

September 2012



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS



Children's Ministries

A System for Survival

Surviving less-than-ideal circumstances enroute to a successful and meaningful existence can be most challenging; however, God does not leave us helpless. When we understand God's formula for survival found in His Word, we can live a healthy and productive life. An inner-city teenage "gang banger," for instance, becomes a responsible mentor and counselor for troubled youth; or a failing elementary student in science and math emerges as a pioneer in modern medicine.

There are people etched in the archives of history, and in this present age, who have overcome poverty, physical deprivation, physical illness, mental illness, and discrimination — who are rising to enormous heights of citizenship, professionalism, and humanitarian service. It has been said and intimated by a number of successful surviving achievers that there is a spirit of intentionality that informs highly effective people. As I matriculated through Oakwood University, my professors seasoned me with this thought: If you want to be an ineffective person in society, be sure to sit on the couch of mediocrity and never ever desire to nurture your natural abilities toward anything meaningful.

I'm sure it would have been quite simple for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (known to some as the three Hebrew boys) to sit on the couch of mediocrity after being abducted from their homeland and transported to strange surroundings and customs. After all, they were just common slaves in a foreign land. They were just three teenagers in a society of servants and masters. Survival in this strange new culture meant compliance and avoidance of physical punishment; yet their approach to living, buttressed by a respect for and faith in the Word of God, propelled them to spiritual and professional prominence. What a functional system for survival!

There is an increasing need for all people to become familiar with the system employed so successfully by the three Hebrew worthies, if we hope to conquer the challenges sure to come on the road to spiritual well-being and professional success.

First and most important is God. We are admonished to acknowledge God in all our ways. He promises to direct our paths. We can make God a part of our lives through a personal commitment to prayer and Bible study, noting carefully God's intervention in the lives and journeys of Bible characters. God helps us through life's unexpected challenges by instilling in us a confidence that lightens the impact of potential anxieties along the path of life.

Second, we must remember that without a vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). There is no substitute for a dream and the energy it generates. Envisioning what you want in life enhances your chance of realizing it. Every great institution we know today found its genesis in someone's dream — from electricity to the Model T to the Pyramids.

Third, we are implored by Scripture to work hard for what we hope to be or achieve — and the object lesson is delivered by one of earth's tiniest creatures. "Go to the ant ... consider its ways and be wise! ... How long will you lie there?" (Proverbs 6:6-9, NIV). Whether you're an Olympic athlete, a student, a white- or blue-collar worker, hard work pays.

It is my sincere prayer request, each day, that the Southern Union will not only survive, but thrive in the mission of not only choosing to factor in God, dream big, and work hard, but also choosing to introduce everyone we meet to a relationship with Jesus as the true system for survival.



Ron C. Smith,
D.Min., Ph.D.
Southern Union
President

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The Importance of Children's Ministries

Children's ministries in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is of the highest priority. In the Scriptures, Jesus talks about the value of our children. The disciples came to Jesus asking the question, Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto Him and set him in the midst of them, and said, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble

himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me," Matthew 18:1-5, KJV. That is powerful language and shows the love that Jesus had for little children. Jesus repeatedly told His disciples to let the little children come to Him, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Nurturing children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus is the goal of children's ministries. Our Church has a well-organized program

of involving our children in Sabbath School, worship, praise, and leadership activities.

Children's Sabbath is a yearly program designed to promote awareness of children's needs, and our responsibility to meeting their needs as a Church. Children's Sabbath is traditionally scheduled for the first Sabbath in October. However, many churches enjoy having Children's Sabbath programs more often. The theme for Children's Sabbath in 2012 is "Ready to Go!"



Zach Payne, Apison, Tennessee, Church Adventurer leader, assigns a task to an Adventurer.



Youth at Eliatbab Church in Tamarac, Florida, are eager to lead out in Sabbath programs.



Children and adults enjoy Sabbath storytime.



Children are encouraged to interact during Sabbath School.

If you have ever watched a child when they are excited about something, you know that their reaction is a full-bodied response. Joy and happiness just wiggle out and infect everyone around them! That is why children make such great evangelists. They show love with abandon, and it draws everyone around them to Jesus. This Children's Sabbath program will demonstrate to your church members that our children are empowered when it comes to sharing the Gospel. Jesus has called them to service, and they are "Ready to Go!"

To download materials online to help you with your program, visit <http://childmin.com/eng/programs.php?index=1>

Some churches are also able to occasionally have a Children's Church service on Sabbath. Children love to worship and share together. *Hooray for Children's Church* is the title of a book that explains the power of children having their own church service. The title also describes how children feel about Children's Church.

Sabbath Schools in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church use GraceLink, a grace-oriented, Bible-based curriculum. The recommended age levels for each division are Beginner – ages 0-2, Kindergarten – ages 3-5, Primary – ages 6-10 (grades 1-4), and Junior/Teen – ages 10-14 (grades 5-8).

The Beginner and Kindergarten levels are both on a two-year cycle, and the Primary and Junior/Teen

levels are both on a four-year cycle. Our Sabbath Schools are powerful influences in teaching our children the Scriptures and helping them to dedicate their lives to Jesus. Our volunteer Sabbath School teachers in our churches are a mighty influence on our children as they teach them from Sabbath to Sabbath. They are the real heroes of the Church as

to help our children see Jesus in all the wonders of nature. Just recently at our house, two barn swallows decided to build a nest outside our front door. They were preparing for the birth of their babies. Three little birdies were soon hatched, and it was fascinating to see the mother bird feed them one by one and never miss an open mouth. My two grand-



Susan Mulraine shares a Bible story with her son, Landon.

they share the love of Jesus with the children.

As parents and teachers, we should encourage our children to express love for each other and for God. Our youth camps all have nature centers for a purpose. They are

daughters learned from this nature nugget, and were reminded once again how much Jesus really loves us. They remembered what Jesus said about how He helps feed the birds and cares for them, and considers His children to be of greater value.

MICHAEL HUBBARD



ANDRE JONES

Youth at Atlanta Belvedere Church, Decatur, Georgia, participate in “Tribble Time” VBS activities.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) continues to teach our children about the truths in the Bible, and help them to make decisions for eternity. VBS is a “must” program for every church.

Children are sharing Jesus all around the neighborhood thanks to *REAL*, a magazine that brings children to Christ, and is published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Evangelism isn’t just for grown-ups anymore. *REAL* magazine helps children reach out to their un-churched peers. Child evangelism

really does work. One Christian researcher has discovered that peer evangelism among young children is one of the most effective means of evangelism — children leading another one to Christ and a life-changing experience.



Teenagers take advantage of their Sabbath School time to dialog about issues they are concerned about.

Resources and Events for Children’s Ministries

NAD Children’s Ministries Website, www.childmin.com

2012 Children’s Sabbath –
October 6, 2012
Theme: *Ready to Go!*

Children’s Sabbath is traditionally scheduled for the first Sabbath in October. However, many churches enjoy having Children’s Sabbath programs more often to recognize and affirm children. This year’s program shows that you are never too young to share the love of Jesus. Download a program, posters, and more at www.childmin.com.

Kids Ministry Ideas features a magazine and website for those

leading children’s Sabbath School classes, Adventurers, and Vacation Bible School. It includes crafts, ideas for room decorations, how-to articles, prayer and mission activities, games, and puzzles, plus other practical tools for effective programs. Visit www.kidsministryideas.com.

GraceLink is the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s official Sabbath School curriculum for beginner, kindergarten, and primary classes. Visit www.gracelink.net to find multi-language resources for children and leaders, iPad and smart phone apps, and podcasts.

Children’s Church

10 Poster-sized Promises for Our Children (The Child-Friendly Church) - GC Children’s Ministries and South England Conference. Each Promise has a group study.

God’s Last Day Kids – This unique ministry serves as a children’s evangelism and witnessing tool or a 13-week evangelism training program. View [Sample Lesson](#) and the overview, too. Now available: [Lesson 2](#), [Lesson 3](#), and [Lesson 4](#).

Other resources and links may be found on the Southern Union website under Children and Youth Ministries.



Following the Great Physician

By Jim Davidson

Some of the most cherished stories of the Bible are about people who have been healed from illness. One of the first stories many of us learned as children was the story of Naaman and his miraculous cure from leprosy by washing in the Jordan River seven times. There is also the story of King Hezekiah who was healed of a terminal illness and given 15 more years of life.

Of course the greatest stories are those of Jesus. He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and lepers clean. Jesus has rightly been called “The Great Physician.” Through the healing of the physical body, Jesus was able to reach the souls of many who would not have yielded otherwise.

Today, the healing of the physical body is still a vital means to reach individuals spiritually as well. The Southern Union is blessed with a long history of partnership between medical and spiritual work. Some of the earliest outposts in the Southern Union territory were places of healing such as the hospitals at Madison, Tennessee, and Fletcher, North Carolina. Today, we are blessed to have Adventist Health System which operates 23 hospitals throughout our eight states. In addition to this, there are numerous skilled nursing facilities, walk in clinics, and other health facilities that provide a place where healing of body and spirit can be nourished.

The physicians, dentists, and other health professionals of the Southern Union provide tremendous ministries in their local practices, churches, and schools. For more than three decades the Southern Union has been intentional about seeking out health professionals to reside and work within our territory. The Southern Union is the only union in the North American Division to actively recruit physicians and dentists to



practice within our area. Three times a year, physicians or dentists recruit at Loma Linda University to invite young men and women to take their physicians residency or join a dental practice within one of our conferences. A subsidy is provided to help with interview and moving expenses. Each year we are blessed by a number of wonderful Seventh-day Adventist young professionals choosing to make the Southern Union their home.

In addition to recruiting at Loma Linda University, contact is made each year at Southern Adventist University

with the pre-med students. As we look to the future of this ministry, we hope to build on the wonderful foundation that is already in place. In addition to recruiting at Southern Adventist University, recruitment will also begin next year at Oakwood University and Adventist University of Health Sciences (formerly Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences).

Another area of outreach that is being planned is medical/evangelistic mission work. Many health professionals are willing to take their healing skills to other countries and provide clinics and medical services to those who do not have them available.

Every two years a Medical/Dental Retreat is held for all physicians and dentists in the Southern Union. This is a time for not only continuing education, but for fellowship and worship together. Currently, study is being given as to how to provide for not only physicians and dentists, but for all health professionals as well.

As we ever seek to increase the kingdom of God, we are blessed to have thousands of dedicated men and women in the Southern Union who have devoted themselves to health ministries. I invite you to lift them up in your prayers that God will continue to use them in a mighty way to hasten His soon coming. ☞

Jim Davidson is the executive secretary for the Southern Union Conference.



Closer Than a Brother

BY DENISE DALY-STENNIS

Gene Austin Taylor Krishinger earned the title of Salutatorian, and Seth Lauren Daly Stennis was named Valedictorian of the 94-member, 2012 graduating class at Forest Lake Academy (FLA), Apopka, Florida. Both graduated with honors in health careers, humanities, mathematics, and science. They have completed 27 college credits in anatomy and physiology, statistics, calculus, psychology, and English composition.

The Bible says, “A friend sticks closer than a brother.” When it was announced they were Valedictorian and Salutatorian of their senior class, they accompanied each other home to share the good news of success with their families. Impressed by the loyalty shown for each other, the following conversation ensued:

How did the two of you meet?

Austin – I first met Seth in the 7th grade at Forest Lake Education Center, Apopka, Florida.”

Seth – We got to know each other better our sophomore year at FLA.

What are some things that you admire about each other?

Austin – I admire the abundance of care and loyalty that Seth expresses to those in his life, making himself available to those who need a warm smile or a listening ear. Also, I find Seth admirable in the way he handles stressful situations, never letting the moment get the best of him; instead,

keeping a level head and focused mentality.

Seth – I admire Austin’s honesty, patience, and steely perseverance. He’s not a person who would lie for any self gain or get riled up because of trivial matters. I would have to say that half the reason I even try, is to keep up with him.

What were some things you enjoyed about attending an Adventist Christian school?

Austin – The myriad of activities and adventures my class participated in throughout my years at FLA left me with a sense of fellowship, camaraderie, and belonging. I was able to bond with my classmates and can take those connections with me into the rest of my life.

Seth – I enjoyed going to beach Vespers, going to Bible Conference with my friends, being a part of the varsity soccer team, going on the senior class trip, and going to Senior Outbreak where our class became closer as a group.

Do you have a favorite Bible text by which you’ve chosen to live?

Austin – “I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out — plans to take care of you, not abandon you,

plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on Me, when you come and pray to Me, I’ll listen. When you come looking for Me, you’ll find Me,” *Jeremiah 29:11-13 (MSG)*.

Seth – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths,” *Proverbs 3:5, 6 (KJV)*.

Envisioning their educational goals and future plans, both young men confirmed

they aspire to become doctors: Austin, a cardiothoracic surgeon; and Seth, a general surgeon. This fall, they began attending Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. ✍



Adventist Christian schools led Gene Austin Taylor Krishinger (left) and Seth Lauren Daly Stennis to Forest Lake Education Center, Forest Lake Academy, and, this fall, to Southern Adventist University where both are enrolled in pre-medical studies. The beauty of Adventist education is that its paths of learning take and shape the lives of students from pre-kindergarten through medical school and beyond.



SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES

BY RACHEL PARRISH

Picture this in your mind: a landscape of rolling hills carpeted with emerald green grass, dotted with pines and poplar trees, snuggled next to a glimmering, turquoise lake that sparkles in the warm sun. Water birds and songbirds alike take wing in the cool breeze, while rabbits and deer frolic and forage through the woods. Sounds perfect, doesn't it?

Not only is Indian Creek Camp a beautiful example of God's creation, it's also the perfect environment for witnessing about Jesus.

When children are at summer camp programs, they are free from distractions. During the other 51 weeks of the year, kids have responsibilities at home and school, peer pressures, and (ever-present) distracting technologies. Camp provides a place where children are free to focus on God. Attending summer camp gives children a chance to fellowship with other Christians their age in a safe environment.

Spending a week at camp also allows children to change their routines, break their comfort zones, and

grow spiritually. Learning new skills and being open to try new things can help kids understand new ideas, including ideas about God. Being challenged is what promotes growth in new and fun activities, as well as in spirituality.

Summer camp also helps to strengthen character traits. Kids are taught to work respectfully with each other, how to be independent and self-reliant, and how to develop a love for nature and God's creation. As children are challenged and guided, they can strengthen their



desire for a Christ-like character.

This summer at Indian Creek Camp, we received 67 requests for baptisms, 75 requests for Bible studies and 88 first-time commitments to Jesus. Each decision made for Christ is what the staff works for and looks forward to each summer.

While many wonderful things are happening at Indian Creek Camp, many children are not able to attend every year, or ever, because of financial hardship. Because of monetary gifts to the Campership Fund, we were able to host 60 campers who would not have been able to attend on their own. It is because of many generous spon-

sors that children's lives are being changed.

This summer I worked in the office at Indian Creek Camp and I witnessed first-hand what can happen when people give to the Campership Fund.

One Saturday night right before registration the next day, a pastor called us and said that there was a family in his church who had just immigrated to America. They didn't have the finances to send their son to camp and were sad that he wouldn't be able to go with his new friends. The pastor said he knew it was probably too late to ask and we wouldn't have funds left to help

him. But, thanks to generous donations, we sponsored the young man for a week at camp.

"What a wonderful way to witness to a newly arrived family," said Ken Wetmore, Indian Creek Camp director. "That family knows that the people in their new conference care about them and their children, enough to make an encounter with Christ at camp possible."

Indian Creek Camp is a special place. If you would like to learn more about ICC's summer programs or the Campership Fund, visit www.indiancreekcamp.com or call the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Office at 615-859-1391. ☦



On a Mission to Tonga

BY CHRISTOPHER M. HILL

As a diversified Conference, South Central has made great advancements in initiating inclusion of all God's children in service of the Great Commission, and the delivery of The Three Angels' Message. This service comes home in true fashion as Mark Hyde, pastor, his wife, Angela, and son, Joseph, stepped out in faith to serve the family of God on their two-and-a-half-week mission trip to Tonga. Tonga is west of the International Dateline, south of Samoa and southeast of Fiji. Tonga is

a South Pacific island nation consisting of 171 islands, of which 45 are inhabited. Tonga is a constitutional monarchy and a member of the British Commonwealth. Its agrarian economy is developing, and its tourist industry, although limited, is growing. Tourist facilities are concentrated in and around the main island of Tongatapu where the capital, Nuku'alofa, is located.

Right after this year's Fourth of July celebration, the Hyde family was free to serve the Lord in mission ser-

vice to Tonga. This opportunity was a product of disappointment which challenged the Hydes' faith. One year ago, the yearly mission trip with Alcy Junior Academy in Memphis, Tennessee, was cancelled. The Hydes' wanted to ensure that Joseph had the opportunity to experience full service for the Lord. Mark and Angela found Tonga to be their answer; however, finances were the immediate "Red Sea." Through prayers of the members and benevolence of the family of God, funds began to accrue.



Joseph (left), Angela, and Mark Hyde, pastor



Joseph Hyde (left) assists a Tonga church member.

However, the closer it came to the deadline, the more pressing the challenge became.

The Hyde family continued to pray and remembered that it is “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord.” As faith was tested and tried, God allowed the promise Mark and Angela made to Joseph to be fulfilled. With bags packed and with humble hearts, the Hyde family embarked upon a journey across the seas and terrain to Tonga.

This series of events established the opening of the doors for the Advent Message to be spread in Tonga. The Hyde family participated in a variety of ministerial activities. As the apostle Paul used his hands to work and represent Christ, so it was with the Hydes as they labored for the Master from the dawn until sunset in building a church in collaboration with the other volunteers. Cooking and hands-on labor with the basic tools of the trade were just a part of the ministerial process of service. The spiritual applications allowed the Hydes to embrace the simplicity of serving God and others. This mission trip was more than work — it was a myriad of emotional elations and spiritual empowerment through laughter, labor, and loyalty to God in unity with like believers for one cause. Angela enjoyed working in the kitchen, as well as the fellowship; teamwork was plentiful. The workers worked with miniscule tools to dig foundations, erect walls, and fortify



Worship on the lawn: Joseph Hyde (left) and Angela Hyde (second to his right).

the structure of a Tonga church.

The trip itself was a blessing, and the journey to and from presented challenges. Each was overcome by faith in Jesus. There were variations in culture, differentiation of gifts, disparity of time zone, diversity in language and culture; yet, there was one Spirit which united each component in one effort for the edification of Christ. As a family in conjunction with the local community, the Hydes partnered in labor to care for the Tonga community via the health message. Angela’s ministerial gifts in NEW START empowered her to assist in preparation and distribution of food to the local community. Christ, the Great Physician, healed many. Vision is necessary to see God and His handiwork. As God’s ambassador, Joseph assisted in erecting a much-needed eye clinic which distrib-

uted 1,000 pairs of glasses. Mark moved forward with the spirit of Nehemiah in revival as he assisted in the repairs of an 11-year dormant church. The church lacked the funds to be active, but as the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, so did the Tonga congregation. Amidst the physical labor, a vocational Bible school was integrated in the mission. This blessing

continues to flow as the living waters promised by Jesus.

Our mission field always begins at home. As the newly assigned pastor of Carmel Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, Hyde and his family look forward to utilizing the lessons they learned about unification and building the body of Christ. All are admonished to work as a unified body to accomplish the Great Commission. Let us labor for the Master as we work together in the mission field of home, community, Conference, and the world to proclaim the Three Angels’ Message. ✠

Christopher M. Hill is the communication leader at Faith Temple Church in Batesville, Mississippi.



Mark Hyde (center), pastor, works on a septic tank for the revitalized Tonga church.



Angela Hyde (right) distributes food to the locals.

Local Support Makes Building Project a Success in Mississippi

Maranatha Volunteers International worked together with local volunteers to design and build a brand new church in New Albany, Miss. This Spanish-speaking congregation has met in inadequate spaces for years. At first, Adventists in New Albany traveled 30 minutes to church in Tupelo, Miss. They then met in the kitchen of a local Methodist church. After seven years that church's

membership grew and they had to ask the Adventist congregation to find a new space. During this time, the small congregation of 40 adults began praying and planning for a permanent church of their own.

The church began a long fundraising campaign and, based almost solely on small weekly donations, they were able to purchase a four-acre tract of land. The group planned to start

by building just a fellowship hall with some classrooms. But, at the groundbreaking ceremony, Mel Eisele, Gulf States Conference president, mentioned that Maranatha might be able to help the congregation erect a complete church building at a greatly reduced cost.

Eisele knew that Maranatha, an organization that mobilizes volunteers to construct churches and

schools around the world, was examining ways to assist small North American congregations in need of a church home. Soon after Eisele's reference, Jairo Ordaz, a member of the New Albany Spanish congregation, called long-time Maranatha board member Roger Hatch.

Roger Hatch, Maranatha board member and New Albany project coordinator and retired general



contractor, worked through Maranatha to create a basic church that would fit the congregation's needs without blowing their budget. Maranatha produced a plan for a 125-seat church, a fellowship hall, bathrooms, and classrooms for a little more than \$200,000.

In June, 19 seasoned Maranatha volunteers arrived in Mississippi and found a group of able and willing local church members to assist. Nearly 90 local people helped on the construction site during the two-week project. The extra assistance and dedica-

tion of New Albany Church members helped the project speed along.

"Usually you figure if you can get the building under roof and the windows and doors set, you've done a good job," says Hatch. "But this time we did all that plus did all the electrical work, put the siding and overhangs on, wired the entire building, and installed the air conditioning.

"I think the fact that pushed us on was that all the members really, really wanted their church. Some people even brought tents

and stayed on the property. Others arrived at 5:30 or 6:30 in the morning to begin work."

In the end, the project came in under budget, creating an opportunity for the church to receive a few needed finishing touches. The congregation even bought used pews from a church down the road that was going through a renovation at the same time. What began as a fellowship hall unexpectedly evolved into the completion of an entire church home for New Albany.

"It's a miracle," smiles

Ordaz. "Something truly amazing!"

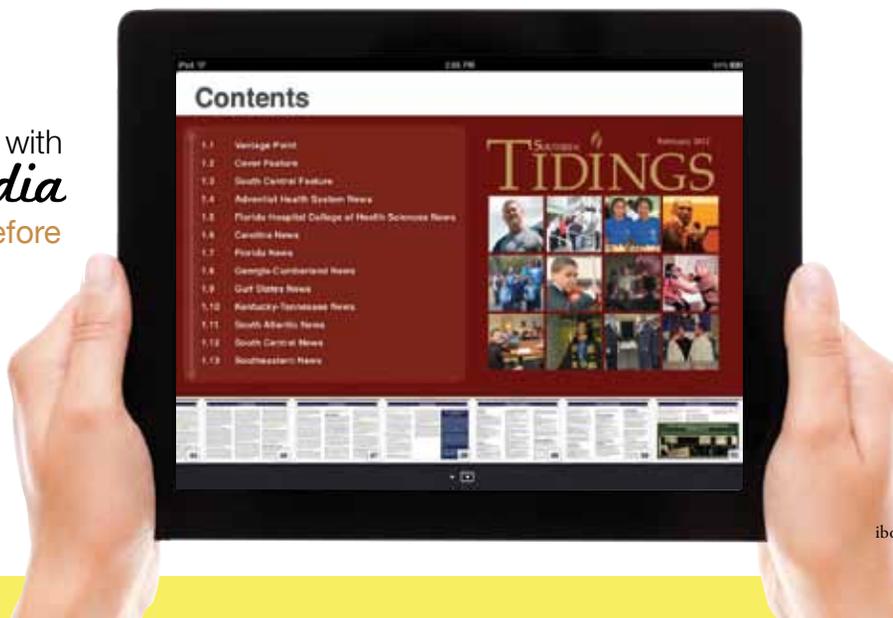
Many church members from neighboring Decatur, Ala., made the three-hour drive one Sunday to assist with the New Albany project. The folk at New Albany will have a chance to return the favor soon. Maranatha plans to begin construction on a new church in Decatur this October 11-25. Volunteers are needed! Contact www.maranatha.org for more information on how you can be a part of the project.

—BY CARRIE PURKEYPILE

Tidings Experience

Southern Tidings is now available for the iPad. www.southernunion.com/ibook

Interact with
multimedia
like never before



iBook2 required.

Gordon Hospital Launches Emergency Bike Team

There are some places that an ambulance just can't go. Large pedestrian gatherings such as county fairs, parades, and other community events sometimes make it difficult for emergency response vehicles to maneuver at speeds necessary during a crisis.

But, Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Ga., plans to alleviate that obstacle through the newly-formed Gordon Emergency Services Bike Team.



Specially-equipped hybrid bicycles enable Gordon Hospital's emergency medical team to reach people in need at crowded events.

Four specially-equipped hybrid bicycles, complete with lights and sirens, were purchased from Cherokee Cycles in Calhoun. They are ideal

for mountain terrain as well as normal roads. Each member of the bike team will carry a variety of basic and advanced life support equipment, including

automatic external defibrillators, basic bandaging and first aid supplies, oxygen, IV's and medications, and advanced airway equipment.

"Our team is committed to providing the best emergency response service possible for any large gathering in our community," said Derek Harp, bike team leader. "We are excited to be able to offer this much-needed service to Gordon County, and plan to expand the team to include more EMS personnel as we move forward."

—BY KAREN SHAW

Surgeons Have New Facility to Invent Medical Devices

"Necessity is the mother of invention" is a well-known saying that rings true for surgeons in search of the perfect tools to help them provide quality care to patients.

With these surgeons in mind, Florida Hospital Orlando opened a Medical Device Innovation Lab on June 22, 2012. The lab provides physicians with a place to bring their ideas for medical equipment that they can use in operating

rooms. With the help of the prototype lab team, their concepts can become realities.

In conjunction, a second location of the Nicholson Center, Florida Hospital's renowned surgical training facility, was opened at Health Village in Orlando. The facility provides a safe environment for the first performance tests of devices developed in the lab. If all is successful, they can then undergo

further testing in the InnovatOR suite, an operating room at Florida Hospital Orlando.

The three locations "perfectly complement" each other, said Steve Eubanks, M.D., director of Florida Hospital academic surgery. In the highly collaborative environment of the InnovatOR suite, clinical staff are already developing, commercializing, and training with new products and techniques to

improve patient outcome and clinical efficiency.

"The addition of this location and the prototype lab illustrates our commitment to making sure we have the facilities for the best and brightest in surgical development to come together to improve patient care and outcomes," said Vickie White, administrator of Florida Hospital Nicholson Center.

—BY JENNIFER ROBERTS

Adventist University Celebrates 20th Anniversary

August 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of Adventist University of Health Sciences, formerly Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences.

Florida Hospital began training nurses in 1913, but it wasn't until 1992 that an official institution was founded to meet the growing demand of healthcare professionals.

The University opened its doors on August 24, 1992, the same day Hurricane Andrew struck south Florida. Despite pouring rain and strong winds caused by the hurricane, the University registered its first students. David Greenlaw, Adventist University president, describes it as a wild but successful day.

"If ever there were enough things to go wrong, all those elements were there that day," Greenlaw says. "And yet, we had 231 people sign up. At the end of the day we had a student body."

Those 231 students revealed the potential of the University. Growth from its beginning has surpassed what even the founders expected, with a student body for the 2011-12 school year of more than 2,500 students.

"You know, I'd like to tell you I saw this from the beginning and saw exactly



One of the early nursing classes trained by Florida Hospital



A modern nursing skills lab where nursing students are provided interactive learning opportunities

what was going to come of it, but that would not be true at all," says Robert Williams, assistant to Adventist University president. "What I saw was an opportunity to do things the best we could. Every time we saw a chance to better something, we took it."

The University is currently in the process of

building a five-story building to house existing and anticipated programs. The recent name change from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences to Adventist University of Health Sciences is another step that demonstrates continued progress.

Growing in size was not the only thing impor-

tant to the founders; it was also essential to develop a culture that welcomes members of all beliefs, while still remaining a true Christian environment.

Greenlaw says that such an atmosphere produces graduates that treat patients with the dignity and respect God created those patients to have.

"Here we are in a milieu of many denominations, but everybody is here because of the mission," Greenlaw says. "They, too, believe that healthcare is a ministry."

The official celebration for the anniversary will take place October 20, 2012. In honor of the anniversary, students, faculty, and staff will participate in 20 service projects in 20 days.

Even with the University's growth, a vision for Adventist University is already in place for the next 20 years.

"Twenty years from now, I see a major University connected to the largest healthcare facility in the nation, contributing to all levels of healthcare, especially in the allied health fields, to the whole Southeastern United States," Greenlaw says.

—BY SARAH CROWDER

Pastor of 32 Churches Ordained in Durham



Imagine pastoring 32 churches in 22 states!

That's the assignment for Jimmy Shwe, pastor/consultant to the Karen churches of North America. A special ordination service was held Sabbath, July 21, at Five Oaks Church, Durham, N.C., for this well-traveled pastor.

Carolina Conference officers Leslie Louis, president; Gary Moyer, secretary; and Rick Russell, treasurer; along with the Raleigh and Durham pastors Robert Cundiff and Scott Young, were present to lay hands on the Karen pastor and offer a prayer dedicating him to the sacred work of the Gospel ministry.

Throughout 22 states there are 32 churches where Shwe ministers and consults. The largest church is in St. Paul, Minnesota, with 200 members. The smallest is a church group of 20. Shwe's work is underwritten by the North American Division.

The Karen are the largest indigenous ethnic group of Burma, which is now officially called Myanmar. The ruling military regime in Burma is one of the world's most oppressive and abusive. Currently, the Burmese government is involved in a military campaign against the Karen. The Karen practice Christianity, whereas Burma is mostly a Buddhist nation.



Pictured with Carolina Conference leaders are Jimmy Shwe (center); his wife, Wanlap; his daughter, Eh Say Paw; and his sons, Joshua and Josiah.

The militarized government has developed plans to eliminate those who do not fit into what is thought of as being "Burmese." The Burmese government is accused of ethnic cleansing. Such atrocities include execution, severe torture, and rape, as well as forced labor and displacement. Aid agencies estimate that more than 200,000 Karen have been driven from their homes during the decades of conflict.

The Shwe family, along with seven-year-old Jimmy, fled their home when the government bombed and burned their village. In 1984 he crossed the border into Thailand where he settled in an Adventist refu-

gee school run by Hellen Hall. Hellen Hall came to the Carolina camp meeting in 1994, and shared her experience of working with the Karen refugees at her school on the Thai/Burma boarder.

Shwe graduated from high school at the Adventist-run refugee school. From there he went on to Spicer Memorial Collage in India. After graduation he returned to Thailand and became a pastor. In 2008 Shwe came to the United States.

The Shwe family live and worship in Durham with the 122-member Karen Seventh-day Adventist Company.

—BY RON QUICK

Clemmons Group Becomes a Company



Sabbath, July 14, 2012, was a special day for the Clemmons Adventist Fellowship in North Carolina.

Gary Moyer, executive secretary for the Carolina Conference, presided over the ceremony that made the group an official company of the Conference. Members lined up to sign the charter that united the company with the sis-

terhood of Seventh-day Adventist churches.



Elizabeth and Christopher Michalec sign the charter as they become official members of the newly organized Clemmons Company. Looking on are David Bermudez (left) and Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference executive secretary.

Clemmons Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship Group started on January 8, 2011, as a branch Sabbath School of the Winston Salem First Church.

Clemmons is 10 miles southwest of Winston Salem. A group of 20 individuals had the vision of starting a church in Clemmons. This group was lay-led and was made up of

members from several area churches. Leaders included David and Susie Bermudez, Dale and Violet Buckley, Rudy and Tamara Bermudez, Marilyn Mott, Chule and Nicole Walker, Charles Loignon, and later, Chris and Liz Michalec.

For a little over a year they rented the Clemmons Presbyterian Church, but in April of 2012 they were able to find a building in the heart of Clemmons surrounded with businesses—a good place to spread God's last-day message.

The Clemmons Company has an average of 25-35 people meeting each Sabbath. They feel blessed to do God's work in Clemmons, and invite you to come visit their mission field.

—BY RON QUICK

Health Seminar Graduate Shares Enthusiasm

When Deanette Mills, wife of Tom Mills, pastor of Monroe, N.C., Adventist Church, invited her coworker to a Healthy Beginnings Seminar this past April, she had no idea what a fire storm of enthusiasm it would create. Lucy Cifre's life was changed when she began following the program's diet, and she can't keep quiet about it!

She's telling everyone she knows how she got rid of



Lucy Cifre works at the Union County, N.C., Health Department.

her diabetic insulin pump, reduced her medications, has increased energy, exercises without pain, and has a new excitement for life.

"It's never too late to start," Cifre tells people. "Give yourself a chance!"

Cifre asked Ruth Wiehn, the certified CHIP instructor who led out in the

program, to hold a Healthy Beginnings Seminar in her home. To their surprise, 11 people came, so they moved it to the church for more space. Halfway through the four-week program, they already have five people signed up for the next seminar.

"God has given us this health message as the 'right arm of our ministry,'" says Mills. "I'm so encouraged to see it in action!"

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

Silver Springs Shores Church is Light in the Community

A 25th anniversary milestone is most certainly a time of celebration. For Silver Springs Shores Church members, Ocala, Fla., it was also a time to reflect on how God has led the congregation.

Membership Changes

In 1985, 45 members from Ocala Church became a nucleus for the new Silver Springs Shores Church. Over the years, membership has grown to where it now stands at nearly 250.

Facility Changes

The church was erected in 1987 by church members and a team from Maranatha Volunteers International.



Silver Springs Shores Church members were photographed for The Journal, a booklet highlighting the congregation's history and each department's outreach ministry.

Recently, the sound room was enlarged, the pastor's study took on a new look, and the restrooms and rostrum were remodeled. The Agape Center, built in 2001, presently houses Sabbath School classes, youth programs, and the Health Food Store.

Outreach Programs

The church campus is

busy throughout the week with activities such as a Bible study and a Vesper program on Saturday evenings; a prayer and praise meeting at 6:30 on Sunday morning, followed by a free lighten-up, tighten-up exercise class; and prayer meeting on Wednesday evening.

Youth Programs

The youth keep busy with Adventist Youth Society (AYS) and other meetings in addition to recreational activities. When local high school graduation programs fell on Sabbath, many of the church's students took a firm stand and chose not to attend. By special request, graduation exercises

were scheduled for an alternate date at the church with public school principals and other graduation personnel in attendance. The church also rewarded the graduates with a trip.

Celebration Weekend

Highlights of the anniversary weekend included music from Evidence By Name, the church's original youth choir; a message by Donna Holland, pastor and wife of Glenn Holland, former senior pastor; and the Sabbath sermon "Hold On! Reach On! Lean On!" by Glenn Holland.

It is the church's desire to continue bearing the light that led up to this 25th anniversary in preparation for the greatest celebration of all with our Savior and King at His Second Coming.

—BY NORMA HENRY

Palm Harbor Women's Ministries Sponsors Self-Defense Course

Palm Harbor, Fla., Company's Women's Ministries Department recently sponsored a self-defense course at the Hampton Inn in Tarpon Springs. Don and Sandie Grady, local gym owners and Palm Harbor members, assisted in the instruction and demonstrations along with another couple.

Attendees found the program very informative, and the hands-on training

very valuable. The idea of having a plan to break free from an assailant's grip, should there ever be a need, was eye opening.

In addition to the self-defense course, women's



Morgan Martin (left) practices defense strategies with instructor Don Grady.

ministries has sponsored several events for members and visitors: a Ladies' Tea Social, a weekend program with speaker Sally Strieb, an Ancestral Evening, an Evening of Poetry and Prose, and classes on juicing and healthful desserts.

—BY GREGORY BORIA

Health Expo Attracts Large Crowd

Nearly 200 attendees swarmed the registration area when the DeBary-Orange City, Fla., Church opened its 2012 Health Expo on the first Sunday in April. Nowhere was the enthusiasm for this event more noticeable than when

People responded happily to neck-and-back massages, which was one of many free services offered. Body mass index, the Harvard Step Test, and a lung capacity test were also very popular.

Health age analysis, which provided a comparison between chronological age and health age was an eye opener for those whose lifestyles were less than healthy. Other testing offered was for glucose and cholesterol screening, which proved to be two of the



Volunteer Ruth Haller administers a cholesterol screening for DeLand, Fla., Church member Frank Cuwa.

one eager attendee showed up the day before. She did, however, stay for the entire Sabbath church service.

most popular tests with the longest lines.

Besides health screenings, doctors from varying



Volunteer Gerry Hess takes a blood pressure reading from a Health Expo guest.

medical specialties were available to answer questions. Counseling was provided to discuss problems found during a screening. A dietician answered questions regarding diet.

Two local newspapers gave the Health Expo exposure with a front page story in one and a center page article in the other. Colorful flyers distributed at Florida Hospital Fish Memorial in Orange City,

doctor's offices, large local stores, and health and beauty salons helped draw attendees.

The Personal Ministries Department had a table filled with health-related literature, along with spiritual books and pamphlets. The DVD, *Forks Over Knives*, was a popular free item given away.

—BY RUTH HALLER

Homosassa Church Expands Food Pantry

During the past three years, the Homosassa, Fla., Church Food Pantry has served more than 700 families out of a storage shed until the building size and condition limited its usefulness.

Under the leadership of Don Gesell, chair of the church's building



Homosassa, Fla., Church members and friends celebrated the new food bank facility that was dedicated on June 23, 2012.

committee, an aggressive campaign was launched to obtain a new structure. Gesell located a building that

met the pantry's needs while, at the same time, a church member's son-in-law made a sizeable donation.

Once the building was in place, a local contractor donated a heating/air conditioning system, and members added shelving and other finishing touches. In a ceremony attended by members and friends, Dale Wolfe, pastor, dedicated the new building with anointing and prayer.

"The Holy Spirit certainly guided this effort, and it is a blessing to our church," says Wolfe.

The original food pantry was an idea that grew out of a discussion by the men's group on how to reach the local community. On any given Tuesday, 12-16 members staff the pantry and serve local people. "We love our community," says Gesell, "but it sure will be a lot easier serving them from our new building."

—BY BOB HALSTEAD

Bible Research Videos Venture Online

According to the Internet World Statistics, 77.3 percent of the population in the United States has Internet. This statistic is from 2010. According to the Bible, Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells people to go into all the world and make disciples. Staff at Georgia-Cumberland Conference are implementing creative ways to make disciples.

The project began in early 2011 when E.W. Dempsey, Conference adult lay evangelism coordinator, wanted to update his Bible studies from cassette tapes. Dempsey and Brian Young, Conference assistant communication director, decided to take the Bible studies to the next level. They needed to create new audio because the cassette tapes were old and since they had to redo the audio they decided they might as well make a video.

Young describes the process: "E.W. picks the topics and brings in notes. We have a studio set up when he is ready to go. We sit him down, mic him up, record the lesson — that takes an hour, a little longer than the finished product. Then the fun and complicated part: I turn the



E.W. Dempsey, Conference adult lay evangelism coordinator, tapes Bible Research Bible study videos to share online at www.bibleresearch.info. Brian Young, Conference communication assistant director, directs and produces the videos.

project into web videos, DVD, Blue-ray, MP3 (used as a CD) for many different outputs."

"This is a great idea," says Dempsey, who has been giving Bible studies since he was 14 years old. "I am shocked that I am a part of it. People are always watching television and movies. Why wouldn't we tap into what people are doing?"

As of July 2012 Young has uploaded 18 video

Bible studies to the Bible Research Vimeo account, which can also be accessed via www.bibleresearch.info. People are invited to visit the site from business cards that are personally shared throughout the Conference. The Communication Department also advertises on Google Ad Words targeting constituents in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference territory. They also advertised on Facebook for six weeks.

In the Bible study videos, Dempsey provides key Bible texts with explanations. "It is unbelievable how the Holy Spirit is leading in this," says Dempsey.

Some of the most viewed videos include "State of the Dead," "Jesus' Second Coming," and "Sabbath." The [bibleresearch.info](http://www.bibleresearch.info) website averages 100 views every week, and in the past year about 1,500 videos have been watched.

"I have neighbors that I have handed the [bibleresearch.info](http://www.bibleresearch.info) business cards to," says Young. "This project feels like I am actually doing something. You can see people watching these things, see what's drawing people, what their interests are. I feel like this is some way I can reach people. People are finding it, people in India are watching what happens when you die."

Beth Ray Dempsey, his wife, has served for 17 years as the volunteer coordinator for the written Bible studies. "There are a lot of people in Georgia-Cumberland Conference in little bitty towns," she says. "So many people out there want to know the truth."

The number of written Bible studies jumped from 9,634 in 2010 to 27,823 in 2011. Currently there are 800 people taking written Bible studies, with about 173 coming from the Bible Research website.

—BY TAMARA
WOLCOTT FISHER

CHIP Blesses With Second Chance

“God has truly blessed me! I just have to figure out what He wants me to do to serve him with this second chance.” Charlene Chandley is thrilled and awed by her second chance at life. Three years ago, Chandley was a cardiac cripple in her early 50’s — living with exhaustion and an oxygen tank. “I was struggling to lose weight so I could qualify for a transplant before my heart wore out. Then my doctor mentioned CHIP.”

Now Chandley tells her new Adventist friends at Greeneville (Tenn.) CHIP, “I will never forget your prayers and support. Your program allowed me to lose that weight.” In April 2012 Chandley was blessed with a new heart. She is

using CHIP concepts as “tools to allow me to return to a healthy lifestyle and keep it.”

CHIP, the Complete Health Improvement Program, is the premier Adventist health program founded by Hans Diehl more than 20 years ago. As recently as January 2012, CHIP’s proven results were published in the *American Journal of Cardiology*. During a month-long program, participants typically experience healthy reductions in cholesterol, blood pressure, body weight, blood sugar, and even depression. Compared to similar programs at live-in facilities, CHIP graduates experience comparable or better long-



Charlene Chandley believes she was blessed with a second chance at life. She is pictured here after a heart transplant that she was able to get due to CHIP.

term results — at only 5-10 percent of the cost.

Does your community need health and hope? The annual CHIP Summit is in the Southern Union for the first time since 2008. Come to beautiful Cohutta Springs

Conference Center in north Georgia for CHIP Leadership Training, November 14 and 15, then stay on through November 18 to be informed and inspired for health ministry. A highlight this year will be the unveiling of “CHIP+” with much-anticipated new videos and materials that promise to make hosting a CHIP program simpler and more effective than ever before. See <http://www.sdachip.org/summit/2012/summit.html> for details, and register by October 25 for discounted rates.

—BY KATHY PFLUGRAD

Park Avenue Celebrates With Open House Sabbath

Park Avenue Church members were thrilled to celebrate being in their new church with an Open House Sabbath on June 23, 2012.

About three years ago, after much prayer and discussion, the Lakeland and Valdosta, Ga., churches decided they could better accomplish their mission

— to share God’s love with the community and sup-

port the Lakeland Adventist School — by uniting into one congregation, and of-



Members of the Park Avenue Church held an Open House Sabbath in June.

officially merged on September 19, 2009. The members

alternated worshipping at each church until the Valdosta Church sold in 2010.

Then they worshiped every week at the Lakeland Church until they were able to find property and built a new church on East Park Avenue in Valdosta.

The Open House Sabbath service included sharing by former

pastors Mark Piotrowski and Jeff Brown and cur-

rent pastor Mike Adams. Each told about their part in the merging of the two churches. Harold Cunningham, Conference vice president for pastoral ministries and discipleship, presented the sermon. Following the church service, everyone enjoyed a fellowship dinner.

Anyone in the Valdosta area is invited to visit the new Park Avenue Church or connect with them online at <http://lakelandvaldosta22.adventistchurchconnect.org/> or on Facebook.

—BY BRENDA WALKER

Phenix City Members Become Gardeners

Can a space of about 100-by-50 feet make a difference in people's lives? Ask Lee Whitman, pastor of the Phenix City, Ala., Church, and Ed Sabatine, a new church member. That space is the community garden the Phenix City Church members voted to create and support earlier this year.

Small trees were cut down, the land was tilled, and a garden building was purchased with a few gardening accessories. Next, an eight-foot fence was installed to keep the deer out. Then a local agriculture department was contacted, a representative came out to help take soil samples, and a simple irrigation system was installed. A class was offered to those who wanted a little instruction on the basics of gardening. "The old saying came true – 'If you build it – they will come,'" says Whitman. The 15 plots soon had proud caretak-

ers, who worked the soil, planted, watered, weeded, and harvested the fruit of their labor. "It was great to see the people become excited about growing things on their own. It was exciting to see a special bonding take place with fellow gardeners," adds Whitman.

One of those gardeners was Ed Sabatine. He was recently baptized, and

was quite excited about the idea of having a garden. He put his all into the project, and became like an overseer of the whole place, often watering other people's plots when needed. His own area looked so

beautiful — almost like the pictures you see in gardening books.

Sabatine exclaims, "Our

be doing or saying any of this, I would have surely dubbed you 'mad.' Jesus does the most amazing and

unexpected things!"

He continues, "The Lord, Jesus Christ, has graciously communicated with me by extraordinary means. Via a miracle, I am not the same. Now I am waiting for Jesus Christ to return. While I'm waiting, I



Newly baptized member Ed Sabatine put his all into the garden project and became the overseer.

am growing into what I am to be in His Glorious Kingdom to come!"

—BY LEE WHITMAN AND REBECCA GRICE

church garden has provided me with some quality time with Pastor Whitman, which I truly enjoy, and my wife and I have been enjoying the fruit of our labor for the past three months. If you had told me that I'd

Hispanic Church Program Impacts Montgomery

Thirteen new members have been added to the Montgomery, Ala., Hispanic Church — 11 through baptism and two through profession of faith. These souls were a result of a combined effort between the lay members and the pastor.

First a successful community service event was held. More than 300

people were helped and, as a result, 50 individuals requested Bible studies.

Next, a plan called "Overtime for Jesus" was initiated, with 52 members



Thirteen individuals were baptized as a result of Montgomery Hispanic Church's outreach.

committing to study with a friend for 20 consecutive days. At the end of the 20 days, 33 people graduated and received a graduation certificate and a leather Bible with their names engraved. Others continued to study.

The first meeting of an evange-

listic series began immediately after the graduation ceremony. More than 120 adults attended meetings. Nilton Garcia, pastor, says, "There are still a great number of people interested, and plenty of work to do. The church is very excited."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Olive Branch Members Hold Evangelism Seminar



The Revelation of Hope baptismal class

Egbert and Keishauni George, a husband-and-wife student-evangelists

team, presented a Revelation of Hope Seminar from May 11 to June 9, 2012, at

the Olive Branch, Miss., Church. The seminar was advertised to more than 20,000 homes in the north Mississippi area within a 30-mile radius of the church. The Olive Branch members worked in teams; some walked the neighborhoods passing out flyers and others helped with the mailings.

The seminar was well attended. Many guests attended night

after night. Together the Georges joined with Chuck Woods, pastor, to do follow-up visits with those who attended the meetings. Seeing God at work is always exciting, and this experience was no exception. On the final evening of the series, the meeting closed with seven newly baptized individuals and three requesting profession of faith to join Olive Branch Church: a total of 10 new members added by the working of the Holy Spirit.

—BY DWIGHT HENDREE

God's Promises Made Real at VBS

When the Vacation Bible School (VBS) youth class sang their version of "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" at graduation, the audience knew something exceptional had happened. Attendance at Auburn-Opeleka Metro Church's VBS had more than doubled over last year's. One factor which led to the increased attendance was the VBS program that the leaders chose to use, "Adventures on Promise Island," which included a section for teens. Wanda McPherson accepted the challenge of youth teacher, and to everyone's delight, 12 of the 41 who attended were teens.

The program centered on the five promises of God. Most of the church members helped

in some way. Daily, there was an exciting experience at Seaside Celebration with Bible stories from the Old and New Testament, which explained how God works in their lives by answering prayers. The children

memorized Bible verses, did crafts, and visited the Coconut Café for snacks from the theme of the day.

Sandra Kromminga, VBS helper and church communications secretary, says, "We experienced the

powerful and unchanging promises of God."

As McPherson met with the youth class, the Holy Spirit moved on the students' hearts. Many made a personal decision to allow the Lord to be a major part of their lives. One member, a sophomore in high school, changed his mind about attending a local public high school, and is now making plans to attend an Adventist boarding academy.

The youth who attended the VBS teen class are now attending Sabbath School and church. According to Kromminga, the Sabbath School youth class has now doubled in size.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



The youth class, with Taylor Griffin directing and Indy Rhodes accompanying on saxophone, sang their version of "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" at the VBS graduation.

Highland Continues in Excellence With New Principal, Staff



Jere Clayburn

Highland Academy, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's boarding academy located approximately 35 miles north of Nashville, Tenn., continues to strive for excellence in education. The 2012-2013 school year begins with Jere Clayburn as the new principal. Clayburn comes from Maplewood Academy, Hutchinson, Minn., where he served as the vice principal and science teacher for the past six years. Clayburn holds a master's degree in biology from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. He and his wife, Loretta, have two children, Jolene and Tyler. "I am passionate about Adventist Christian education. We are presented with many challenges in this age as we near our Savior's return. We need educators and administrators who are committed to letting God lead in every aspect of life. I believe that God has called me to this area of service, and that He has much to offer through me," said



Amy Cirigliano

Clayburn. Highland also welcomes three more new faculty and staff members. Amy Cirigliano is the new recruiter and marketing director. She received a master of divinity degree from Andrews University, and has worked as a pastor in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Cirigliano has also worked in public relations and marketing with Adventist Health System. Her husband, Joe, is a pastor and evangelist and is presently working as an evangelist. She said, "I believe God has sent our family to Highland Academy, and I've already fallen in love with the school. I'm so thankful to be a part of this wonderful ministry." They have three children: Sophia, Joey, and Sara. Nolan Williams is the new chaplain and Bible teacher. Williams has taught Christian leadership, health, and PE at Andrews Academy. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in religion from Andrews University. He is



Nolan Williams

married to Chrystal, who holds a bachelor of science in dietetics from Andrews University. Williams states, "One of the greatest qualities that I have to offer is my love for youth and the learning environment that an Adventist academy has to offer." Steven Williams is the new math teacher and IT director at Highland. He comes from Upper Columbia Academy where he served as assistant IT director. Williams holds a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Walla Walla University, with a minor in music. Williams is married to Alice, who has a degree in nursing. They have one son, Grant. He states, "I am excited at the opportunity to teach in several of my favorite fields of study, which include math, physics, and technology." Highland welcomes young people of all faiths who desire a quality education in a God-centered environment. All teachers are



Steven Williams

certified using cutting edge curriculum. Their national test scores and ACT scores are above the national average. Highland offers dual credit classes which earn high school credit and college credit. They also offer several fine arts and practical arts courses — band, bell choir, Sole Voce, photography, woodworking, art, advanced art, and auto mechanics. Student employment abounds with campus jobs and Signature Healthcare. As a result of Highland's partnership with Signature Healthcare, there are three industries on campus — Signature Furniture, Signature Construction Office, and The Bridge at Highland (a Signature nursing home facility). Highland also offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. Many students say, "Highland feels like a family." For more information, visit the website at www.highland-academy.com.

—BY AMY CIRIGLIANO

Member Sells Dolls for Investment

Ridgetop, Tenn., church member Sharon Vance has been collecting dolls for more than 45 years and has more than 200. Some of her collection consists of dolls from Madame Alexandra, Ashton Drake, Horseman, Ideal, and Lee Middleton. Also in her collection are dolls that belonged to her daughters, and four bride dolls given to her by her late husband, Sonny. The dolls range in size from 4 to 36 inches and include infants, schoolgirls, brides, maidens, and many more.



Sharon Vance with some of her "Investment Dolls"

Vance's love for dolls began as a young girl when she received a new

one from her mother every Christmas. She has not had a Sab-

bath School Investment project for a long time, so she decided to give some of her collection to the Lord by selling the dolls for Investment. So far she has raised \$152, with 100 percent for Investment.

Do you have an interest in dolls of all kinds? Would you like to purchase a doll from Sharon Vance? If so, call her at 615-504-3275.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Brian Hadley Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Brian Hadley was ordained into the Gospel ministry on June 23, 2012, at Bordeaux Church near Nashville, Tenn. David Hartman, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference minis-

terial director, challenged Hadley to "Be prayerful, Be grounded, Be evangelistic, Be a disciple-maker, and Be faithful" — five charges found in the pastoral epistles of First and Second

Timothy. At the conclusion, Hartman handed Hadley a baton with the five charges inscribed on the side as a reminder of the "Passing the Baton" message.

Concerning his ordination, Hadley remarked, "The ordination service confirms and upholds what God started over 11 years ago in my life. It was a time for me to renew my commitment to His call. Though unworthy in and of myself, but made worthy because of His grace, I resign my will to His, that as long as life and strength should last or until the Lord comes, I will proclaim the Word of God to

judgment-bound souls whose eternal destiny is in the heavenly balances."

Steve Rose, Conference executive secretary, offered the ordination prayer and Steve Haley, Conference president, along with his wife, Malinda, welcomed Hadley and his wife, Carly, into ministry.

The Hadleys have served the Bordeaux, Ashland City, and Dickson churches since January 2009. In addition to typical pastoral responsibilities, Hadley has held an evangelistic series in one of his churches each year since he's been in the district.

The Hadleys have two active little boys, Brandon and Jared.

—BY DAVID HARTMAN



Carly, Jared, Brian, and Brandon Hadley

Michael Gordon, 29: Wanted to Teach Through Athletics

Michael Gordon, of East Point, Ga., was reared a Seventh-day Adventist. He and his family strictly followed the teachings of the Church, including observance of the Sabbath. That meant from sundown Friday until after sundown Saturday, no basketball, no matter how badly others wanted him to play.

“He did not waiver on his faith, and he always observed his Sabbath,” said his father, Walter Gordon, who pastors Trinity Church

in LaGrange. “And, when it became his choice, he chose to honor the religious preference he grew up with.”

Often a scoring leader for Benjamin E. Mays High School during his four years, Michael Gordon sometimes had to miss basketball games when they fell during the Sabbath. He opted to attend an Adventist college where he could play ball and worship without fear of a schedule conflict, his father said, adding, “He could have chosen differently, but he didn’t.”

Gordon died June 15, 2012, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was 29.

At the time of his death, he was a teacher and coach in the Fulton County school system. He had recently earned a master’s degree in kinesiology — the study of human movement — from Georgia Southern, with hopes of starting

his own sports and education academy one day, said his sister, Tangela Gordon Sanders of Atlanta.

“He wanted learning to come easier for students, and he knew that could happen through athletics,” Sanders said. “He believed in making learning fun for kids. He was a big dreamer.”

Gordon was also a big shooter on the basketball court, said Keith Winston, a former AAU coach. Gordon wasn’t 6 feet tall, so his coach encouraged him to shoot from “outside the fray and not to get mixed up with those bigger guys.”

“He still played in an adult league in College Park,” Winston said. “My son, who plays too, came over the other day and said Michael had something like 35 points in their last game. They went back through the scorer’s book and saw that most of his points came from three-pointers.”

“Gordon was a good athlete,” said his mother,

Vivian Gordon, “but there was much more to him.” She said her son spent time working not only with children, but clothing and feeding the homeless. Whenever and wherever he could help, he did, she said.

“When he came back from college, he gathered up all of the basketballs he’d collected and took them to the parks,” she said. “He knew there were children who didn’t have a basketball, and he had more than he needed, so he shared. By the same token, he would take clothes to the shelter on Pine Street and help feed the people there. He just had such a giving heart.”

In addition to his parents and sister, Gordon is also survived by one brother, Walter “Pumpkin” Gordon III of East Point.

—BY MICHELLE E. SHAW,
ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION STAFF WRITER



Edna Smith Reaches Out to Ghana

When Edna Smith received a letter from Goaso, Ghana, requesting some religious literature, she knew she had to act. So, one Sabbath morning she made an appeal to the congregation for material. The church’s response was overwhelming. When she had all the material she needed, she

had to get it to Ghana. That was not an easy task, but the Lord provided a way.

“When I received your packages enclosed with numerous books, and read your



letters concerning your idea of selfless service to enhance the Lord’s business, I was overwhelmed,” explained Janet Osei. According to Osei, “the *Bible Reading* books that were sent won 13 souls! Thank God that Sister Smith listened to the Holy Spirit and acted.”

—BY JOHN DAVIS

Shiloh Members Receive CPR/AED Training



CPR/AED training attendees

Shiloh Church, Charleston, S.C., Health Ministries Department was awarded their own Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on January 29, 2012, through Roper St. Francis Heart Save Program. This award was

made possible through funding by the Medical Society of South Carolina.

Explaining the importance of the AED, Charmaine

Cohen, R.N., B.S.N., Shiloh's health ministries leader, stated, "One of the most important benefits of the AED is that it saves valuable time. It automatically diagnoses the life threatening problems on

an individual who appears unconscious. The machine automatically applies electrical therapy which stops the life threatening arrhythmia and allows the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. The machine can be used on the adult as well as the pediatric patient."

The program provided CPR/AED and choking training on adults, pediatrics, and infants. Twenty-six individuals were trained, including Pathfinders; counselors; children's ministries staff; Eugene Hamilton, pastor; church members;

and one individual from the community. All members trained will receive a valid CPR certification card, and Pathfinders who completed the training will receive their CPR honor badges.

The AED is mounted in the church foyer, where it is easily accessible by trained staff.

"We are truly blessed to have received this equipment from the Medical Society of South Carolina," said Cohen.

—BY PHILESHA HIGGS

Gethsemane Members Celebrate Valentine's in March

The Family Life Department of Gethsemane Church in Raleigh, N.C., hosted an entertaining couples' night which featured 10 couples of Gethsemane on Sabbath, March 17, 2012. The event was titled "Valentine's in March." The fellowship hall was decorated with pink, red, and white streamers; and with flowers, candles, and tablecloths by Linda Buie, Peggy Bryant, Deborah Williams, Anita Alers, Sharon Johnson, the Privette family, and Lawanda Davis.

Diana Singleton and Tajuana Lordeus collaborated on an evening of fun that focused on the couples of the church. Since the month of February was a short and terribly busy month, the two expressed an interest to have a game

night of sorts at the church. They decided to celebrate the Valentine's holiday in March with a game called "How Well Do You Know Your Spouse?"

Couples were invited to participate on a panel, and everyone was invited, whether married or single. Childcare was available so families with small children could attend.

The couples who participated were Larry and Carol Johnson, Jean and Tajuana Lordeus, Calvin and Nerey Lane, Lawrence and Lawanda Davis, Travis and Paula Jones, Charles and Yolanda Adams, Reginald and Penny Taylor, Alex and Madeline Alexis, Donnell and Lisa Privette, and Ernest and Hyacinth Whonder.



Carol and Larry Johnson

LaVern Gadsden and Diana Singleton were the mistresses of ceremony. The evening started with a poem titled "For My Love." The rules were stated, and all wives were asked to leave the room while their husbands answered questions such as "What cereal would you describe your wife as?" and "Which candy

would you use to describe your first kiss?" The wives were asked to return to the room, and the answers were revealed. Next, the husbands were asked to leave the room, and the wives were asked five questions.

The winners of the game were Larry Johnson, pastor, and his wife, Carol. The

second place winners were Donnell and Lisa Privette. Third place winners were Jean and Tajuana Lordeus.

Future activities will be planned to invite the community and local sister churches.

—BY TAJUANA D. LORDEUS

Two Churches Join in Outreach

Riverview (Georgia-Cumberland Conference) and Brainard Chapel (South Central Conference) churches joined hands in an exciting outreach effort. The outreach was titled "Backpacks and More." During the week of July 16-20, the two churches watched their efforts culminate in one of the most exciting, sharing experiences.

The goal of the program was to provide the families in the Brainard Chapel community assistance with school supplies for the upcoming year, and to share the Good News of Christ's love with the children. The tool for the program was using a Vacation Bible School (VBS) format, "Go Fishin' Mission Adventure Camp," to invite children to attend for the



Riverview (Georgia-Cumberland Conference) and Brainard Chapel (South Central Conference) churches' Vacation Bible School team

week. At the end of the week, the children received a voucher for each day's attendance and a free backpack. Parents could take the voucher to their local K-Mart and apply the amount toward the purchase of their child's school supplies.

Many milestones were achieved. This was the first VBS conducted in the 50-year history of Brainard Chapel. This was the first outreach program that involved reaching across

conferences to work together in the Greeneville, Tenn., area. On Family Night, 29 children graduated, and some of the children asked to come back the next week. Reaching across conferences to reach out to the community let members know that "with God,

all things are possible," Matthew 19:26.

The Brainard Chapel Church family was all about the "I." "What can I do? Where do you want me? Where do you

need me? What time do I need to be there? I can't do this, but I am willing to do that." As a family, all pulled together, giving new meaning to Acts 5:12, "Through the work of the apostles, many God-signs were set up among the people, many wonderful things done. They all met regularly and in remarkable harmony on the Temple porch named after Solomon," The Message Bible.

—BY AUBREY SHOEMAKER



The children and families were blessed, and some asked to come back the next week.

Gordons Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

Samuel and Renna Gordon celebrated 50 years of married life on May 5, 2012. Sam (as he is affectionately called) and Renna met in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1957. They both felt they had met "the love of their life," and married on May 5, 1962, in Cleveland, Ohio, raising a family of two boys and one girl.

The Lord has continued to bless the couple,

and they now have 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. While living in Ohio, the Gordons were very active in their church. Sam served as an usher for more than 20 years,



and then became a deacon. Renna helped in Cradle Roll, and then became an usher. Currently, they are members

of Temple Gate Church in Selma, Ala.

Renna, who was a full-time, stay-at-home mom, has

always enjoyed cooking and growing beautiful flowers. After 30 years of work in Ohio, Sam decided to retire to Alabama and focus on his love of gardening. The couple spends time enjoying each other in their Christian home they have created together.

—BY AUDREY RICHARDSON

“Biggest Loser” Brings Bountiful Blessings

Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala., expressed to Curtis and Paula Eakins, “I want to bring the Biggest Loser to First Church.” Curtis Eakins, First Church health ministries assistant director, and Paula Eakins, First Church health ministries director and South Central health ministries director, looked at one another in amazement, and then turned to Snell and gratefully said in unison, “OK!” The Abundant Liv-

and first place, respectively. “More than Conquerors” won the team category. Along with weight loss, high blood pressure, diabetes, feeling tired, constipation,



Total registration for season two was 74. Headbands were used to distinguish team members.

energy. Since the six weeks is over, it really just begun! My friends and patients [at my job] see the difference, and my husband really likes it! Thank you for your witness.”

Bre states, “When I started the Biggest Loser, I had no hope.



Biggest Losers weekly session included a 20-minute energetic exercise routine.

ing DVD series called the “Winning Weigh,” along with PowerPoint, workbooks, and special pedometers, were the teaching aids used for the six-week session. Snell, and his wife, Gianna, also joined.

Based on percentage of weight loss and attendance, the individual results were as follows: Cherise Primm and Ida Jacob tied for third place. Janice Hughes and Kim Vactor took second

and headaches were greatly improved.

Moreover, Biggest Loser members began inviting their co-workers to sign up as well. As a result, nine non-Adventists registered. Some attend Sabbath services and weekly Prayer Meetings on a regular bases.

To encourage participants to increase their fruit and vegetable consumption, Artis and Edna Sidney,

owners of Garden Cove Produce, an Adventist-owned health food store, agreed to offer discount cards to all Biggest Loser participants during the session.

Belinda says, “WOW! Where do I begin? It has been a life-changing experience – the way I eat, live, walk, and exercise. Also, I now think about the choice I make for my meals and other lifestyle habits the Eakins have introduced to me. I have so much more

I was uncomfortable in my own skin. I hated going to the gym because I felt so out of place. This was my last try! However, the small steps combined with Christian love and teamwork helped me drop 24 pounds and 14 inches. I’m at work fighting back tears of joy because for the first time in a very long time I have hope for overcoming my obesity. Can’t wait until our next [monthly] weigh-in.”

—BY CURTIS EAKINS



Tied for third place was Idabeth Jacob. Her son, Miller Jacob, took second place in season one.

OAA Student, Teacher Witness at National Water Competition

For more than 18 years, Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) has been participating in and winning local, regional, and state science competitions. Jeremiah Penrod, sophomore at OAA and his science teacher Nanetta Joiner Hiller, attended the Stockholm Junior Water Prize national competition in Boston, Mass., on June 14-17, 2012. This is the most prestigious junior water prize competition in the nation.

This amazing opportunity came because of Penrod competing and winning the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Award at the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He then went on to win the competition for the entire state of Alabama! He received the grand prize of an all-expense-paid trip to Boston for him and his teacher to represent Alabama.

Upon arriving in Boston, the schedule indicated that the competition and activities would take place



Nanetta Joiner Hiller, OAA science teacher, and Jeremiah Penrod, OAA sophomore, attended the Stockholm Junior Water Prize national competition in Boston, Mass., June 2012.

on Friday morning and afternoon. However, an educational session, awards ceremony, official group photo with all the participants, and activities were scheduled for Sabbath. Hiller explained to the organizers that she and Jeremiah could not participate because of their Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, and they would be attending church on Saturday. The officials understood but wondered if they could at least come to the awards ceremony and take a group photo. Penrod and Hiller stood firm that they would not be able to attend.

The meetings at the competition were wonderful as Penrod and Hiller got acquainted with students and teachers from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. There were many water scientists from around the nation. Some of the students had even competed at the International Science and Engineering Fair competition.

The competition was amazing with fantastic presentations. Penrod's project was entitled "Comparison of the Effectiveness of Homemade Water Filters and Commercial Brita Filter."

Penrod discovered that the judging was similar to the regional and state competitions, but the judges had more experience as water experts. Penrod said, "It was awesome, and I would love to do it again. I met some great friends."

During dinner and other activities, Penrod and Hiller had an opportunity to share their faith. They discussed religions with his new friends and about being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. They both were able to share with the students and their colleagues about going to

church on Sabbath and noticed that even their diet was observed during the clambake, especially when they turned away lobster and other seafood.

After attending the local church on Sabbath and having a wonderful time in the Lord with fellow believers, they returned to the hotel for dinner that evening and were surprised when the officials presented Penrod with a private award ceremony to present his medal and to congratulate him on his achievement. What a powerful witness!

Penrod continues a rich tradition of scientific excellence at OAA. Because of the strength of the science program, OAA has produced numerous alumni who have excelled in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related careers such as doctors, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, epidemiologists, engineers, pharmacists, physical therapists, and more. Congratulations to Penrod for representing his mother, Juliet Penrod, Ph.D., biology professor at Oakwood University; OAA; the state of Alabama; and most of all, God!

—BY NANETTA JOINER HILLER

Court System Partners With South Florida Churches to Support Youth



Pictured are members of the south Florida Juvenile Court System with Barry Bonner (left), pastor of Bethany Church, Miami, Fla., and Leonard Newton (third from right), pastor of Alpha-Agape Church, Miami, Fla.

Judge Orlando Prescott, attorneys, and department heads from the Juvenile Court System of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit gathered for a special session on March 17, 2012.

However, during the session the judge's gavel was not pounded, and the attorneys present did not argue a client's guilt or innocence.

The purpose of the special session, a joint effort between the Juvenile Court System and the south Florida Adventist churches, was to communicate an urgent message to church members and the community — to reach out to the youth of south Florida.

Issues discussed at the session, which was held at Bethany Church in Miami, Fla., were pertaining to juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency.

Prescott, administrative

judge of the Juvenile Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, served as moderator for the evening.

The program, organized by the education and religious liberty departments of the Alpha-Agape Church, Miami, Fla., was the first community outreach program of its kind.

Individuals in attendance included members from south Florida churches and the local community, representatives from Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., the Department of Children and Families, Office of Regional Council, the State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Departments of Juvenile Justice Detention and Juvenile Services.

Two panels were established, the first focusing on juvenile dependency and the second on juvenile

delinquency. Each panelist was given the opportunity to discuss juvenile issues associated with their departments.

They shared information regarding the juvenile system, including the startling statistic that up to 75 percent of the juveniles in Miami-Dade County are African Americans, even though African Americans make up a significantly lower percent of the overall population.

Tonya Williams, attorney for the Office of Regional Council, specifically addressed the young people in attendance. She admonished them to be selective when choosing friends, to dress properly, to avoid sending the wrong message to others, and to be respectful to police officers and others in authority.

One guest panelist stated that he came to the

program to educate the church members and the community, but he benefited tremendously from them and he expressed an interest in attending a church service.

Event organizers indicated that they were very pleased with the outcome of the program and look forward to the next session. Barry Bonner, Bethany Church pastor, offered closing remarks and prayer.

—BY DEDRIANNA SMITH

Southeastern Conducts Executive Committee Orientation

On the second floor of the Rosen Hotel in Orlando, Fla., members of the newly appointed Executive Committee met to participate in an orientation event. The event, held July 20, 21, was designed to prepare them for their roles as members of the committee during the next four years.

“The purpose of the orientation is to equip them with the knowledge they will need to effectively serve on the Executive Committee,” said Hubert Morel, Southeastern Conference president. “It is my desire to set a tone that excellence is not an accident, and that we are serious about min-

istry in Southeastern.”

Roscoe Howard, Adventist Health System vice president of missions, served as the facilitator.

“Howard is extremely qualified to conduct the meetings. He has served as

able to provide the committee members with the knowledge they will need to function effectively as committee members.”

Howard told the members of the Executive Committee that serving on

the committee is an awesome responsibility, and admonished them to take the responsibilities seriously.

“The function of the Conference committee is to assist the Conference leadership

in leading the Conference,” said Howard. “You are to help in crafting a vision, planning, and by providing a level of accountability.”

“The orientation was extremely beneficial,” said April Rolle, first-time committee member and a member of the Mt. Pisgah Church in Miami, Fla.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Conference administration and a mixture of departmental directors, laypeople, pastors, and teachers from the five districts of the Conference. The function of the committee is to represent the Conference constituency when not in session. The 35 members were appointed at the 10th Regular Session of the Southeastern Conference on May 20, 2012.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Roscoe Howard, Adventist Health System vice president of missions, discusses the function of the Executive Committee with its new members.

pastor, executive secretary of the North American Division, and president of the Mid-America Union,” said Morel. “He will be

Teachers Retool and Get Recertified

For eight years the Southeastern Conference has been the only conference in the Southern Union to consistently hold 100 percent teacher certification.

For two weeks every summer during the month of July, teachers from Southeastern gather to participate in the Southeastern Oakwood Teacher Institute, taking courses that enable them to maintain their certifications.

“The Teacher Institute is the sole reason that we have been able to maintain 100 percent certification over the past eight years,” said Carol

Byrd, Southeastern Conference superintendent of education. “Teacher certification is a critical part of establishing quality schools.”

During the two-week period, four intensive courses are offered based on the certification needs of the teachers. Courses offered this summer included the exceptional child, social studies methods, science methods, and math methods. The courses are taught by professors from Oakwood University School of Education.

The institute is not just for teachers from Southeast-

ern. During the past eight years, teachers from Florida and South Atlantic conferences have participated in

the Institute.

“I have been attending the Teacher Institute for the past three years. The methods and tools that I have acquired here have been life-changing for me,” said Sandra Geach, teacher of the Florida Conference Mt. Dora, Fla., School.

View photos of this event at www.flickr.com/secsda. Watch the video at www.vimeo.com/sectv.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Teachers work on a group project during the Oakwood Southeastern Teacher Institute, which is held every summer for two weeks during the month of July at the Southeastern Conference Office in Mt. Dora, Fla.

Southeastern Holds Nonprofit Leadership Training

During the week of June 4-8, 2012, the Southeastern Conference opened its facilities to the North American Division to conduct the first session of its Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP).

“The NLCP is a certification initiative that is designed to equip nonprofit leaders with the practical skills and perspectives they need to operate effectively by emphasizing the distinctive character of nonprofit operations, and the collaborative nature of modern problem-solving,” said Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Through this program, he wants to start members on the track of thinking of community service as a joy and responsibility as a Christian.

According to NAD’s community services website, the NLCP is a two-level training designed for current or prospective nonprofit staff engaged in or planning to engage in leadership within their institutions, Union and Conference leaders, pastors, social service workers, and community

leaders who work closely with nonprofit organizations. The training provided by the NLCP training is the result of a partnership among Washington Adventist University Center for Metropolitan Ministry, Andrews University, NAD Adventist Community Services, Philanthropic Services for Institutions, General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Adventist World Radio, and Adventist Risk Management.

“The goal of the certification program is to increase the knowledge of community service, enhance the skill set among the participants, and change attitudes about community



More than 80 individuals throughout the North American Division attended the first session of the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, June 4-8, 2012, at the Southeastern Conference Office in Mt. Dora, Fla.

service to a ‘kingdom attitude,’” said David Peay, Southeastern Conference director of community service. Peay was instrumental in bringing the NLCP to Southeastern.

“It is a great program that works with individuals to certify them to better serve their community,” said Hubert Morel, Southeastern Conference president. Morel went through the certification program while serving as director of community service for Southeastern. He adds that it is a useful program for pastors, community service leaders, and prison ministry leaders to participate in to make them more efficient in their ministries.

The certification program is composed of a mixture of lectures and group exercises that challenged the participants to think in the

mindset of community service leaders.

More than 80 individuals from throughout the North American Division participated in the second level training. Upon completing the course, one of the participants who traveled from Asheville, N.C., mentioned

that she found the program to be useful, informative, entertaining, and valuable. A common favorite of many of the participants were the practical stories shared by Kwon.

Kwon shared that his most enjoyable moment throughout the week was interacting with the various ethnic and cultural backgrounds represented by the attendees. Kwon hopes that through programs like this, the Adventist Church can bring about a new paradigm shift that will make community outreach more relevant by following crisis methods.

NLCP session two training will be held at the Southeastern Conference on September 23-27. To register for the training, visit www.communityservices.org. View photos from this event at www.flickr.com/secsda.

—BY ANDRE MURRAY



Lewis Edwards, D.Min. (left), pastor of Kissimmee and Mt. Zion churches in Florida, and Theus Young, Southeastern Conference director of publishing, participate in a group discussion during the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program.

OU Aeolians Choir Wins Three Gold Medals, World Trophy

Oakwood University Aeolians Choir brings Southern Union three gold medals and a World Spirituals Championship trophy.

In its debut international choral competition, Oakwood's Aeolians Choir, the lone Seventh-day Adventist and/or Alabama representative, won three gold medals in its three competing categories, at the Cincinnati-hosted seventh World Choir Games, July 4-14.

Director Jason Max Ferdinand explained, "In the Music of the Religions, Musica Contemporanea, and The Spirituals, we won gold in each. "The last category, which was new this time, we got the 'championship' rank.

"The Aeolians rose to the challenge and on their debut at the World Choir Games, among nearly 400 choirs from all over the world, made a great impact. So proud of these students."

Sixteen international choirs competed in the Music of the Religions category, he continued, and the Aeolians won its first gold, singing "John Saw Duh Numbuh," "The Prayer," "The Holy City," and "The Seven-fold Amen," scoring 81.63 out of 100 possible points, prompting such responses as, "Although I only managed to see and hear some 30 choirs, I felt privileged to witness such a wonderful event, which I will cherish for years to come. There's no way for

me to forget the magnificent voices of The Aeolians of Oakwood University, from Huntsville, Alabama, as they sang 'The Holy City' at the Masonic Temple. It was the best rendition I have ever heard." Lilia F. Brady, Mount Lookout, "Letters to the Editor," Cincinnati.com.

The second gold medal came in Musica Contemporanea, where Oakwood's 42 choristers – including four returning alumni and one entering freshman, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy's Chad Lupoe – bested 20 competitors singing "Cantate Domino," "Always Remember," "Shadrach," and "Great and Marvelous," scoring an 82.38.

"Cantate Domino" was to be the early-summer challenge, as the Aeolians core group had never before sung this composition, recorded on its 2008 CD project, A New Song; but, according to the Adventist News Network (<http://news.adventist.org/archive/articles/2012/07/16/oakwoods-aeolians-win-awards-in-world-choir-competition>), "Earlier in the summer break from school, the group practiced new songs for the competition individually. They later held group rehearsals remotely using Google Plus. All 42 members



met for a final rehearsal at the University campus the weekend before the competition."

The third and final category, Spiritual, featured 16 choral groups. Right before its presentations in the 3,400-seat Cincinnati Music Hall, the Aeolians received a special visitor: "Steal Away" arranger Diedre Robinson journeyed from her Washington, D.C., home to join the group's rapidly growing cheering section. "Jericho," "Daniel, Servant of the Lord," "Steal Away," and "You Must Have That True Religion" not only clinched the third gold medal, but its 93.88 score also won the group the coveted Champions trophy, as well as a trip to the U.S. Bank Arena victory platform, where the U.S. flag was hoisted and all joined with the now-dubbed "Gold-olians" in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Oakwood's pride redoubled when The Jeremy Winston Chorale, led by former Oakwood Aeolian-turned-choral-director at Wilberforce University (OH) Jeremy Winston, won the

World Gospels Championship trophy, as well as silver medals in Mixed Chamber Choirs and Spirituals categories.

More than 15,000 choristers in 362 choirs com-

peted in 23 different musical categories.

Ferdinand said, "It was so inspiring watching choirs rehearse in hallways, rehearsal spaces, and on stage. The interaction with folk from all around the world was refreshing."

Ferdinand ended, "Thank you, President Dr. Leslie Pollard and the OU administrators; manager Vilroy McBean for getting it all together; music department chair and accompanist Dr. Wayne Bucknor, (We did it, man!); Riter Dany St. Luc, my student worker, who is developing as a leader; [Oakwood Aeolian alum] Desmond Pierre-Louis; and Diedre Robinson for coming up to join us. Diedre, your "Steal Away" did it! "Summer Choir Games Group Aeolians, WE DID IT!!! Nothing like working hard and then seeing the results. Love you all!"

This biennial event, the world's largest choral competition, will next occur in Riga, Latvia, in 2014.

—BY TIM ALLSTON

Honors Music Festival Brings Talented High School Students to Southern

For the past 40 years Southern Adventist University has held a music festival for gifted high school musicians. This not only gives them the chance to advance their musical skill under the guidance of renowned guest conductors, but also convinces many of them that Southern is the right college for them.

The next festival takes place February 20-23, 2013, and will feature guest band clinician Dennis Ballard of Indiana State University, and string orchestra clinician Dawn Harms of Stanford University. All participants are required to audition. An application that can be found at southern.edu/music is also required. Band participants are required to submit a recorded audition with their application. The deadline for next year's application is November 1.

The festival originally

began as a way of providing outstanding student musicians in Southern Union academies the opportunity to explore music at a higher level than was possible in their school ensembles. Through the years, however, the festival has grown to include students from national public, private, and home schools as well. Musicians come from as far as Miami and Cincinnati to participate.

Beth Davis, band director at Madison Academy in Nashville, Tenn., believes the festival has been an "immense benefit" for her students.

But, according to Ken Parsons, associate professor of music at Southern, the festival has always been about more than just musical skills.

"As a former academy band director, I know that the festival is effective in helping students gain



The application deadline for next year's Honors Instrumental Music Festival is November 1.

a new vision of musical excellence," Parsons said. "And as a University professor, I know that the festival is effective in acquainting students with our school and music faculty."

Around 120 students attend the festival each year. Participants are housed for the duration of their stay in the men's and women's dorms. Parents

who attend the entire festival are provided with housing accommodations. A \$55 fee is required of all musicians to cover their dormitory lodging and meals throughout the festival. For more information on the Honors Instrumental Music Festival, visit southern.edu/music.

—BY LUKE EVANS

Campus Architect Earns Environmental Building Certification

Campus architect Fred Turner has become a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional. This and the April



Fred Turner

installation of an 832-panel solar panel system are just the two

most recent steps toward reaching the institution's strategic goal of environmental sustainability and resource stewardship.

LEED certification is recognized as the leading standard for measuring

eco-friendly building designs, constructions, and maintenance solutions. Turner's training in preparation for the certification has taught him new methods of protecting the campus' natural environment by means of maintaining fresh air, conserving water, saving energy, and using materials in a responsible

way for Southern and the surrounding community.

To learn more about Southern's eco-friendly activities, and for live tracking of solar panel activity, visit southern.edu/green.

—BY LUKE EVANS

Southern Adventist University

hosts events for you!

JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Archaeology Lecture, September 20

Aaron Burke, Ph.D., will talk about the archaeology of warfare in the ancient Near East at 7:30 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. This is a free event.

Symphony Orchestra Concert, October 7

The Southern Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This is a free event.

Rock & the Rabbi, October 9

This musical drama about the friendship between Peter and Jesus is a mix of original acoustic songs and powerful storytelling. The popular show comes to campus for a 7:30 p.m. performance in the Iles P.E. Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$20 for families (free with Southern ID card).

Wind Symphony Concert, October 14

The Southern Wind Symphony will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This is a free event.

Adventist Heritage Lecture, October 11

Merlin Burt, Ph.D., will speak on the role of E. G. White in Seventh-day Adventist heritage at 11 a.m. in the Collegedale Church. This is a free event.

Mark Twain Celebration, October 26

John Henley, a rare book dealer and appraiser, will discuss Southern's extensive collection of Twain-related artifacts at 4:30 p.m. in McKee Library. This is a free event.

Visit Us

Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to southern.edu/visit.



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Attendee Registration Form

All attendees must Register

Name _____ Phone _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Specialty _____

Professional License No. _____ Home Conference _____

Spouse's Name _____

I would like to attend the following CE class: Dental Medical Optometry

A \$100 non-refundable fee is required if attending CE Classes.

Will you be attending Sabbath services? Yes* No

*If yes, please list names and ages of children attending: _____

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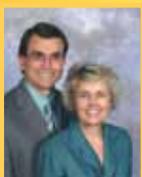
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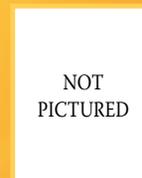
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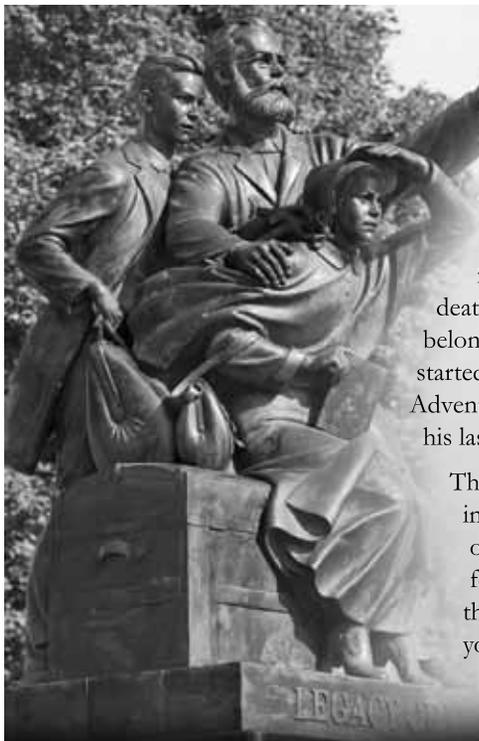
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Pouring out his life as evangelist, editor, General Conference President and our first Adventist Missionary, he exemplified the sacrifices of our pioneers. After the death of his wife, he left for Europe with his son and daughter and one small trunk of belongings. Living in the most austere manner they learned the languages of Europe and started not only the first publishing work but helped give birth to the total European Adventist church. His daughter died at 17 and he at 54. Both died of tuberculosis. One of his last acts was to sign over his remaining \$500 to be used in the Lord's work in Europe.

The Spirit of the Pioneers is not dead but still resides in many members right here in the Southern Union. Planned Giving and Trust Services is designed to help all our members to further the causes they believe in as well as to adequately provide for the needs of their family. You are invited to contact for counsel and services the Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services department of your choice listed below.

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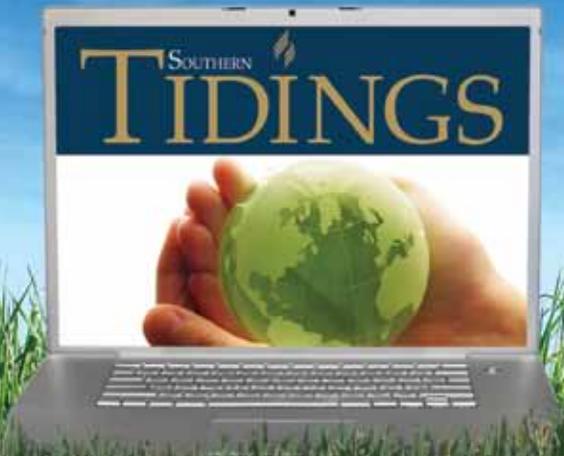
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Announcements

Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys' 35th Annual Fall Retreat – Sept. 14-16.
Email: SSAA@southernunion.com for details.

Southern Singles Ministries Alumni Reunion Potluck – Sept. 22. Chattanooga, TN, First Church. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend – Sept. 28, 29. Gates Hall, Nevada, IA. Details: 636-527-0955 or 402-570-0346, or warrenw2u@gmail.com. We need your email.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – Oct. 4-7. Details: 573-682-2164 or www.sunnydale.org.

Highland Academy Alumni Weekend – Oct. 5-7. Portland, TN. Details: 615-325-2036, www.highland-academy.com.

Maryville, TN, Church 40th Homecoming – Oct. 6. Maryville, TN. Details: 865-977-6934.

Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – Oct. 5-7. Bismarck, ND. Details: 701-258-9000, x236, or www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnievents.

Roan Mountain, TN, Church 50th Anniversary – Oct. 13. Details: 423-725-9929 or www.roanmountainsda.org.

Society of Adventist Communicators Annual Convention – Oct. 18-20. Theme: Soaring to New Heights. Hotel Albuquerque Old Town, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Visit www.adventistcommunicators.org for details.

Southern Singles Ministries Fall Retreat – Oct. 19-21. Sterchi Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Hispanic Young Adult Retreat – Sept. 7-9. NPR.

Retiree Retreat – Sept. 16-20. NPR.

Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting/North – Sept. 29. Greenville, NC. James Gilley, Main Speaker; Message of Mercy, Musical Guests; and Ellen White drama presentation by Rita Hoshino.

ShareHim Boot Camp – Sept. 21, 22 NPR.

Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting/South – Oct. 6. Summerville, SC. James Gilley, Main Speaker; Message of Mercy, Musical Guests; and James White drama presentation by Dennis Farley.

Women's Retreat – Oct. 12-14, NPR. Visit www.carolinasda.org to register.

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Oct. 19, 20. NPR.

Marriage Matters in English – Oct. 29. Charlotte. Register at www.carolinasda.org/family-ministries.

Marriage Matters en Español – Oct. 30. Charlotte. Same information as above seminar, but presented in Spanish.

Community Service Retreat – Nov. 2-4. NPR.

Men's Retreat – Nov. 9-11. NPR.

Florida

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

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

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

Sept. 22. Orange Cove.
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Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Sept. 29. Port Charlotte.
Sept. 30. North Port, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy

in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

Oct. 13. St. Petersburg.

Oct. 14. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Homosassa, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills.

Oct. 20. Jacksonville Southpoint.

Oct. 21. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Oct. 27. Tallahassee.

Oct. 28. Lake City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.

Spanish-language Marriage Retreat – Sept. 21-23. Daytona Beach Resort. Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x138.

High School Bible Retreat – Sept. 27-30. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: micky.santiago@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x306.

Fundamentals of Faith Community Nursing – Oct. 1-5. Florida Hospital Tricket Building. Details: <http://www.healthy100churches.org/>, yvonne.seballo@flhosp.org, or 407-200-1657.

Filipino-American Association (FAASDA) Annual Retreat – Oct. 5-7. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Guest speakers: Garay Mupas, Mike Cauley. Details: liezlk_saylon@yahoo.com or 904-955-7010.

70th Regular Florida Conference Constituency Meeting – Oct. 7. Forest Lake Academy. Details: Florida Conference Office of the Secretariat, 407-644-5000.

Second Annual Let's Get Moving Kids – Oct. 7. Crane's Roost Lake, Altamonte Springs. Details: <http://www.facebook.com/LetsGetMovingKids>, shirleyflores@earthlink.net, or 407-592-4808.

Spanish-language Sabbath School Workshops – Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x138.

Oct. 13. Miami Central Spanish Church.

Oct. 20. Florida Conference Office.

Go Fish For Kids – Oct. 20. Midport Church. Details: rburrill@cfl.rr.com, rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

Georgia-Cumberland

Adventurer Ministries Convention – Sept. 7-9. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Health Rally – Sept. 8. Duluth, GA.

Southern Union Bible Conference – Sept. 19-23.

Youth Ministries Convention – Sept. 21-23. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Drill Instructor Training – Sept. 21-23. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

NE Tennessee Camp Meeting – Sept. 21-24. The Oakes Retreat Center, Greeneville, TN.

Health Rally – Sept. 22. Cookeville, TN.

Hispanic Men's Retreat – Sept. 28-30. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Health Rally – Sept. 29. Columbus, GA.

Online registration for events available: www.registration.gccsda.com.

Gulf States

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

Prayer Ministries Summit – Sept. 7-10.

Small Group Leaders' Training – Sept. 15, 16.

Teen Invitational Caving – Sept. 16.

Youth Rally – Sept. 29.

Women's Ministries Retreat – Oct. 5-7.

Principal/Head Teachers' Retreat – Oct. 5-7.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Women's Retreats at Indian Creek Camp

Sept. 7-9. Hispanic.

Sept. 14-16. Young Women's.

Sept. 21-23. Women's I.

Sept. 28-30. Women's II.

Conference Association Board

Sept. 18. Dec. 4.

Conference Executive Committee

Sept. 18. Dec. 4.

Outdoor Education – Oct. 24-26.

Indian Creek Camp.

Elders' Training – Oct. 26-28.

Indian Creek Camp.

Southern Adventist University

Southern Adventist University Mexican Folk Music – Sept. 18. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sonos de Mexico will perform in Ackerman Auditorium. Details: 423-236-2814.

Archaeology Lecture – Sept. 20. Aaron Burke, Ph.D., will talk about the archaeology of warfare in the ancient Near East in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. Details: 423-236-2030.

Musical Drama – Oct. 9. "The Rock & the Rabbi," a play about the friendship between Peter and Jesus. Details: 423-236-2814.

Announcements, see page 43.

Sunset

| | Aug. 31 | Sept. 7 | Sept. 14 | Sept. 21 | Sept. 28 | Oct. 5 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Atlanta, GA | 7:59 | 7:49 | 7:39 | 7:30 | 7:20 | 7:11 |
| Charleston, SC | 7:40 | 7:31 | 7:21 | 7:12 | 7:03 | 6:54 |
| Charlotte, NC | 7:45 | 7:36 | 8:25 | 8:15 | 7:05 | 6:56 |
| Collegedale, TN | 8:02 | 7:52 | 7:42 | 7:32 | 7:22 | 7:13 |
| Huntsville, AL | 7:08 | 6:58 | 6:48 | 6:38 | 6:28 | 6:19 |
| Jackson, MS | 7:21 | 7:12 | 7:02 | 6:53 | 6:44 | 6:35 |
| Louisville, KY | 8:08 | 7:57 | 7:46 | 7:35 | 7:24 | 7:13 |
| Memphis, TN | 7:22 | 7:12 | 7:02 | 6:52 | 6:42 | 6:32 |
| Miami, FL | 7:37 | 7:29 | 7:21 | 7:14 | 7:06 | 6:59 |
| Montgomery, AL | 7:05 | 6:56 | 6:47 | 6:37 | 6:28 | 6:19 |
| Nashville, TN | 7:10 | 7:00 | 6:49 | 6:39 | 6:29 | 6:19 |
| Orlando, FL | 7:43 | 7:35 | 7:26 | 7:18 | 7:10 | 7:02 |
| Wilmington, NC | 7:33 | 7:23 | 7:14 | 7:04 | 6:54 | 6:45 |

SOUTHERN UNION PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

Camp Kulaqua 2012
High Springs, Florida
October 10-14, 2012

Keynote Speakers



Ron C. Smith
D. Min., Ph.D.
Southern Union
Conference President



James Black
North American
Division Pathfinder
Director



Ron Whitehead
Forever Faithful
Camporee Director
Oshkosh, WI

Don't miss the *inspirational & spiritual* messages each morning and evening!

Lifetime memories are made at Pathfinder Camporees.

**CLIMB THE
TOWER OF FAITH!**

ACTIVITIES:

Tower of Faith • Lazy River • Wave Pool • Swimming Pool • Water Slide • Beach Volleyball • Blob Contest • Miniature Golf • Go-Carts • Rodeo • Zoo • Archery • Frisbee Golf • Low Ropes Challenge • VolleyBall • Honors • Pathfinder Museum • Pinewood Derby • Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration • Drill & Marching Teams • Drum Corps Exhibition • 5k Fun Run • H2O Rockets • Nature Center • Inflatables • Swamp Walk • Water Balloon Cannon • Stilt Race • Teen Zone

CAMPOREE REGISTRATION FEE

Registration fee \$70.00 per person

How To Register

Please go to www.southernunioncamporee.com to find the registration form to attend the camporee.

