retzer
Southern Union
President

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Cover Caption: *The late Frances and Desmond Doss*



PASSING ON VALUES, NOT JUST MATERIAL ASSETS

Why 9 out of 10 Estates Fail to Accomplish the Real Intent

BY G. TOM CARTER

“When a man [or woman] dies, his [or her] influence does not die with him [or her]; but it lives on, reproducing itself. The influence of the man [or woman] who was good and pure and holy lives on after his [or her] death, like the glow of the descending sun, casting its glories athwart the heavens, lighting up the mountain peaks long after the sun has sunk behind the hill. So will the works of the pure and the holy and the good reflect their light when they no longer live to speak and act themselves. Their works, their words, their example will forever live. ‘The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.’”¹

Desmond and Frances Doss

I was thrilled when we knew Medal of Honor recipient Desmond T. Doss and his wife, Frances, would be staying with my wife, Janette, and me. They attended our church for a special Veteran’s Day weekend. Adventist and nonAdventist veterans alike were inspired by their simple and thrilling presentation of how God had enabled Desmond to save 75 men in the worst of enemy fire.

While Desmond Doss was the hero, Frances was also a hero. She provided organization, as well as keener hearing and sight due to Desmond’s wounds in the army. As I watched them drive away in their modest car for their next appointment, I could not help but notice the happiness in their eyes. You, too, can see this in the cover picture and other pictures. No wonder, for happiness comes not through large wealth, but from the values we have, and being able to pass those values on to others.

There can be no doubt about the values Desmond and Frances had and wanted to pass on. Desmond clearly states these in the preface of Frances’s book on Desmond’s experiences published in 2000. He states: “Frances and I have dedicated our lives to Christ and given Him first place in our

hearts. As a result He has given us a greater love for each other than we ever thought possible, and we have never been happier. My main interest is to encourage you, our readers, to choose to dedicate your lives to the Lord and be ready to meet Him at his soon return.”²



Desmond and Frances Doss enjoy Sabbath dinner at Tom and Janette Carter’s home.

It is not happenstance that Desmond’s story is being shown on NBC this summer. He worked long and hard with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to insure his story would continue as a witness to the Lord. He also planned his modest estate so his values would live on. Mitch Hazekamp, director of planned giving and trust services at Georgia-Cumberland Conference, reports, “Desmond Doss is remembered for his legendary heroism during World War II when he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Books have been written, and a full-length documentary film graphically portrays his life story. He left much of his humble estate, including his life story, to those who meant the most to him — God, his Church, his family, his country, and his fellow man, especially the youth. His legacy is preserved in the values he left behind.”

Why 9 out of 10 Estates Fail

Desmond Doss, Frances Duman Doss, and Desmond’s first wife of almost 50 years, Dorothy Schutte Doss, are all now sleeping in Jesus. Unfortunately, most people do not make plans to pass on their values as Desmond did. While we might

quibble about the exact number of estates to fail, Perry Cochell and Rodney Zeeb have spent more than two decades of research and state, “The overwhelming odds are that what you really wanted to leave your family probably won’t be anything like what they will actually receive That’s because as we have learned through our own research and experience, in nine out of ten cases, the things your family truly need to thrive and prosper across the years won’t even be discussed during your estate planning process.”³ The authors go on to explain what is missing that makes estates fail: “What is missing, what has always been missing, is a broader context underlying the financial and estate plans we develop. A context based on historical reality, one that acknowledges and appreciates the role of the unique values that have shaped and guided

your family for generations.”⁴

So whether or not estates fail involves more than getting the maximum amount of money to our beneficiaries without being diminished by legal disputes, taxes, and court costs. In fact, the more money passed with no thought of values may make failure more certain. “People who receive ‘sudden’ money without any accompanying values often become hoarders. Or, conversely, they may become habitual over-spenders, shopping with no concern for their dwindling bank balances. Quite often, they use money as a tool to control others, particularly family members. Controllers can devastate their children’s lives, dangling money like a carrot on a stick to encourage children to go to the right school, get the right job, or marry the right person.”⁵



The late Charles Edward Dudley Sr., and his wife, Etta Maycock Dudley. Their story is included in the free booklet offered on page 7.

We all want to give our children the very best and long for them to be happy. There is a period when our children are given to our care to especially support, train, and guide. But in a healthy relationship they must become self-reliant. So comes the rather awkward time of discovering how to be independent rather than dependent. Eventually real maturity comes in developing interdependent relation-

ships both with our children and others. Recognizing that we all are completely dependent upon God, He still wants an interdependent relationship with us. From the Garden of Eden, which God turned over to Adam and Eve to manage, to the final giving of the “Gospel to all the world,” God has always made Himself interdependent upon His stewards. This concept will help all of us avoid being hoarders, reckless spenders, or over controllers.

A Value-centered Inheritance

Let’s be clear about what money can and cannot do: “Money will buy a luxurious bed, but it cannot guarantee a good night’s sleep. It can buy a magnificent library, but not brains, nor the discipline to educate yourself; gourmet food, but not a healthy appetite. Money can buy designer clothing and jewelry, but not true beauty. It can purchase a house, but never a home; state-of-the-art medicine, but not health; luxuries, but not culture or taste; temporary amusements, but not lasting happiness; religion, but not salvation. Money, in fact, can buy a ticket to just about everywhere but Heaven.”⁶

Obviously, we want to leave our family more than just money. Cochell and Zeeb go on to explain this better inheritance: “But there is another kind of inheritance we receive and give, an inheritance that is far more powerful, and ultimately more meaningful, than money. That is an emotional inheritance; one we receive over a lifetime from other family members, friends, teachers, religious leaders, coaches, and other significant people in our lives It is this emotional inheritance (added to and enriched by your own life experience and living example) that you will pass on to your family and other people you know, whether or not you leave anything amounting to a financial inheritance. This emotional legacy is no less than the sum total of your life experience as evidenced by the values by which you lived. Values

such as work, faith, philanthropy, and honesty.”⁷ Does this mean you should ignore planning your estate? Not at all. Because of the importance of these values to you, you want to make sure that your final distribution is in harmony with the values and principles you have believed and lived during your life.

Planning Your Estate in Harmony with Your Family Mission and Christian Values

If your goal is only to pass on money, you will likely fail. While Cochell and Zeeb refer to a 90 percent failure rate, another study refers to a 70 percent world-wide failure rate: “Referring to the most recent studies, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the *Economist* independently cite the world-wide phenomenon of a 70 percent failure rate in wealth transitions. Remarkably, it didn’t seem to matter where in the world the transition took place. Countries with no estate taxes, or a ‘New World Economy’ or ‘Old World Economy,’ all had similar results — a 70 percent failure rate from one generation to the next.”⁸ This seems to verify the Chinese Proverb: “Wealth never survives three generations.”

But thank God there is a way to beat the odds. By putting God, your family mission, and your Christian values first, what you value most can survive not just to the next generation but for all eternity. Christ put it this way: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” Matthew 6:19-21 NKJ. This includes, but involves much more than, giving to the official work of the Lord. It means that the primary motivation in handling our time, talents, and our material possessions is to obtain and pass on eternal val-



Desmond and Frances Doss

ues. When this happens, as Christ pointed out, it demonstrates where our heart is, placing all that we have safely in the “Bank of Heaven.”

I knew and helped settle an estate of a woman who was a Church school teacher. I believe she demonstrated her desire to pass on these eternal values by putting the following in her will: “My deceased husband and I worshipped God in accordance with the faith of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and my husband during his lifetime, our son, and I have all enjoyed the goodness and kindness of God at all times, and in harmony with the desires of my deceased husband, which I share, I am seeking hereby

to devise our humble property so that it will, after my death, continue to assist the work of God on Earth through our Church, and also be of some assistance to our son, and his family, and in the training of his children, in the hope and belief that

our family will remain united in Heaven.”

Only you can assess your values and how these can be most effectively passed on if something should happen to you. Your conference or university planned giving and trust services department stand ready to help you and even to provide the cost of legal drafting within the constraints of their resources and good legal ethics.

Request for Free Consultation and Booklet

Tear off the attached form and send it to Southern Union Planned Giving & Trust Services as indicated.

Put the name of the conference or university if you would like them to contact you. Also, you can mark for us to send you a beautiful booklet sharing stories from every Southern Union conference and university, and examples of legal ways you can pass on your values.

G. Tom Carter is planned giving and trust services director at the Southern Union Conference.

Endnotes

- 1 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p.429.
- 2 Francis M. Doss, *Desmond Doss - In God's Care*, College Press, Collegedale, TN, Preface (2000).
- 3 Perry L. Cochell and Rodney C. Zeeb, *Beating the Midas Curse*, West Linn, Oregon, Heritage Institute Press, Inc., p. 6 (2005).
- 4 Ibid, p. 31.
- 5 Ibid, p. 47.
- 6 Ibid, p. 49.
- 7 Ibid, pp. 45,46.
- 8 Roy Williams & Vic Preisser, *Preparing Heirs - Five Steps to a Successful Transition of Family Wealth and Values*, Robert Reed Publishers, San Francisco, p. 17 (2003).

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A Vision for the Church

BY PAT HUMPHREY

Shortly after Ted Wilson's election as president of the World Church during the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, Pat Humphrey, associate communication director for the Southwestern Union, Bursleson, Texas, and associate editor of the Record, talked with the new president about his vision for the Church. Following are some excerpts from that conversation.

PH: What is your vision for the Church? What do you want to see happen in this Church under your leadership?

TW: One of the greatest challenges that we face is to try to humble ourselves before the Lord. We must ask the Lord to bring us into a condition where we are revived, and then allow a true reformation in our lives to set the stage for the latter rain. The Spirit of Prophecy has told us that our greatest need is a revival of true godli-

ness. That's our greatest need! So I think that probably is highest on my agenda for the Church itself.

When it comes to the way we do our mission outreach, one of the greatest challenges that we face is the use of media. How do we reach the millions of people in areas that are very difficult to penetrate? How do we use the Internet? How do we use television, radio, print media, and all these various facets of technical outreach? How do we reach — and this is one of the greatest challenges that we have

— the 50 percent of the population of this world who now live in the large cities? How do we break into those cities? We're going to be giving strong emphasis to urban evangelism, urban ministry, and how to work in these great cities.

We also need to utilize the tremendous resource of our young people. I'm not just talking about putting them on committees and

that kind of thing, which has been a source of concern on the floor and, certainly, there is a place for that. But you don't necessarily accomplish things in committees. The committees can help to guide, but you accomplish things out where the people are. And that's where young people shine the most. They are just full of energy and they are willing to dedicate their lives, and we've got to harness that power in an even greater way. There are a lot of things we're going to be looking at. I have a long list, but I really hope that with a spiritual approach, the Holy Spirit will be able to set free the creative ideas that young people have, that women have, that men have, that everybody has, so that [together] we can finish this great work that God has entrusted to His people.

PH: What are some of the other major challenges we are facing as the Seventh-day Adventist Church today?

TW: I would say that one of the biggest challenges we're going to have is the discussion and dispute that is occurring now, and that will occur, on the authoritative voice of God in Scripture. [Dealing with the question of] Is the Word of God truly an authoritative source? Unfortunately, the tendency in much of the world theologically and, gladly, not that much in Adventist circles, is the tendency to use what is called higher criticism, where the individual is the arbiter as to what is inspired and what is not. Whereas the Spirit of Prophecy tells us that we are to read the Scripture as it is. When the Lord says He created the Earth in six days and rested on the seventh day, that is a literal understanding and not some allegorical, figurative allusion. So I think attacks on the credibility of Scripture — the authoritative aspect of Scripture — is probably one of the most important situations that we will face.

Another thing is the Spirit of Prophecy, which, I believe, is one of the greatest gifts God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We would not be a people as we are today if it were not for the Spirit of Prophecy. I would just appeal to people — because obviously, I am a great believer in the Spirit of Prophecy — to, rather than to criticize it or to ignore it, I would just urge them to read it and let the Holy Spirit speak to them as they read it. Read the *Testimonies*, books on health and education, and you will see that it is God-inspired. And, it's a blessing to the Church.

PH: What kind of progress are we making as a Church in resolving some of the concerns people have expressed — such issues as the role of women, and youth in the Church, and Creation?

TW: I think we're making progress. Obviously, there will always be differences of opinion. And I would hope we would not get into highly divisive fractious

fighting that will make people bitter, because that is counterproductive. I think one has to simply use the Word of God as the first line of understanding and defense. Let me put it this way. Our Church started out with people coming together who had divergent views about various doctrinal ideas, and they simply prayed together; they knelt, they agonized with the Lord and as they did that, the Lord revealed, either through the ministry of Ellen White or the impact of the Holy Spirit, a more general consensus about a particular doctrine. And when we come together in a prayerful, respectful way, I believe the Holy Spirit, as Scripture says, will lead us into all truth. It doesn't mean, I suppose, that we will always all agree, but I just have the hope that as Jesus prayed in John 17 that His people might be one, that we will submit ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit so that truly we can become one.

PH: How did you feel when you were asked to take the helm of the World Church? Tell me about your leadership style and your philosophy of leadership.

TW: Obviously, when I was told, I just felt this heaviness that almost smothers you. You realize that this is a job beyond any human ability, and fortunately, this is not a job that is only focused on the president. We have a committee system in our Church. We do not have a presidential system. It is not just the "CEO" who "calls all the shots." We work together in a collegial way. That responsibility is shared with other leaders and with

other individuals who can help shoulder the burden. You don't know how reassuring it's been for me. I've received scores and scores and scores of e-mails, and practically the one thing that I hear from almost everybody is, "We are praying for you." And let me tell you, that is so reassuring and I need prayers more than anything else. I need the wisdom of God. I try to claim James 1:5 every morning to ask God for wisdom, because I don't have it.

It's an incredible, humbling experience, and I cannot do it on my own and I covet your prayers.

In terms of leadership style, I like to be rather informal. I like to get participation. I like to hear people's

views. I like to come to a consensus. I believe in servant leadership. I like for people to feel that I'm accessible and that other leaders are accessible. I like to have a balanced approach in which we listen carefully to people, we are fair with people, and we don't brush people off. Leadership involves a lot of listening, a lot of praying, and then careful analysis and asking the Lord to guide us in the right way. And if we make a mistake, we shouldn't be too proud to say, "Well, maybe we ought to try this way." You need to be flexible and open, and in the long run, to realize that leadership really is to depend wholly on the Lord. I absolutely believe that. He will not leave us without direction. This is the object of His supreme regard — this precious Church — and I have every confidence that God will give us the answers to the challenges we face.



“SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST”

The 150th Anniversary of Choosing the Denomination’s Name



Adventists around the world will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the selection of the name “Seventh-day Adventist” on October 1, 2, 2010. This article provides background and suggestions for observing this historic occasion at your local church or school.

Historic Rationale for Weekend:

On October 1, 1860, a group of Sabbath-keeping Adventists met in the Second Meeting House in Battle Creek, Michigan, to organize the fledgling Church’s publishing work. As part of that process, the name “Seventh-day Adventist” was chosen, not only for the soon-to-be-incorporated publishing house, but the name also was recommended to our local churches. In short, October 1, 2010,

marks the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the name “Seventh-day Adventist.”

Purpose:

It is suggested that this historically significant anniversary be used as a time for every member and local congregation, as well as other church institutions and organizations, to reflect seriously on the significance of the name “Seventh-day Adventist” in terms of what they are doing individually and corporately. Rather than merely recalling the past, as important as that is for any organization to do, or celebrating an important milestone in the denomination’s history, as commendable and enjoyable as such commemorations are, more important still

is the candid consideration of what the name “Seventh-day Adventist” signifies today. This should include visioning regarding how to retain our distinctive identity, mission, and message in the present, and until Jesus returns. It should also include a call to action — urging every Seventh-day Adventist worldwide to be actively involved in the life and mission of the Church. Helping members to recover their Adventist identity as well as to regain a healthy kind of pride at being a Seventh-day Adventist are among the things that it also is hoped will result from the anniversary weekends.

Venues (Worldwide):

Every church member and local congregation, as well as all other



Church institutions and organizations, are encouraged to use the time immediately surrounding the anniversary date to seriously consider anew the meaning of our denomination's Adventist identity today as an agent of proclamation of message and mission — individually and collectively. Therefore members, churches, and other institutions and organizations are encouraged to utilize appropriate means for accomplishing this worldwide. The suggested weekend for this to happen is October 1 and 2, 2010, though any time during the month of October would be appropriate.

Resources:

A website has been developed: “www.150SDA.org” on which re-

sources dealing with the history and significance of the name “Seventh-day Adventist” are being placed. It contains resource materials for use by individuals, churches, schools, health institutions, etc. Included will be sermon ideas/outlines, suggestions for classroom activities, discussion questions, responsive readings, children's stories, background information regarding historic hymns, reproductions of historic documents, graphics for posters and bulletin inserts, public relations notices, etc. These materials will be made available in multiple languages.

Promotion:

This event can create a synergy that extends far beyond the boundaries of any one entity. The editors of several denominational publications have agreed to print announcements and relevant articles dealing with the significance of the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” In addition, all other avenues of Church communication/promotion are being explored, including official public relations outlets (in collaboration with the General Conference Public Relations Department); the Hope Channel; Internet websites and departmental and organizational electronic newsletters; and various Church publications directed toward individual lay members, including various age and service groups, health institutions, academic institutions, and Church departments worldwide, including especially youth ministries.

Desired Results from These Weekends:

- Greater awareness by participants as to how our church name has been — and continues to be — crucial to our identity
- Heightened appreciation and involvement by participants in the life and witness of the Church's unique prophetic mission and message
- Specific discussions and plans on the part of congregations and individual members as to how they can better convey the identity and message of the Church to their publics
- Particular engagement of children,

- youth, and new members in weekend activities
- Specific discussion and plans as to how denominational institutions can enhance their Church identity
- Greater collegiality resulting from weekend discussions and activities
- Concrete ideas for maintaining the focus on Church identity initiated during this weekend

A website has been developed: “www.150SDA.org” on which resources dealing with the history and significance of the name “Seventh-day Adventist” are being placed.

Friday evening or Sabbath School — possible programming ideas:

- Short video clips of Seventh-day Adventists from around the world describing what it means to them to be a Seventh-day Adventist: Clips of short interviews with people on the street asking what, if anything, they know about Seventh-day Adventists can also be shown. (If not shown Friday evening, some of these short video clips can be shown Sabbath morning during Sabbath School.)
- Video clips of historic Adventist sites, not merely in the United States where the church was founded, but also from other historic sites around the world: A new short [7-10 minutes] video on the earliest beginnings of the church also needs to be developed. (If not shown Friday evening, some of these short videos can be shown Sabbath morning during Sabbath School.)
- Early Adventist hymns interspersed with stories, especially regarding the Sabbath and the Second Coming
- Historical presentation on choosing the name “Seventh-day Adventist” and what doing so meant historically, down to the present
- A play or other activities utilizing children or young people from the school or congregation
- Conduct a season of prayer seeking God's blessing on the anniversary

activities that something significant in your local community will happen as a result of the anniversary weekend. (Beginning a number of weeks prior to the anniversary weekend, it is recommended that members be encouraged to pray for the anniversary weekend, and that special seasons of prayer be included in church services and other church activities.)

- Develop a time line and map showing the advance of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide from its founding in 1863 until the present.
- Regular Sabbath School lesson is recommended — even if the class time is shortened due to other special program features today. (In Sabbath Schools where a program is no longer included, it is suggested that today all classes meet together for a special anniversary program.)
- The anniversary should also be featured in the children's divisions.

Church — suggested sermon theme(s)/possibilities:

A pastor or local elder may want to consider a series of sermons about Adventist identity during the month of October, rather than just the sermon on the first Sabbath of the month. In that case, topics might include the historical background of choosing the name “Seventh-day Adventist,” the on-going relevance of observing the seventh-day Sabbath, the significance of the Second Coming in the life of the Church today, and the concept of a remnant people before Christ returns, including a review of their prophetic mission and message.

In short, whether the commemoration is only on October 2, 2010, or if it is longer, the focus should be to help members, whether young or old, long-time or recent converts, more clearly to identify with the Church and its mission.

The topic for the Annual Council sermon would be particularly appropriate if a church chooses only to focus on October 2, 2010 — the connection between the name “Seventh-day Adventist” and the Three Angels’ Message. The sermon should also

include thanksgiving for God’s leading in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; a call for recommitment to action, and a thanksgiving and consecration prayer for God’s on-going blessing on the local church as it seeks to impact its community.

Congregational singing of early Adventist hymns on the Sabbath and Second Coming of Christ would add interest to the service.

A new responsive reading created for use in churches this weekend focusing on the Sabbath and Second Coming and the prophetic mission of the Church needs to be prepared. It should contain creative group interaction with more than two reading groups included in it: children, women, men, elders and pastors. A version that can be used by small churches with few members should also be invited.

Special music could also feature an Adventist theme.

Fellowship Dinner:

Every church member should be invited to participate in the fellowship dinner. It can be a time for joyous celebration while fellowshiping together as members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church family. If the young people want to decorate the fellowship hall, or the dinner facilitators want to provide a 150th anniversary cake, this would be the time to do so.

If inviting the mayor or other civic leaders is desired, it is suggested that such individuals be invited to the fellowship dinner. Both the morning and afternoon services should be historically and spiritually focused specifically for Seventh-day Adventist members. In contrast, the fellowship dinner with its focus being more on fellowship would be an ideal time to invite the mayor or other local civic leaders to enjoy a healthful Seventh-day Adventist meal, plus give an opportunity to offer congratulations to the church members in attendance.

Sabbath afternoon — possible programming ideas:

Every church member should be invited to remain for the afternoon program following the fellowship

dinner. The afternoon program could include such things as:

- Congregational singing of hymns pertaining to the Sabbath and Second Coming (resources for such are provided on the website)
 - The young people might be asked to provide a play about either choosing the name “Seventh-day Adventist” or some other significant event in early Adventist history.
 - Focus groups, with reporting, or panel discussion
 - Informative video to evoke discussion
 - A local Adventist pioneer or another member could share history of congregation
 - A discussion led by either the pastor or head elder could engage the entire church membership. Suggested thought/discussion:
 - In what ways does the name “Seventh-day Adventist” connect us as a worldwide movement?
 - What specifically about the name “Seventh-day Adventist” informs and impels our on-going evangelistic and humanitarian activities as a Church?
 - How does the name “Seventh-day Adventist” make a difference in my life personally or in my town, city, or country collectively — both historically and currently? In what ways can that difference be enhanced in the future?
 - If I were not a Seventh-day Adventist, or if there were no Seventh-day Adventist presence (church, school, clinic, hospital, etc.) in my village, city, or country, would it make a difference to me individually or to my town or country? If so, how/in what ways?
- As a local church, are we involving our young people and new members in the life of the Church as effectively as we might? If not, in what ways can we help them better identify positively with being Seventh-day Adventists?

If ever we lose our Adventist identity, what will happen to our children and grandchildren as a result of losing their unique Adventist roots?

“Follow the Bible” Closes in the Southern Union

After traveling 20 months through more than 100 countries, the 18”x12” Bible made appearances at several sites in the Southern Union. Licci Zemleduch, Southern Union Follow the Bible coordinator, and R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director, carried it to Orlando and Deland, Fla., Collegedale, Tenn., Huntsville, Ala., Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Ala., Madison, Tenn., Asheville, N.C., and finally Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain, Ga., before it ended its journey at the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga.

The celebration at Stone Mountain was a joyful event. Nearly 400 people from South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences gathered to witness a ceremony that, as Joel Barrios, pastor of the Atlanta First Hispanic Church in Tucker, Ga., mentioned in his speech, had the purpose of reaffirming the decision of making the principles of the Bible the basis and authority in each life. He presented the Scriptures not as an object of worship, but as the main channel through which God has communicated, and will continue to communicate His restorative plan to all generations, as well as His love and mercifulness,

source of peace and joy to those who allow its transforming power to change their lives.

The group “Voz de Mujer,” Amanda Perez and Mayra Tirado, praised the Lord with their music. The Pathfinders marched and sang, and many countries were represented by their flags. Officers from the Southern Union and Georgia-Cumberland conferences — Randy Robinson, Dennis Millburn, Jorge Mayer, and Neftaly Ortiz — joined the group in praise. There was also a short ceremony in which the Bible was passed from generation to generation within a family. Near the end of the event, people from Brazil, United States, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Colombia, Korea, and Indonesia read in their own languages, the

message found in Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever.”

For now, the Bible will continue its journey through time, until the day when men will be able to com-

municate “face to face with God, and shall know just as we are also known,” 1 Corinthians 13:12.

To see more Follow the Bible photos, visit www.southernunion.com

—BY MARIEL LOMBARDI



NATHAN ZINNER



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Licci Zemleduch (center), Southern Union Follow the Bible coordinator, passes the Bible that traveled around the world to John Bwalya Sikazwe of Zambia, while Ken Wiebe, president of the Manitoba-Sakatchewan Conference looks on.

Adventist Hospitals Partner to Share the Health Message at 59th General Conference Session

Seventh-day Adventist Hospitals from around the United States were well represented at the 59th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta, Ga., June 23-July 3. Representatives from Adventist Health System, Adventist Health, Adventist Healthcare, and Kettering Health Network partnered in a coalition to form “SDA Healthcare United States.” Together they shared the Seventh-day Adventist health message and how it is lived out in each Adventist hospital.

“SDA Healthcare United States” was one of hundreds of booths that lined the colossal exhibit hall. All of which were hosted by organizations and individuals sharing about their efforts to further the Church’s mission.

“It was an amazing ex-



GC attendees learn more about Seventh-day Adventist hospitals in their area through the interactive touch screen tour.

perience to meet Seventh-day Adventist Christians from all over the world and to stand in a space so full of ministry,” says Kristen Harmon, recruiter from Adventist Health System Information Services. “I loved the healing, creative theme of our booth and enjoyed



Attendees at the 59th General Conference Session were invited to take a free health assessment. Representatives from Seventh-day Adventist health organizations were available to help and explain their results.

having an opportunity to speak French again!”

At the “SDA Healthcare United States” booth, participants were invited to take a free health assessment which consisted of various questions relating to their diet, exercise, and overall lifestyle. Based on their answers, participants received a report outlining potential health risks, and their “health age;” the age that their bodies function and feel like, as opposed to their chronological age. The report also provided tips on how to improve overall health and wellness, highlighting areas where participants are already striving, as well as areas that may need more attention.

“It was exciting to see so many GC attendees eager to learn more about how to live a healthy, vibrant life,” says Rita Waterman, Adventist Health assistant vice president for corporate communications. “Our health risk assessment provided personalized and practical tips.”

Participants were also given the opportunity to learn more about individual Seventh-day Adventist hospitals through an interactive touch screen. Hospital information, areas of specialty, and local food information were provided for each facility.

The “SDA Healthcare



William Villegas (right) speaks to a participant who just completed his free health assessment. Attendees enjoyed the interactive learning experience at the “SDA Healthcare United States” booth.

United States” booth demonstrated that no matter which Seventh-day Adventist hospital you attend, you are guaranteed to receive care centered around a shared mission: extending Christ’s healing ministry to everyone served.

—BY JULIE ZAIBACK



Kristen Harmon assists an attendee with her health assessment.

World-Traveling Bible Reaches Collegedale

Follow the Bible, a world-traveling Bible that was on its way to the General Conference Session, made its appearance in Collegedale, Tenn., on June 14, 2010. The Bible was welcomed by audiences at the Collegedale Church, Morning Pointe of Collegedale at Greenbriar Cove, and Southern Adventist



Myron Jenkins talks with COOL Camp students at the Collegedale Church about the importance of reading the Bible.

preacher on horseback was also part of the program. At Morning Pointe, several of the assisted living home residents could identify with the time when circuit-riding preachers was the norm. One of the residents, Mildred Guinn, shared that her own great uncle was a circuit-riding preacher in Texas.

After participants read

from the Bible in various languages, the attendees received reading guide bookmarks for reading the Bible in a year.

“This was a historical moment, and I had to come see this traveling Bible for myself,” says Joe White, a Collegedale resident. “I do read the Bible, but now I’m encouraged to read it even more.”

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

University.
At each site in Collegedale, a circuit-riding

Professor Writes Book Defending Ellen White

Jud Lake, religion professor at Southern, has written a book outlining answers to many of the questions and controversies surrounding Ellen White’s writings and prophetic gifts.

Ellen White Under Fire: Identifying the Mistakes of Her Critics, is a 350-page book written in response to the negative campaigns against Ellen White on the web and in publications.

According to Lake, the

book is heavily referenced due to the intensity of the criticism against White.

“This book is not light reading,” says Lake. “I carefully researched everything the critics have said as well as everything we have said in response to them in the past and present.”

Ellen White Under Fire places importance on understanding the literary and historical contexts of

White’s writings as essential for understanding her message. For example, in his response to the question of cosmetics, Lake writes: “Critics say they rarely hear of any deaths caused by the wearing of cosmetics. Although this may be true today, in 1871, when Ellen White wrote this statement, enameling and vermilion, both deadly concoctions, were used in cosmetic products.”

Since 2006, Lake has been maintaining a website focusing specifically on answering Ellen White criticisms: www.ellenwhiteanswers.org. He plans to continue posting articles and also writing material supplementing his book on this site.

The book can be found through local Adventist Book Centers or through Amazon.com.

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

Student Evangelists Witness Life-Changing Moments

Ana Medal, a nursing student who graduated in May, stood in a field in Rwanda making an appeal to come to Christ. As she continued her appeal, Medal was shocked to see 40 young adults come out of nowhere and make their way to where she was standing. These students at a nearby college had been listening to her sermons over loudspeakers, and when she made her call,

they poured out of the dorms to give their lives to Christ.



Autumn Davis, a junior allied health major at Southern, led these men and women to baptism while participating in evangelism in Rwanda this summer.

This was just one of the many miraculous moments experienced by students as they preached evangelistic series in Rwanda, Honduras, Guatemala, and Malaysia with Southern’s Evangelistic Resource Center this summer.

Carlos Martin, Ph.D., professor of evangelism and missions, was inspired by what he saw the students doing.

“The students drew tears from my eyes when I saw them preaching in the open air, when I saw them appealing for one more soul, and when I saw them hugging those who came forward,” says Martin. “I thanked God for them! Our students honor the tradition of Southern *Missionary College!*”

—BY BRITTANY RUSSELL

Silver Creek School Becomes EDGE Certified

The Silver Creek Adventist School in Morganton, N.C., was awarded the Adventist EDGE “School of Excellence” certification by the Southern Union Office of Education on April 1, 2010. The Silver Creek School earned this award for their commitment to GREAT education. GREAT is an acronym meaning **G**od-centered;

Results oriented; an **E**nvironment that is safe and nurturing; **A**ligned with national, state, and Adventist standards;



RON QUICK

Pictured left to right, back row: Conrad Gill, Southern Union education director; Gracie Culpepper, registrar for the EDGE Office of Certification; Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union associate education director; and Gary Rouse, Carolina education superintendent. Left to right, front row: Eugene Brewer, Southern Union education development specialist; Kimberly Nicholson, Silver Creek teacher; Wanda Beck, Silver Creek principal; Heidi Kneller, Silver Creek teacher; Pamela Forbes, Carolina associate education superintendent; and Barry Maborney, Morganton Church pastor.

and is a **T**eam effort. Silver Creek is the eighth school in the Southern Union and the first school in the Carolina Conference to receive this certification. A special award celebration was held at Morganton Church on June 19, to officially present the Award to school leaders. They have certainly worked hard to reach this achievement, and should be commended for their commitment to Adventist Education.

—BY MELISSA COUSER

Traveling Bible Stops at Arden Church

Licci Zemleduch (third from right), Southern Union Follow the Bible coordinator, carried a very special traveling Bible to the Carolinas, and stopped at Arden Church on Father's Day, June 20. The 18"x12" Bible has nearly 1,500 pages written in 66 different languages. It traveled to more than 100 countries, including the Philippines, Iceland, Africa, and the Dominican Republic.

The unique experience began on Sunday afternoon as the Pathfinders and Adventurers prepared for their “Pledge to the Bible” march through Fletcher Community Park. As they carried

the Bible through the park, they waved international flags, sang songs, and passed out Bibles to those who requested them. WLOS ABC News 13 in Asheville, N.C., provided media coverage. In the afternoon the celebration moved to Arden Church, where the Pathfinders and Adventurers once again marched in behind the special Bible. The program began with a prayer from Rabbi Andy Meyerson, followed by verses from the Bible read in different languages, including Romanian, Finnish, Portuguese, German, Swahili, and more. They also shared the history of “Follow the Bible” and



BECKY CARPENTER

experiences of the Bible in the mission field.

Follow the Bible was an initiative of the General Conference to inspire a deeper interest in reading the Bible. Since fall 2008 this special Bible has been traveling the world, end-

ing its two-year trip at the opening of the 59th General Conference Session in June in Atlanta, Ga. The Carolina Conference was proud to have Arden Church serve as one of the last stops during its journey.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER

Hickory Member is One-Millionth VOP Graduate

New Hickory Church member Victoria Fullbright is the one-millionth graduate from the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Bible School headquarters in Simi Valley, Calif.

Fullbright, a 20-year-old college student, attended Sunday School as a child, but during her teen years she drifted away. In early 2009, while going through an extremely difficult time in her life, she found Lesson One of the VOP *Discover Bible Guide* in her mailbox. She had not requested them and has no idea who sent them. She says, "They just appeared."

Fullbright eagerly studied the guides as they



Victoria Fullbright and Kurt Johnson

arrived. Her instructor at the Bible School, Anna, wrote notes of encouragement and support that assisted in Fullbright's spiritual journey.

A study about the Sabbath changed her life. She was impressed that she should worship on Saturday. One Sabbath in September 2009, she woke

early under deep conviction that she was to attend church that day. She found the address of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in her hometown of Hickory, N.C. With apprehension, she drove to the address and entered.

The members at Hickory Church immediately made her feel welcomed and wanted. She continued to attend each Sabbath, and as the Holy Spirit encouraged Fullbright to fully accept Jesus as her Lord, she made her decision and sealed it in the waters of baptism on December 26, 2009.

Kurt Johnson, director of the VOP Bible School, says, "Victoria exemplifies

the purpose of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School — to lead people into a relationship with Jesus and involve them in a study of the Bible, which leads to a faith in God that meets their needs on this Earth and the assurance of eternal life."

The Bible School was begun in February 1942, just four weeks after VOP radio broadcasts went coast-to-coast. Total graduates worldwide now number several million from VOP schools serving 140 countries.

In North America, more than 2,000 churches operate local Discover Bible Schools under VOP auspices.

—CONTRIBUTED
BY VOP

CHIP Program a Big Success in Concord



KEN FORD

It was the largest-attended CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) leadership training workshop in presenter Dena Guthrie's lecturing career. And it was the largest in the history of the Carolina Conference. Seventy attendees from almost 20 Carolina churches descended on the Concord, N.C., Church campus

for a weekend of health lectures and healthy food, April 9-11, 2010. Physicians, lawyers, nurses and pastors were sprinkled throughout the group. Guthrie, Adventist CHIP program development director, said that the food the Concord members prepared was the best she had ever tasted at a workshop.

An overriding question

throughout the workshop was, "Do you eat to live or live to eat?" Heart disease is killing more Americans than the equivalent of two packed passenger jumbo jets crashing a day. More than two-thirds of all deaths in the United States are related to diet. And thanks to obesity-related health issues, this will be the first generation to live shorter

lives than their parents.

The CHIP program is about personal choice. At the end of the workshop, participants were challenged to go back to their churches, to "be a cotton ball" and deliver the exciting, life-changing news about healthy lifestyles to their fellow members in a kind, gentle manner.

—BY KEN FORD

Workers Honored for Years of Ministry Leadership



Frank (left) and Maxine Barton with Mike Cauley, Conference president

Frank and Maxine Barton were honored June 21, 2010, at the Florida Conference office in Winter Park, for 21 years of volunteer leadership service in prison ministries, disaster relief warehouse management, and ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries).

After Frank shared his testimony with Conference co-workers, Mike Cauley, president, expressed words of gratitude in addition to those on a plaque, which included, "Well done, good and faithful servant." The Bartons look forward to retirement in Paris, Tenn.



Richard Shepard (left) and Mike Cauley

Richard Shepard received an award of appreciation at the 16th Annual Retirees Retreat from Mike Cauley, Conference president, for his leadership since he started the gatherings in 1994 at the request of then-President Obed Graham.

Arrangements for this year's event — which included guest speaker Ron Watts and a variety of inspirational music — was the last for Shepard who turned the leadership reins over to Noel Shanko, assistant to the Conference president.

Don and Lenora Copsey Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary



Don and Lenora Copsey

The weekend of April 10, 2010, held surprises for Don and Lenora Copsey as the Avon Park Church couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

The celebration began on Sabbath when the Copsey's children came

to visit from out of state: their son, Terry, and his wife, Toni, arrived from New Hampshire, followed by their son, Tim, and his wife, Jill, from Washington State.

Sunday afternoon their church family arranged a catered dinner in the decorated fellowship hall with a program of music and a poem written for the occasion.

A time of reminiscing revealed that Don attended Union College in Lincoln, Nebr., after he returned from the Army in 1947 and began preparing for the ministry. He met

Lenora after her parents retired from farming in North Dakota and moved to Lincoln, where Lenora studied organ and piano. Later, Don attended the seminary at Potomac University for a master's degree in systematic theology, and Michigan State University for a master's in pastoral counseling.

During 40-plus years in the ministry, Don served as a pastor in South Dakota and Michigan, a Bible teacher in Brazil, and a departmental director in Upper Columbia and Michigan conferences, as well as a 20-year,

career-ending stretch at Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Mich. While living there, Lenora worked at Andrews University, where her last position placed her in charge of special events in the food service area.

Two years after Don officially retired at the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis, Ind., the Copses moved to Avon Park, Fla. Today, Don serves as an elder in Avon Park Church while Lenora plays the piano and organ for services.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK
AND DON COPSEY

Pathfinder Receives Martin Luther King Award

Michael Brooks, a 16-year-old Pathfinder at Southpoint Church in Jacksonville, Fla., was honored for the second year in a row at the city's 23rd Annual MLK (Martin Luther King) Breakfast as one of Tomorrow's Leaders.

This award, given for academic excellence and service commitment to the city of Jacksonville, was based on Brooks' volunteer work at homeless shelters, helping others in the community, and academic achievements.

He also raised funds for the Adventist school his father attended as a child in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. When Brooks visited the school and saw the needs, he began to raise money with the help of family and friends, saved money from



CARMEN ROSA-BROOKS

Michael Brooks (left) is pictured with Chris Drechsler, a Southpoint Pathfinder counselor and former director for more than 25 years, at the club's most recent induction ceremony.

his Christmas and birthday gifts, and collected aluminum cans. He sent \$1,000 to the school with a challenge

for the students to make needed repairs, beautify the school, and give back to their community.

Brooks' remarkable story began before his birth when his parents were told he had a rare genetic disease that would not give him quality of life — or even guarantee him life at all. Trusting in God, his parents prayed through the pregnancy, and Brooks was born at 28 weeks of gestation, weighing just three pounds. At five pounds, he had open-heart surgery and has endured many complications.

Truly, Brooks is a strong soldier for Christ, and a testimony of God's purpose for his life. Every day Christ manifests himself through him, such as the recent sermon he wrote and delivered during youth day at Southpoint.

—BY CARMEN ROSA-BROOKS

Pastors in Transition

- **Daniel Catangay** – Orlando Filipino
- **Keith Harding** – Pine Hills
- **Ki Seung Jhang** – Tampa Korean
- **Newton King** – Maranatha
- **Nathan Krause** – Winter Haven/Lakeview
- **David Labrador** – Melbourne Spanish/Vero Beach Spanish
- **Alex Pinilla** – University
- **Michael Rhynus** – Celebration associate
- **Benjamin Shurtliff** – Port Charlotte associate
- **Gerald Wasmer** – Daytona Beach

Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs in Tallahassee Get New Start



With the restart of the Capital City Panthers Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs in Tallahassee, young people and volunteer staff were dedicated during a special induction ceremony.

The Capital City Panthers Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs in Tallahassee, Fla., held an induction ceremony for young people and staff members to restart their organizations. Neil Campbell is Pathfinder director at Tallahassee Church and Ruth Campbell is Adventurer director.

Since reorganizing, the two clubs have grown with the help of 10 volunteer staff members, and there are now eight Adventurers and 13 Pathfinders.

—BY RUTH CAMPBELL

Evangelistic Series Shares Hope in Atlanta

After months of planning, the long-anticipated "Searching for Hope" evangelistic series took place June 16-19, 2010. Three featured speakers shared messages of hope simultaneously, with Mark Finley speaking in English, Alejandro Bullón in Spanish, and Nathanael Gracia in Haitian.

"Mark Finley has a good message. I've seen him on 3ABN, I haven't heard him in a long time," shared attendee Larry Watts of Smyrna, Ga. "Honestly, Atlanta is a city that needs hope, and I'm a person who needs hope as well. It's easy to get lost in a city like Atlanta ... He brought it back full-circle — reminded us why we're here and that God loves us."

The event was a joint venture between the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences. It was



TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

More than 970 people were baptized in relation to the Searching for Hope evangelism campaign.

strategically planned to be held in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Ga., just before the 59th General Conference Session took place in the same location. In preparation for the event, 45 Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic churches in the Atlanta area held their own evangelistic series in the weeks leading up to "Searching for Hope."

"We saw first-hand the Holy Spirit actively involved in changing lives," says

Vanard Mendinghall, president of the South Atlantic Conference. "This was one extraordinary initiative. We could see the hand of God moving from the very beginning. The organization, the prayers, the unanimity with Georgia-Cumberland was an added blessing."

"It was a 'special forces' and joint effort of the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic laymen and clergy to challenge the devil's kingdom in the name of Jesus," said Calvin Watkins, South Atlantic community services/inner city ministries director, and Searching for Hope event coordinator.

On the final evening of the series, Sabbath, June 19, the meeting closed with a group of baptismal candidates and church officials marching from the Finley meeting room through the

Georgia World Congress Center to the Bullón meeting room where the baptismal tank was set up. More than 970 people were baptized in the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences as a result of the Searching for Hope evangelism campaign.

"Seeing God at work is always exciting, and this experience was no exception," said Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president. "As our pastors prayed and worked together, strong relationships were built. Challenges were overcome. Members caught the vision. Evangelists preached with anointed power, and decisions were made. I, too, wept as we walked to the baptism in the Georgia World Congress Center, and praised God for every life redeemed."

—BY REBECCA BROOKS

Canton Celebrates Christ's Resurrection with Area Congregation

For the past year, the Canton, Ga., Church has rented its facility to The Quest, a start-up community church that worships on Sunday. The relationship that has developed between their pastor, John Holloway, and Canton's pastor, Todd Leonard, led them to plan a powerful joint weekend worship experience for Easter weekend called "Common Ground."

Common Ground began on Good Friday with a communion experience where the two churches

washed each others' feet and served each other the bread and the juice of communion. Sabbath morning, Canton's worship team led music, and Leonard shared his reflections on the day Jesus was in the tomb. On Sunday, Holloway and The Quest's leadership led both congregations in a celebrative worship in honor of the resurrection.

Comments by members of both congregations were overwhelmingly positive as people recognized how much they share as brothers

and sisters in Christ. Mary Green, Canton member, said, "This was so good. We



Todd Leonard, pastor of the Canton, Ga., Church, speaks Friday night.

must do this again!" Zane Yi said, "It was very moving for me to see the two pastors serving communion together." Lenny and Lindi Petersen, members of The Quest who were close to tears a couple times during the weekend, said, "It was so good for us to be together. We'll be joining you again for worship soon!"

The two churches are planning on more shared events in the future: worshipping, serving, and socializing together.

—BY TODD LEONARD

Youth Sabbath Shows God Leading in Loganville

Since its formation almost seven years ago, the Loganville, Ga., Church has struggled to build a meaningful youth program.

About two-and-a-half years ago, a few members



Robin Treston, the youngest speaker, shares his testimony.

led by Michelle Fentress, David Graves, and Griffin Adkins, determined, with God's help, to develop a youth ministry. At the time Loganville was part of a three-church district, so the

youth leaders of the Loganville, Monroe, and Newton County, Ga., churches teamed up to develop a district youth program. They had activities, talked with the youth, provided spiritual guidance, and showed they cared — and the youth responded. Loganville had

its first Youth Day on May 1, 2010. One of the college-age youth, Abegail Fearon, volunteered to organize the program. Her younger sister, Colleen, volunteered to teach an adult Sabbath School class. Four other youth agreed to share their personal testimonies. Emeka Osuigwe emboldened all to stand for the right even when it isn't popular when he told how he has to miss football games to keep the Sabbath. Robin Treston, the youngest speaker, gave a ringing testimony of how God answers prayer and the sense of uplift he gets when he goes door-to-door. Bap-

tized only a couple years ago, Kemar Hall is living proof of the value of public evangelism. He shared how he had searched for Christ in other churches and Christian rock bands, but it was only when he was introduced to the truth of the Gospel that his search ended.

Other youth participated by playing the piano, leading songs, calling for the offering, reading scripture, telling the children's story, collecting the offering, and performing a skit.

—BY CHRIS JENKINS AND MICHELLE FENTRESS

Morristown Church Teaches English

The Morristown, Tenn., Church decided to offer an English as a Second Language (ESOL) program to members of the Morristown Hispanic Company, and later to extend it to the community at large. A joint venture between the churches began in April and was held through July 1, 2010.

The ESOL program has aimed to teach a survival vocabulary so students would be enabled to conduct business with the institutions of the community. A variety of entertaining methods were used to instruct the adults in

English-language learning.

Rosa Kreaseck, who coordinates the program, understood that there would be a need to provide child care so that a maximum number of adults could attend.

While this initial ESOL program was aimed at Adventist Hispanic church members, the church was glad to have community

members attend through invitations from their Adventist friends.

Attendance records indicate that a total of 33 adults and about 12 children participated in the program, with varying numbers from evening to evening. It is the hope of the two churches to work harmoniously in future outreach programs to garner more souls for God's kingdom. With the economic stress that many families and churches face, collaborative efforts among churches are a way to stretch dollars and foster more interaction with outreach programs.

—BY ROSA KREASECK



A variety of teaching methods were used in the English classes.



The Faatzes Celebrate 66th Anniversary

In February 1944, Jack Faatz and Louise Dixon said "I do" in Norfolk, Va. He was a sailor in World War II. They have four children: Jack Jr., Mary, Marie, and Beth. They now also have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Jack and Louise were baptized in the Adventist Church in 1950. The Lord led them to Laurelbrook School in 1976.

Unexpected Reunion Brings Joy

Unaware that their paths had ever crossed before Gulf States Camp Meeting this year, Kathy Matthews, Bass Academy girls' dean, and Ann Marie Bates, wife of Eric Bates, Dothan pastor, were standing in the lobby of the girls' dorm chatting, when they made a joyfully startling discovery — Tom and Kathy Matthews had been instrumental in planting the seeds of truth in Ann Marie's heart.

Ann Marie's father had been stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, in the Army. The Matthews, who were new Adventist Christians at the time, were involved in a church plant in Copperas Cove, Texas, where

Ann Marie's family attended Wednesday night Bible studies and occasionally visited. Although Ann Marie did not remember the couple, she has cherished the memory of a Sabbath afternoon lunch, a walk in the woods, and a closeness with God experienced at this couple's home when she was only 10 years old. The Wednesday night Bible studies which Tom and Kathy were involved in laid a foundation that Ann Marie drew from later when struggling in the world as a young adult.

As Ann Marie shared with Kathy the names of her parents, Kathy immediately remembered them and even

remembered that Sabbath afternoon Ann Marie and her parents had spent at the Matthews' home. The tears flowed as Ann Marie shared with Kathy the impact that she and Tom had made in her life.

The Matthews did not realize the influence they had had in 10-year-old Ann Marie's life through their friendship with her parents 30 years ago. Although her parents never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, that influence led Ann Marie and her husband to the Adventist Church



Kathy Matthews (right) never imagined the influence she and her husband had in 10-year-old Ann Marie's life through their friendship with her parents 30 years ago.

almost a decade later, and then into pastoral ministry.
—BY ANN MARIE BATES

Pastors Ordained

Christopher Jones and Larry Owens were set aside, in the sacred act of ordination, to the Gospel ministry during Gulf States Conference Camp Meeting.

Jones was called to serve as a pastor in the Brookhaven, Summit, and Vicksburg, Miss., district, July 2006.

Owens accepted the Conference's invitation to serve as the pastor for the district of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Columbus, Miss., July 6, 2009.



Christopher Jones (left), with his wife, Franchesca, and Larry Owens with his wife, Becky.

Dennis Ross, Southern Union ministerial director, delivered the ordination message.

Tui Pitman Retires

At the end of June this year, Tui Pitman retired from 41 years of denominational work. He and his wife, Faye, have spent 36 of those years living and serving in the Gulf States Conference. Pitman's ministry in the Conference includes serving as pastor for five different church districts, working as the vice-principal and then principal of Bass Memorial Academy for eight years, serving as the director of Hispanic ministries, and most recently working as the director of trust services.

Before coming to Gulf States, he served as a missionary in Bolivia.



During his retirement dinner, Mel Eisele, Conference president, presented him with a plaque thanking him for his dedication and untiring work for the people of the Conference — a sentiment that is echoed from all who have known and worked with the Pitmans.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Adventurer Clubs Enjoy “Family Fun Weekend”



The Adventurers from Decatur, Ala., presented a play of how the blood circulates. The head sticking out of the heart shares what its job is and how it pumps the blood. There were four valves that did the “talking.”

During the weekend of April 22, 2010, Adventurer clubs throughout the Gulf States Conference gathered at Camp Alamisco for the annual Adventurer Family Fun Weekend. Focusing on

the theme “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made,” the children discovered facts about the human body through a program which featured skits, games, and videos, with a trip through the di-

gestive system, the muscles, and the heart; crafts; and interactive hands-on learning experiences.

Clubs presented skits based on the human body. The Fort Walton Beach, Fla., club focused on the liver. They shared with the audience how important it is to filter harmful things around us so we can stay clean for Jesus. The clubs got a hands-on look at how the liver filters blood with a live demonstration. Other clubs presented skits and

Adventurers how the heart circulates the blood. The group was treated to an opportunity to have a spiritual “heart transplant” during the church service presented by the Vaughn family from the Fairhope, Ala., district.

The program was planned under the direction of James Mangum, Conference youth director, and Beatrice Hill, Conference Adventurer Clubs coordinator.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Families enjoyed fellowshiping with other club families throughout the Conference.

Students Learn to Weave Hats for Homeless

The Pensacola, Fla., University Parkway School sixth through eighth grade students participated in a new humanitarian project this year. The children learned to weave hats on different sized looms to create many unique, one-of-a-kind, handmade hats. Sizes ranged from newborn infant to large. The children not only learned a new skill that could lead to a fun hobby, but they also learned about giving of one’s self for others. They completed a total of

25 hats and four scarves, which were donated to the Shelter for Battered and Abused Women just in time for Christmas. Clark McCrain, their sixth to eighth grades teacher, organized this project.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Students model the hats they made for the homeless.

Madison Academy Responds to Local Floods

Parts of Nashville and the surrounding areas were devastated by the floods during the first weekend of May. Madison Academy students were just a few of the thousands of volunteers who were helping the victims in this disaster.

Madison Academy students helped more than 20 families with the clean-up and removal of flood damaged items in their homes on May 7, 2010. The students helped people in Madison, Hendersonville, Goodlettsville, Old Hickory,



Ashley Kenerson (left), Nikki Ross, and Heather Spalding

and Bellevue. They spent the day carrying out arm loads of clothes, personal items, electronics, and furniture. They tore out carpets and removed drywall. They prayed with people and allowed the homeowners to cry on their shoulders.

Sheryl Gentle, a junior at Madison Academy said,

"It was so sad! We literally had to take out everything from the house we were working in. They had *nothing* left!"

Senior Jimmy Aluoch stated, "I felt great about the family I helped, but there are so many more families out there that we could be helping.

I just feel like I should be doing more."

Madison students made a huge impact in Nashville and touched many lives. On top of that, they were impacted as well. To be able to see

the devastation first hand was an eye-opening experience for the students. This experience allowed them to put in perspective their own lives, and realize that the things of this world are only temporary, and that storing up their treasures in Heaven is the only way to live. The things of this world can be destroyed over night — literally.

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON



Jada Reedus (left), Lauryn Waterhouse, and Brian Miller

Baptisms follow Prophecy Seminar in Ridgetop

Amazing Facts speaker Emanuel Baek came to Ridgetop, Tenn., with a message that brought conviction, repentance, conversion, and baptism to many. The four-week seminar was advertised with more than 49,000 colorful flyers that reached homes within a 10-mile radius of the church. Many of the guests came because of a personal invitation from a friend or relative in the church.

For the

first week, the church school gym became a meeting place. The seminar eventually moved to the church, with both members and visitors attending faithfully for five nights each week.

On the final Sabbath, 12

individuals were baptized, while others chose to be baptized at nearby Adventist churches. For one couple, it was a re-baptism. Two other couples were baptized together. Many had relatives who were church members.

Especially challenging to the Ridgetop Church was the fact that this seminar was planned, and most of the preliminary preparation was made, when the church was without a pastor. Under the leadership of Dale Smith, head elder, and assisted by other local elders, church members rallied behind the program.

Melinda Hill with her assistants, coordinated "Truth 4 Youth" weekend meetings for the children. Some of the older children from the church school also helped to present the lessons.

Pastor Jeremiah Smart continues to study with several of the interests. A Sabbath baptismal class is being conducted and future baptisms are planned. The church's Wednesday evening meeting is now a time not only for prayer and praise, but also a study hour, reviewing the lesson sheets given out nightly during the seminar.

—BY HELEN KELLY



These new members are the first fruits from the Prophecy Seminar.

Follow the Bible Visits Madison Campus Church

Follow the Bible, a world traveling Bible initiative by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was presented at Madison Campus Church, Madison, Tenn., on Sabbath, June 19, 2010, for the worship service. Church leaders and members welcomed the Bible warmly. Having traveled thousands of miles by car, airplane, bus, and even by horse, the Bible finally reached its destination in the Southern Union Conference territory before the opening of the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga.

“We are so blessed to be a part of so many cultures and to be a part of the family of God,” said Licci Zemleduch, Southern Union Follow the Bible coordinator, who brought the Bible to Madison.

According to the Adventist News Network, the multi-language Bible written

in 66 languages, traveling to many countries around the world, has been featured in stadium events, rallies, and parades in nearly 130 countries, and held by governors, tribal chiefs, presidents, kings, and queens.

The 18-pound Bible was brought into the church sanctuary by Marvin Lowman, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference executive secretary, and Zemleduch. It was laid out on the podium for the audience to see as the presenters spoke of what the Bible meant to them, and encouraged others to study it more closely.

“We must be filling our minds with the Word of God now, if we want the things we’ve read to come to our minds in times of peril,” said Lowman.

Maurice Simpson spoke of how the Waldensians



Licci Zemleduch and Marvin Lowman talk about the Follow the Bible initiative.

would sew pages of the Bible into their clothes because they were so determined to follow Christ, even when the Catholic Church forbade the reading of it.

“Today, it’s hard to imagine being put to death for reading the Bible, but we take so much for granted,” Simpson said.

A large group of people gathered around the Bible after the service, turning its pages, taking pictures, and marveling at the vast number of languages it contained.

“This written Word will one day be replaced by God’s voice saying, ‘well done my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord,’” said Cindy Boskind as she shared her testimony with the congregation.

Candy Bedford, speaker, said, “Now is the time to grasp [the Bible], to study it, and to hold its promises dear to our hearts.”

Follow the Bible was a two-year initiative that began in the Philippines in 2008. The initiative was designed to inspire a deeper interest in reading the Bible. The results were outstanding. Many international congregations all around the world recommitted to deeper and more frequent study of God’s Word.

—BY RACHEL ALLEN

New Member of God’s Family Baptized

Cindy Hutton was baptized by Stewart Lozensky, pastor, and joined the Taylor Mill Adventist Church in Taylor Mill, Ky.

“I grew up in Covington, Kentucky, and came from a small family with two brothers. I attended Catholic schools for my elementary and high school years. I have experienced



Stewart Lozensky, pastor, and Cindy Hutton

several different tragedies in my life,” says Hutton.

“I knew I needed

God at this time, because things were too unbearable to handle. At that point, I had too much to deal with and did not know how I would make it to the next minute in my life.”

In July of 2000, Hutton moved to Taylor Mill. Her life took another change when she received a brochure in

the mail about a prophecy seminar about Revelation. “I had been praying to God for a true church to attend that taught from the Word of God,” she said.

Hutton came to the seminar and knew she was right where God wanted her to be. The thing she had always longed for — a close relationship with God — she has now discovered.

—BY GLENDA HUBBELL

Help and Hope for Haiti Continues

On March 9, 2010, 27 people in bright yellow T-shirts, and more than 60 boxes and 30 pieces of luggage, could be seen making their way through the airport. These “angels of mercy” were beginning their medical mission trip to Haiti.

Fifteen disaster relief volunteers from South Atlantic Conference departed Atlanta, Ga., to unite with Southeastern Conference volunteers in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The team traveled on to the Dominican Republic, to then board a chartered bus the following day to go into Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The mission: to provide exceptional medical care to the patients of the Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti in the area of Diquini. This collaboration was the first trip for South Atlantic since the catastrophic earthquake hit Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010.

In the week that the team was able to spend

at the hospital, they were skilled to provide direct physician and nursing care to patients in the emergency room, progressive care unit, and mother/baby facility. The east wing of the hospital, serving as the PACU (Post Anesthesia Care Unit) and ICU (Intensive Care Unit), utilized many of the nurses in the team. On the grounds of the hospital and the university, Universite’ Adventiste d’Haiti, people received distribution bags filled with items of daily care and living, which included toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, combs, washcloths, and diapers. Volunteer staff meetings were held each morning and evening under the direction of Loma Linda University’s Global Health Institute representative Andrew Haglund. Volunteers worked nearly 12-hour days or nights, and for those volunteers of Haitian decent, the day may have led into almost 14 to 16



The medical missionaries spend time interacting with the Haitians during their visit.

hours due to the need of extra translators.

Under the coordination of Nicolle Brise, Southeastern’s women’s and prayer ministries director, and Danielle Revilien of Atlanta (both Haitian), the “MedMission team” was comprised of doctors, nurses, physical therapists and rehabilitation services support, psychologists, and pastors. Each person, from the diverse range of nurses (neonatal, infectious disease, operating room), to the two Haitian pastors, served the people of Diquini with the number one requirement of the trip — great compassion. Preliminary meetings and discussions with community service/natural disaster directors Calvin L. Watkins Sr., director for South Atlantic, and David L. Peay Sr., director for Southeastern, brought together the logistical and spiritual provisions necessary for an efficient and purpose-

ful mission trip, which culminated on March 17, 2010.

On May 12, 2010, exactly four months after the earthquake, South Atlantic sent another team to support the ever-growing medical needs in the area of Diquini. The group consisted of 15 dedicated persons, including Brise and Revilien. Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti is now the leading healthcare facility in Port-au-Prince, performing life-changing and effective orthopedic procedures.

The need for medical and economic relief efforts in Haiti will be long-term. If you are interested in additional mission information and donation inquiries, please contact Danielle Revilien at the South Atlantic Conference via email, HelpHaitiNow@southatlantic.org, or the hotline number, 888-352-6064.

—BY DANIELLE REVILIEEN



Each one of the group of volunteers had the same testimony: that their view of life has changed forever because of this experience.

Mother Jailed for Christian Education

It is unheard of in this country to have a parent sent to jail because of Christian education. But, this was the experience of Nicky and Tracey Baker of Jackson, Ga. They never could have imagined that they would have to choose between going to jail and having their daughter in a Seventh-day Adventist school.

They had enrolled their 12-year-old daughter, Ivana, in Bethany Junior Academy (BJA), operated by Bethany Church in Macon, Ga. Ivana had been home-schooled from a very young age, and was later enrolled in BJA.

Due to other legal matters in which the family was involved, an investigation by the Butts County officials ensued, after which it was determined that Ivana was not on grade level, and was ordered to be placed in the Butts County School System. The Bakers initially agreed and enrolled Ivana in the local public school. At the end of the grading term they were determined to obey God and re-enroll Ivana in BJA.

Not long after the term began, the family received a letter from Butts County Court informing them that they were in violation of the court order to have their daughter in public school. They were given a court date to answer the charges. When the Bakers stood before the court to explain their reasons for

violating the court order, the judge gave them an ultimatum —

put Ivana back in public school or go to jail for 10 days. The family stood firm on their commitment to Adventist education. Tracey Baker was immediately arrested for contempt of court. Seeing his wife arrested before him in the courtroom, Nicky Baker was allowed to go free after agreeing to follow the courts demands.

Nicky returned home after withdrawing Ivana from Church school, and immediately contacted Amireh Al-Haddad, Southern Union religious liberty and public affairs director. Al-Haddad contacted the General Conference, and Todd McFarland, attorney, was assigned to the case. McFarland flew from Maryland to Georgia the next morning in order to be at the courthouse when it opened. Along with Tracey Baker's court-appointed attorney, McFarland was able to secure Baker's release after she served five days in jail.

The Bakers were given another court date to defend themselves against the charges they were



Tracey Baker with her daughter Ivana.

violating the court order, the judge gave them an ultimatum — put Ivana back in public school or go to jail for 10 days. The family stood firm on their commitment to Adventist education. Tracey Baker was immediately arrested for contempt of court. Seeing his wife arrested before him in the courtroom, Nicky Baker was allowed to go free after agreeing to follow the courts demands.

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The Bakers were given another court date to defend themselves against the charges they were facing concerning their daughter.

By the time their court date came, the General Conference had appointed a local civil rights attorney, Kristin Pollard of Macon, to defend the Bakers. Before the court date, the Church attorneys negotiated with Christy Rowell, Ivana's court-appointed legal protector (Guardian Ad Litem), and they arrived at the conclusion that Ivana could be returned to private school. The Church attorneys in this case ended up not only defending the rights of the Bakers to have Ivana in Church school, but they also had to prove to the court that the Church school was an accredited school. Upon examination of BJA's accreditation, Ivana's edu-

cational skills and academic progress was proven to demonstrate marked achievement at BJA versus the time she spent in public school. It was a victory won because the Bakers decided to stand for their right.

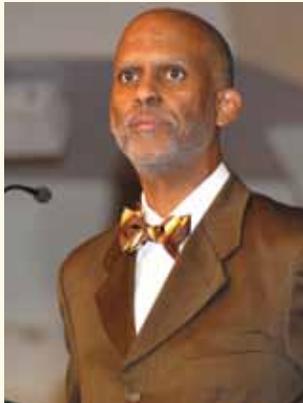
During their ordeal, the word had spread across the Internet, and the prayers of many were offered on behalf of the Bakers. They received words of comfort and support from their pastor, Darryl Howard, and from the Christian community across the country. Nicky Baker declared, "...I know that God is on our side because we choose to do what He has asked us to do...educate our children in His school..."

He expressed his thanks and gratitude to all those who offered prayers and support in their time of need. The family attends Gospel Truth Mission, a branch Sabbath School of Dickerson Memorial in Griffin and Tri City districts in McDonough, Ga.

—BY AUBREY L. DUNCAN

“Let’s Talk About Jesus!” is Theme

Dana C. Edmond, Conference president, greeted worshipers at the 64th camp meeting, “Thank you so much for your presence and participation at South Central Conference’s Camp Meeting! Our theme this year is ‘Let’s Talk About Jesus.’ What better purpose for us to come together than to talk about Jesus, His birth, His miracles, His parables, His suffering, His death, His resurrection, and His soon return. My prayer is that as we talk about Jesus, as we behold Him in all of His glory, we shall become more like Him.”



FRED PULLINS

Dana C. Edmond, South Central president, greets campers.

The following is a brief snapshot of the myriad of activities and events shared by various camp meeting writers.

Adventist Community Services Workshop

Participants learned when a major emergency strikes, life’s everyday conveniences — such as run-



EDDIE GOODMAN, IV

Thousands gathered at Oakwood University Church, Huntsville, Ala., to attend Camp Meeting 2010. Inset photos: Dana C. Edmond, president, and Gregory Nelson, associate pastor, Capitol Hill Church, Washington, D.C., were the first and second Sabbath divine worship speakers.

ning water, refrigeration, telephones, and heat and air conditioning — can suddenly be knocked out and unavailable for days or even weeks. “I did not know the importance of an emergency kit until I took this seminar,” said one participant. “The better prepared you are, the safer you will be!”

In addition, class participants assimilated the physical layout of a collection center, multi-agency warehouse, and a distribution center that Adventist Community Services volunteers may be called upon to operate by the federal government. —Lillie Buckingham and Barbara Barnes, community services co-directors

Charming Challenge Banquet

It’s so much fun to

dress up and go out for a special dinner, especially when you’re a “tween.” Approximately 100 5th to 8th graders donned outfits ranging from church clothes to formal wear for an evening of elegance in Oakwood University’s, Huntsville, Ala., Wade Hall Chapel. They were there for the

“Charming Challenge Banquet,” which was a chance for them to share the etiquette skills they learned during the week. The sounds of talking and laughter filled the room all evening, and you could tell the tweens had a good time. —Amanda Brown, Camp Meeting reporter



AMANDA BROWN



Teaching Communion Service

Under the tween tent, the tweens were told to ask God to prepare their hearts for the communion service. To represent purity, they were asked to wear white to the candlelight service. –Amanda Brown, Camp Meeting reporter

Children's Ministries

The children made wheat bread in cooking class. Marvella Burton taught 50 children, ages four to eight, how to make bread. They formed the bread into letters to spelled "Let's Talk About Jesus." While the bread was baking, Burton treated the children to strawberry smoothies. –Deborah McFarlane-Truitt, Camp Meeting reporter

Religious Liberty Workshop

Clarence Hodges, Ph.D., explained how

last day events impact our freedom of worship. He unveiled part of the devil's plan for God's children. He also gave current examples taken from today's headlines. This wonderful seminar was designed for "such a time as this." –Deborah McFarlane-Truitt, Camp Meeting reporter

Women's Ministries Report "Learn How to SWEEP"

SWEEP Right was the essence of the presentation by Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Berean Church pastor, Atlanta, Ga., Breath of Life associate director, on June 4, 2010, which electrified, inspired, and shared seven steps to effective evangelism: individual prayer, meeting with the pastor, aligning with the pastor and church leadership,

praying as a corporate body, identifying target market, identifying and planning strategy, and implementing that strategy. Byrd went on to say that evangelism was not a woman's thing ... it's a Church thing. His parting words were "sweep right



or not at all. Practice, practice, practice; give God your best; become a professional at what you do." This training will prepare the women for Operation S.W.E.E.P. (Spirit-filled Women Exalting Eternal Principles) which begins this fall. The women of South Central will lead out in evangelistic meetings throughout the Conference. –Shirley Scott, women's ministries director

Pathfinder Makes "Fearless" Move

Pathfinder Austin Hannah, 14, a member of Ephesus Church, Birmingham, Ala., was baptized at Camp Meeting. This remarkable Pathfinder went to the Friday evening worship service where Delroy Brooks, pastor, was speaking.

Hannah recalled Brooks spoke about the "buts" in our lives. The "buts" make us turn around. Brooks encouraged the youth to make this a "but" week. This was their opportunity to turn away from the negative things they were doing, and to start new by giving their hearts to the Lord. That's when Hannah was convicted to be baptized. –Deborah McFarlane-Truitt, Camp Meeting reporter

Ordination 2010



Appointed 2009 Conference leaders serve during their first Camp Meeting: Auldwin T. Humphrey (left), executive secretary, with his wife, Adele; Dana C. Edmond, president, with his wife, Jill; and Benjamin Jones Jr., ministerial director, with his wife, Carol.

Pastors Eric Amadu, Steven Gates, Daniel Lubega, and Java Mattison were ordained during the last Sabbath of Camp Meeting, June 12, 2010.

Eric Amapdu serves the Faith Temple Church, Batesville, Miss.; Carmel Church, Clarksdale, Miss.; and First Church, Tunica, Miss., district.

He is married to the former Elta Clairvil, whom he met while matriculating at Oakwood University. After meeting his wife, he truly realized God was preparing him for pastoral ministry. Added to this



Daniel T. Lubega with his parents, Seth and Dorcas Lubega

happy union are three children: Faith Melila, 7, Mayia Faith, 4, and Jeremiah Isaiah, 2; and sister-in-law, Cindy Clairvil.

Amapdu went on to study at Andrews University, and graduated May 2007 with a master of divinity degree. After Andrews, he accepted a call to South Central.

Steven Gates serves at Ephesus Church, Greenville, Miss., and Hollandale, Miss., First Church, district. He was born in Gulfport,



Eric and Elta Ampadu with their three children, Faith Melila (right), 7, Mayia Faith, 4, Jeremiah Isaiah, 2, and sister-in-law, Cindy Clairvil (left)

Miss., to Arthur and Eva Gates. While attending Andrews, he served as outreach coordinator for the Black Student Association. It was at the seminary that he met his wife, Stephanie Campbell-Gates from Jamaica. They were married August 2009.

Danirel T.

Lubega serves Jordan Street Church, Pensacola, Fla., and Bethany Church, Atmore, Ala., district.

Lubega graduated from Oakwood University in 2000 with a B.A. in ministerial theology and a B.A. in history.

He attended Andrews Theological Seminary and graduated with a master of divinity degree in 2003. He was called by Central States Conference to pastor Bethesda Temple in Omaha, Nebr., from 2003 to 2008. In 2008, he accepted a call to serve in South Central.

Java Dean Mattison Jr. serves as South Central publishing director, and associate pastor at New Life Church, Nashville, Tenn.



Steven and Stephanie Gates



Charles D. Brooks, Breath of Life Television Ministries founder and speaker emeritus, was the ordination service keynote speaker.

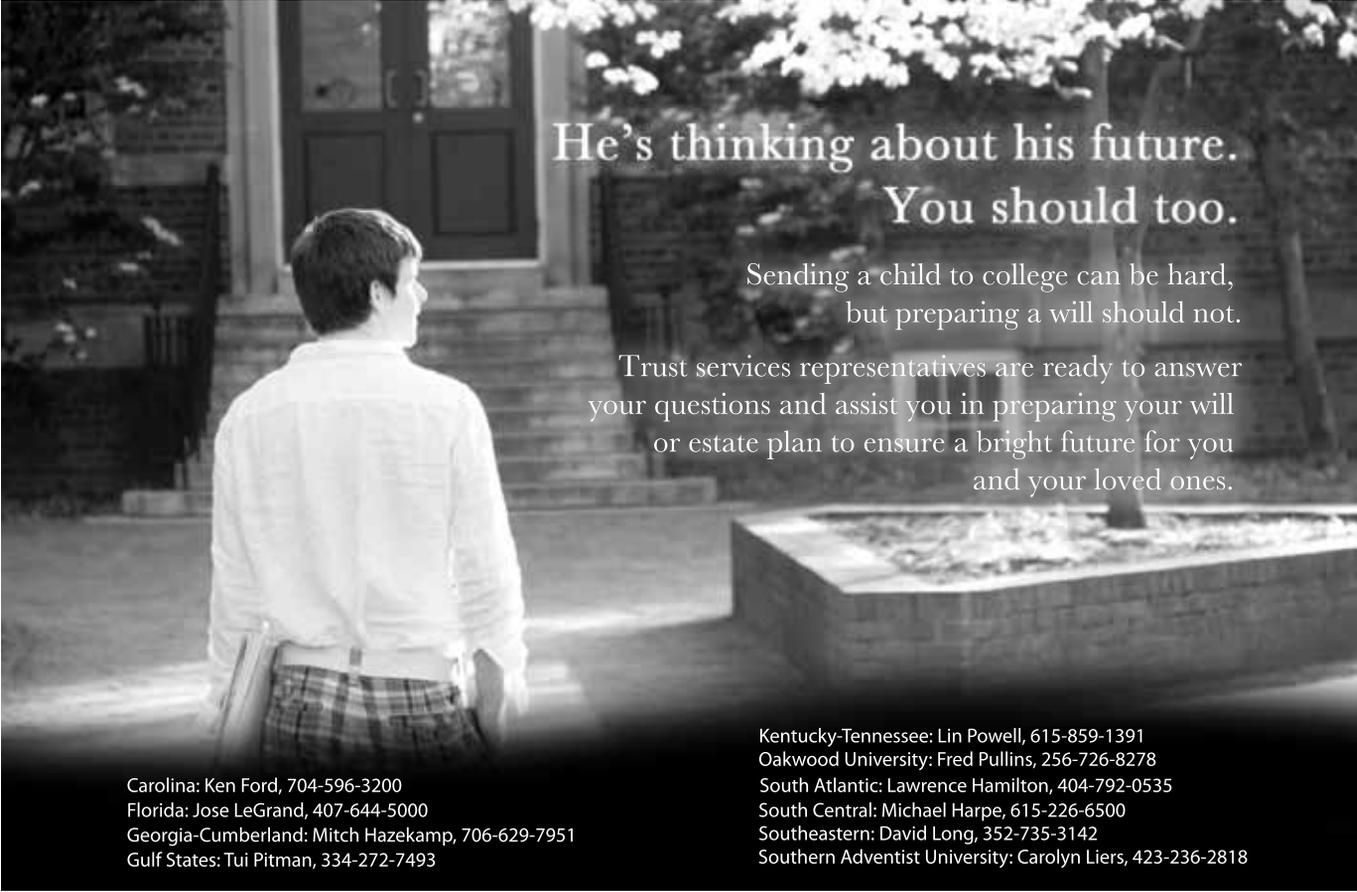
He is a native of Atlanta, Ga., and was born to Java D. Mattison Sr., and Tracy M. Mattison. He attended Oakwood University and graduated with a B.A. in theology in 2004. He matriculated through Andrew's University and received his master of divinity degree in 2006.

Mattison is happily married to the former Toyin Giles, and they have two daughters, Taelor, 8, and Haniah, 16 months.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE



Java and Toyin Mattison with their daughters, Taelor, 8, and Haniah, 16 months



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Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, Southern Adventist University

THEME | The Battle over the Bible: Archaeology, History, and Faith

THU

October 14

- 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration & Visit Exhibits
- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Physicians
- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Dentists
- 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. 4 hours / CE / Optometrists

FRI

October 15

- 7:00 - 12:00 p.m. Golf Tournament (must register)
- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Physicians
- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Dentists
- 7:30 p.m. Children's meeting (ages 1-5)
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation/ Michael Hasel, Ph.D.

SAT

October 16

- 9:00 a.m. Sabbath School
- 9:00 a.m. Children/Youth Sabbath School & Church Services
Beginners, Kindergarten, Primary, Juniors, Youth
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
- 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Family Time in the beautiful Smoky Mountains
- 3:30 Special Presentation – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
- 6:15 p.m. Vespers – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
- 7:15 p.m. NASDAD Banquet
Adventist Book Center & Exhibits will be open following vespers

A Golf Tournament will be held at Bent Creek Golf Course in Gatlinburg, TN Friday October 15th at 7:30 am. A drawing for participants will be held after Thursday's continuing education for prizes and dinners to local Gatlinburg businesses. Advanced registration is required by September 1st.

Registration forms for the Golf Tournament are available on-line at:
www.southernunion.com/medical-dental

MEDICAL+DENTAL REGISTRATION

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Specialty _____ Medical License No. _____

Spouse's Name _____ Conference _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental* | Thurs., 7-10 p.m., Fri., 2-5 p.m. | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical* | Thurs., 7-10 p.m., Fri., 2-5 p.m. | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optometry** | Thurs., 7-11 p.m. | \$100 |

Registration fee is non-refundable

*6 credit hours of continuing education for both physicians/ dentists.

** 4 credit hours of continuing education for optometry.

Will you be attending Sabbath services? Yes* No

*If yes, please list names and ages of children attending if under 18:

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Please mail registration and check to: Southern Union Conference, Medical/Dental Retreat, PO Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031 Fax 404-299-9726

Please fill out and return by mail or fax no later than October 1, 2010.
Additional information at www.southernunion.com/medical-dental

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COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE. 1.5 bedrooms fully equipped condo w/kitchen and laundry, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "Absolutely delightful" say guests. \$60/night for two (2-night minimum). Roger King, 423-236-4688. See pictures at www.rogerkingrentals.com. ©

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COLLEGEDALE/APISON, TN – Near SAU. 2 homes built in 2002 on 5 acres both for \$289,000, barn and a pond. Both homes have 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms each. www.wendydixonhomes.com. Call Wendy Dixon at Crye-Leike Realtors, 423-238-5440. [8]

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PROPERTY FOR PURCHASE OR SALE in Collegedale, Ooltewah, Chattanooga, TN areas? When selling or buying your home, it's important you use an experienced and licensed

realtor to ensure timely and effective marketing! Information is power! Contact Vincent Lopez at Crye-Leike Realtors. Cell: 423-316-1880, Office: 423-238-5440. [8]

IS LOCATION IMPORTANT? Homes within walking distance of the Highland SDA Church/Highland Academy/Elem in Portland, TN. For details, call Pat Briley, ERA Martin Realty & Auction, Portland, TN 37148. Office: 615-325-5933, cell: 615-426-2992. [8]

BEAUTIFUL TN HOME in a country setting 5 miles to town with lovely gardens and fruit trees, near Highland Academy, and 30 minutes to Nashville. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1312 square feet. MLS # 1190317 or call Ginny at Garden Gate Realty: 615-323-0707. \$122,900. [8]

COUNTRY HOUSE – 3 bed, 2 bath, 2480 square feet, 20 acres wooded land, deep well, fruit trees, fenced garden, in Giles County, TN. Four miles to church, 6 miles to Wal-Mart, Home Depot. Must see to appreciate. Call David @ 615-416-2172, or 615-480-0707. [8]

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NEWLY RENOVATED COUNTRY RENTAL HOME near Tryon, NC. Large living/dining/kitchen area and utility room. 2 bedroom, 2 baths, den. Furniture optional. Winter mountain view, garden area, well water with hand pump, new wood-burning stove. Storage area, yard-work, and trash removal provided. Deposit and references. 828-863-2149. [8, 9]

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PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA. Gordon Hospital is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible Internal Medicine physicians. Live within a beautiful southern community which offers a gorgeous Adventist hospital (www.gordonhospital.com), brand new Adventist elementary school (www.cobleschool.com), and first class Adventist high school (www.gcasda.org). Southern Adventist University within a 45 minute drive (www.southern.edu). Contact bonnie.shadix@ahss.org. org, 800-264-8642. [8-12]

BEAUTIFUL ADVENTIST HOSPITAL located in North Georgia is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible OBGYN. Join a highly respected, busy private practice. Excellent income guarantee. Excellent benefits. Outstanding Adventist schools within community. Southern University within a 45-minute drive. For more information contact bonnie.shadix@ahss.org, or call 800-264-8642. www.gordonhospital.com. [8-12]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM needs **registered nurses** and **physical therapists.** Do you want to be a part of "Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ"? Email David Gordon at david.gordon@ahss.org or call 407-975-3792! [8-12]

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JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL in beautiful Jellico, TN is looking for **physicians** in the following specialties: **Orthopedic, Cardiology, Pediatrics, OB/GYN or FP/OB.** The hospital is also hiring **nurses in Med Surg., OB, ICU and Surgery.** For more information please contact: Jason Dunkel at 423-784-1187 or jason.dunkel@ahss.org. [8-7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks two instructors in the **School of Journalism & Communication** to teach journalism, graphics, web design, new media, photography and public relations. Candidates must have at least a master's degree and preferably a doctorate in the field, plus professional work experience. They must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, rumsey@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [8]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking **HVAC Master Technician/HVAC Technician.** The technician will install, trouble-shoot and maintain central heat and air systems. Successful candidate must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Certification for refrigeration and HVAC Type I & II required. A high school diploma with college or trade school education preferred. Five years experience in heating/air conditioning and refrigeration preferred. Send resumes to Human Resources, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, plcoverdale@southern.edu. [8]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Electronic and Continuing Resources Librarian** to oversee periodicals and serials, electronic resources, assist with special collections, and support strategic direction for technical services. Masters in Library/Information Science from ALA-accredited program (or international equivalent). Two years of experience with e-resources and periodicals preferred. Expert knowledge of

current cataloging and classification practices. Experience with integrated library system (preferably ALEPH). Send CV/application to Dr. Joe Mocnik, Director of Libraries, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 629, Collegedale, TN 37315, jmocnik@southern.edu. [8]

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BOOKS – More than 250,000 new and used Adventist books in stock at www.LNFBooks.com. Looking for a publisher? Free review of your manuscript. Call 1-800-367-1844 or visit www.TeachServices.com. [8,9]

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EVELYN WATSON ADAMS CD'S at reduced rates: *He Loves Me* – USD \$10. *Great is His Love for Me* – USD \$10. Visit www.evelynwatsonadams.com and order online. PO Box 1745, Jackson, MS 39215-1745. Call 601-260-8798. [8-10]

MISCELLANEOUS

SINGLE AND OVER 40? Stay home and meet new friends in USA, only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. For information, send large self-addressed stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479. ©

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www.AdventistContact.com – successfully matching single Adventists since 1974. We're the original dating ministry for Adventists. We endeavor to be the best! Will you be our next success story? Still alone? Why? Join now! See what's free! Tell your friends. Married through Contact? Submit your stories/photos: success@adventistcontact.com. [8-11]

ARE YOU MOVING SOON? Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan now and reserve a time slot. Fast, direct, and economical. Contact Gary Erhard, Erhard Furniture, 610 South Mechanic Street, Berrien Springs, MI; 49103; 269-471-7366 or 248-890-5700, evenings 8-11 p.m. ©

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hookups. Call toll-free 1-888-933-9300. Lee's RV, Oklahoma City. www.leesrv.com or e-mail Lee Litchfield at Lee@leesrv.com. ©

WILDWOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR: Intensive 14-day seminar focusing on education, motivation, planning, and commitment. August 29-Sept. 12, 2010. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$575 (Includes room and vegan meals). Contact: Darlene Keith: 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: darlenekeith@gmail.com. [8]

WILDWOOD COUNTRY LIVING SEMINAR: Intensive 7-day seminar focusing on practical living skills. Sept. 19-26, 2010. Morning and evening devotionals include: How the Brain Works; Why Pray?; Mental Health – God's Peace Plan; Acting vs. Witnessing; Peer Pressure in the Last Days; Who is the Remnant? Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$279 (Includes room and vegan meals). Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: darlenekeith@gmail.com. [8]

WILDWOOD HEALTH EVANGELISM MINI-CAMP: Rigorous 21-day seminar focusing on the practical skills of the health evangelist: Bible prophecy, Sanctuary; Leadership; Higher Education Heaven's Way; Marriage for Ministry; Last Day Events; Practical Christianity; evangelistic health lectures – How to put them Together; Simple Remedies; Hydro & Massage; Nutrition. October 3-24, 2010. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$760 per person. (Includes room, vegan meals, materials). Contact: Lew Keith 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: lykeith@gmail.com. [8]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners, and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver on-time. [8-12]

AdventistEvangelism.com – your #1 source for seminar handbills and brochures. If you are considering a community outreach series in your area we can help you design, print, and mail your invitations. Call Color Press toll free at 1-800-222-2145 and ask for Janet or Lorraine. [8-1]

Announcements

Southern Union Prayer Ministries met in March to establish and implement goals with the conferences. These are the goals: Southern Union churches to become houses of prayer for all people; Unity through communication and prayer partnering among all churches; Encourage more prayer rallies, prayer days, weeks of prayer, in every church; Plan and implement children's prayer conference; Encourage families to establish family altars; and Encourage families to establish time and place for personal prayer.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – Sept. 30-Oct. 3. Honor classes: 1950, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, and 2000. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver showcase Banquet, continues on Friday with a Career Day. The Sabbath speaker is James Coffin, class of 1970. Sunday is the Alumni Golf Tournament. Details: 573-682-2164 or visit www.sunnydale.org.

Oak Park Academy Alumni – Oct. 8, 9 at Gates Hall, Nevada, IA. Honor classes: 1935, '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, and '80. Details: painiowa.com.

Floral Crest School Alumni Homecoming – Oct. 8, 9 in Bryant, AL. Celebrating 105th Anniversary. Details: www.floralcrestsda.org or Jane Adkins at 256-632-6504.

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend – Oct. 15-17. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes: 1936, '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, 2001, and 2006. Details: Contact the Academy Alumni office at 269-471-6140, or e-mail acadalum@andrews.edu.

South Central Conference Women's Retreat 2010/ "At Jesus' Feet" – Oct. 29-31. Park Vista Resort Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN. Details: 800-732-7587 or www.plusline.org.

Events Calendar

Carolina

Master Guide Out – July 30-Aug. 1. Nosoca.

Sabbath School Workshop – July 30-Aug. 1. Nosoca.

Carolina Pastoral Family Retreat – Aug. 1-4. Nosoca.

Pathfinder Leadership Convention – Aug. 27-29. Nosoca.

LE Retreat – Sept. 2-5. Nosoca.

Carolina Retiree's Retreat – Sept. 5-9. Nosoca.

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Sept. 10-12. Nosoca.

Share Him Boot Camp – Sept. 17-19. Nosoca.

Women's Retreat – Sept. 24-26. Nosoca.

Florida

Complete calendar online – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>

Florida Pathfinder events – <http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/family/>, djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-703-3050.

North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumniinf.org/>, oakwoodalumniinf@gmail.com, 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.

Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support. Details available under the "Support Groups" link in the "Patients and Visitors" box at <http://www.fhdeland.org/>

Spanish-language Marriage Retreat – Aug. 27-29. Daytona Beach Hotel Plaza and Resort. Details: 407-644-5000 x138.

Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars

Aug. 28, 29. Plantation.
Nov. 6. Saving Grace in Hollywood.

Florida Conference Integrated

Ministries Convention – Oct. 21-24. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: alejandra.torres@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x129.

Spanish-language Family Retreat – Nov. 25-28. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Register by Oct. 1. Details: 407-644-5000 x138.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com

Deaf Camp Meeting – Aug. 5-8. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Ga.

NASCAR Day with John Earnhardt – Aug. 8. Vidalia, Ga.
Vidalia Evangelism with John Earnhardt – Aug. 9-11. Vidalia, Ga.

First Day of School – Aug. 16. Conference-wide.

Pathfinder Leadership Convention – Aug. 20-22. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Ga.

Prayer Ministry Day – Aug. 21. Atlanta Southside Church.

Health Rally – Aug. 21. Hixson, Tenn.

Personal Ministries Rally – Aug. 28. Coalfield, Tenn.

Hispanic Men's Congress – Sept. 3-5. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, Ga.

"God in Shoes" Women's Evangelism Mission Trip – Sept. 10-23.

"Change Your Brain, Change Your Life" by Dane & Vicki Griffin – Sept. 10-11. Collegedale, Tenn.

Adventurer Ministries Convention – Sept. 17-19. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, Ga.

Northeast Tennessee Camp Meeting – Sept. 24-25. Greeneville, Tenn.

KID University – Sept. 26-29. Collegedale, Tenn.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gscsda.org>

Workers' Meeting for Pastors/Educators – Aug. 1-4. Bass

Memorial Academy.

Literature Evangelists Retreat – Aug. 5-8. Camp Alamisco.

Bass Memorial Academy Registration – Aug. 8.

Executive Committee – Aug. 17.

Youth Leadership Convention – Aug. 20-22. Camp Alamisco.

Women's Ministries "Hope for Hurting Hearts" – Sept. 9-11. Camp Alamisco.

Guest speaker, Annie Perez, who is presently facilitator of "Hope for Hurting Hearts" and "Reviving the Heart" which are retreats for sexual abuse and domestic violence survivors.

Registration begins with a call to Janice Shipbaugh, women's ministries director, 850-271-8226.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Hispanic Youth Retreat – Aug. 27-29. Indian Creek Camp.

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Sept. 10-12. Indian Creek Camp. Speaker: Milagros Tomei.

www.kyndisciplingwomen.com

Young Women's Retreat – Sept. 17-19. Indian Creek Camp. Speaker: Rebecca Davis.

www.kyndisciplingwomen.com

Women's Retreat - I – Sept. 24-26. Indian Creek Camp. Speaker: Dr. Hyveth Williams.

www.kyndisciplingwomen.com

Conference Association Board – Sept. 28.

Conference Executive Committee – Sept. 28.

Women's Retreat - II – Oct. 1-3. Indian Creek Camp. Speaker: Dr. Kay Kuzma.

www.kyndisciplingwomen.com

LE Fall Campout – Oct. 15-17. Bailey's Point.

Elders' Training – Oct. 29-31. Indian Creek Camp.

Highland Academy Youth Rally – Nov. 12, 13. Highland Academy.

Southern Adventist University

Classes Begin – Aug. 26.

ViewSouthern – Sept. 20-22.

PreView Southern 101 – Oct. 7, 8.

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Sunset						
	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10
Atlanta, GA	8:32	8:25	8:17	8:08	7:59	7:49
Charleston, SC	8:13	8:06	7:58	7:49	7:40	7:31
Charlotte, NC	8:20	8:13	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:36
Collegedale, TN	8:37	8:29	8:21	8:12	8:02	7:52
Huntsville, AL	7:42	7:35	7:27	7:18	7:08	6:58
Jackson, MS	7:53	7:46	7:38	7:30	7:21	7:12
Louisville, KY	8:46	8:37	8:28	8:18	8:08	7:57
Memphis, TN	7:57	7:49	7:41	7:32	7:22	7:12
Miami, FL	8:02	7:57	7:51	7:44	7:37	7:29
Montgomery, AL	7:37	7:30	7:22	7:14	7:05	6:56
Nashville, TN	7:46	7:38	7:29	7:20	7:10	7:00
Orlando, FL	8:11	8:05	7:58	7:51	7:43	7:35
Wilmington, NC	8:07	8:00	7:51	7:42	7:33	7:23

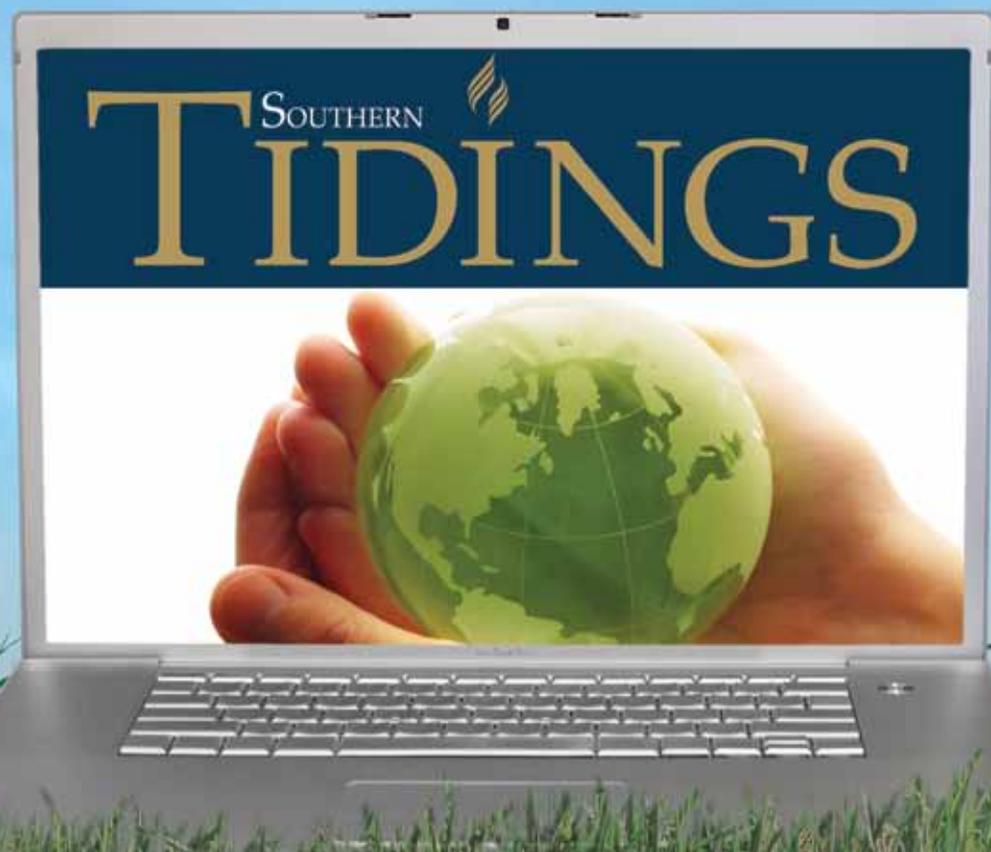
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