

February 2013



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS



Family Ministries

Proceed With Caution

“Watch and pray, lest you enter temptation,” Matthew 26:41, NKJV.

There is a real enemy of souls who would like to do needless, unwise, untimely, and ridiculous things. Satan wants to deceive you and make you believe such promptings come from God.

There is not one instance in the New Testament where the Spirit of God led a person to do an outlandish thing. Summon these promptings before a court of examination! You and I are told plainly, “Test the spirits, whether they are of God,” 1 John 4:1 NKJV. This is a challenge to us to proceed through life with caution. How do we do this?

First, watch your feelings. Many have followed their feelings instead of their convictions.

Too many don't do things when they do not “feel” like it. Many avoid or quarrel with the cross because they allow self-life to dictate. When you allow yourself to be led by your feelings, it is like allowing yourself to be judged by a frivolous and indifferent child.

Second, watch your imaginations. We all possess the faculty of fancy. There is a negative force called the devil who loves to use it. It will stretch his mirages on it.

Here is a favorite mirage! A person will have an impression that they ought to have a certain desirable appointment. They are quite sure they deserve it and are better qualified for it than everyone else, and that life will be worthless if they do not receive it.

Such a person will live in the excitement of their pending appointment until they drool with the suspense and the prospect of immediate advantages that they feel sure must be theirs. Then the bubble bursts. The letdown is almost a sickness. Satan has played a dirty trick on them. The devil is called the “tormentor,” and he loves to tantalize by any means.

Third, watch “chance” texts. Do not turn in your Bible at random. This is like a physician prescribing for a patient by opening medical journals carelessly and writing out the first prescription that catches the eye. It is like an attorney opening a book of legal precedent and giving the client the chance counsel that might be found.

Search the Scriptures! Do not fool with them.

Fourth, watch your infatuations. Infatuation must rank with Earth's greatest seducers. It whimpers and whines. It teases and promises. *It urges impetuosity.* Do it now! Think about it later!

Its enemy is the still small voice of duty. It offers the moment of intoxication — *the big play*. Then, too late, its victims learn that beneath the sparkle there lurks the awful letdown of disappointment, chagrin, disgrace, and often death. This is the lucrative field of wrong marriages, broken homes, and shattered lives.

Fifth, watch signs. Satan is a counterfeiter — the best in the Universe. I am amazed at the superstitions that survive among believers, all the way from the black cat to Friday the 13th to walking under ladders. They think seven years of bad luck must follow a broken mirror. They are still geared to bad or good luck rather than the providences of God. They are ready to blame everything from heredity to stepping on a crack. God wants to free His people from these shackles of misunderstanding.

It is my hope that this issue will enhance a deeper awareness of the reality that one does not take a chance when going God's way. When you gamble, you dwarf reason, foster ignorance, offer incense to a false god, perplex the conscience, please the devil, and grieve the Holy Spirit. These are the devices used by Satan to mislead souls and lure them to destruction. They are subtle pitfalls and not easily detected. To all of my brothers and sisters of the Southern Union, as we have exited 2012 and embarked upon 2013, I challenge you to proceed with caution for the rest of your life, and to support and encourage those around you who are trying to do the same.



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

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FEATURES



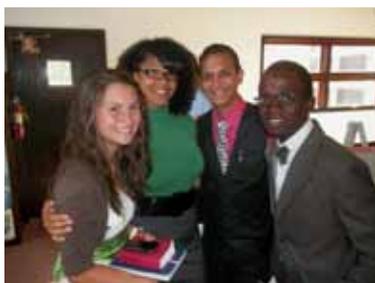
Family Ministries — A Work for Christ

4



Pure Reality

8



Summer Canvassing Provides Growth and Funds

10

NEWS

- 11 CREATION Health
- 12 Adventist Health System
- 13 Adventist University of Health Sciences
- 14 Carolina
- 16 Florida
- 18 Georgia-Cumberland
- 20 Gulf States
- 22 Kentucky-Tennessee
- 24 South Atlantic
- 26 South Central
- 28 Southeastern
- 30 Oakwood University
- 31 Southern Adventist University
- 36 Classified Advertising
- 38 Announcements
- 39 Events Calendar





FAMILY MINISTRIES

A Work for Christ

BY MELVIN PRESTON AND JANET ESSIX

Financial pressures, divorce, social media, Internet access, the lack of or poor communication, busyness, materialism, and lagging spirituality are just a few of the challenges facing the modern family. Inevitably, there will come a time during the course of life, that we all will be confronted with some type of family crisis. Some issues are easily handled (spending time together absent of cell phones and computers), but others can be just downright overwhelming.

The Family Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church exists to provide support and strength to help families cope when issues arise. Strong families make strong churches, and family ministries desires to assist the strengthening process through building or stabilizing family structures, first in the home and then through the Church family. As a matter of fact,

of diverse configurations of families, and the Family Ministries Department has developed materials, activities, and programs for them all. For example, there is a free family worship app on the website www.adventistfamily.org that can be downloaded, or there is a suggested book that brings a memory-making approach to family worship. There are also other interesting and helpful

Families for Eternity...,” and provides everything from leadership training and newsletters to Church statements on family issues and recommended reading.

Family ministries also provide an avenue for evangelistic outreach. Ellen White frequently provided counsel regarding the importance of family to the Church and to society:

“The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home . . . The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depends upon home influences,” *Ministry of Healing*, page 352.

The leaders of family ministries in the Southern Union have identified a few areas of particular focus to continue on the path of family ministries being a “home-centered, church-supported” outreach:

1. ***The family is the primary God-ordained institution for empathetic understanding, faith formation, and for perpetuating the faith from one generation to the next.***

The primary context for human nature and faith development is the family. The creation story teaches us that “family” was not an accidental happening, but an intentional institution of God.

2. ***Parents are the primary disciplers of the young, complemented by the Church.***

The Church and family ministries are here to enrich the home church, and assist parents as they teach their children to be disciples for Christ. The ministry of the Church will be family-focused and family-friendly,



Family ministries labor to put families back together.

it is the mission of family ministries to “strengthen, inspire hope, and bring healing to marriages, families, and individuals through the abundant love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.”

In describing their function and goals, the department outlines that they “are dedicated to strengthening relationships and empowering ministry leaders and churches in their work with families. Family ministries focus on people in relationship. It is a ministry that provides tools to help individuals communicate more effectively, deepen commitment in marriage, and assist in becoming better parents. Family ministries help families grow in love and live in harmony as the family of God.”

Our congregations are made up

items specific to need, be it for individuals, couples, or parents.

This branch of ministry is a vital component to every entity of the Church, and its role expands far beyond the church family. Those who have accepted the awesome responsibility of becoming family ministries directors and leaders also need strength, support, and resources. They need support and participation from the local conference administration, church pastors, leaders, and from the membership.

For those in leadership roles, the family ministries website for the North American Division, www.adventistfamilyministries.com, is the perfect resource for gathering information and generating ideas. It proudly lauds the theme “Healthy



so that as families gather as the home church, they actualize the Gospel.

3. We must incorporate a program-focused ministry approach that is need-responsive to effectively assist couples in living out their marriage covenant, and parents in nurturing the faith of their children by experiencing Scripture.

A program-focused ministry is an intention effort at introducing and instructing people in the doctrines and principles of the Bible for successful and victorious family relationships.

4. The concept of family ministries must be transformed

from event-focused to process-focused with a goal of preparing each faith-family to be a family-in-ministry.

Genuine family ministry is not a gratuitous nod during special days or an isolated event directed with a focus on the family. Effective family ministry is to seek to integrate a family focus into the day-to-day life of the Church, so that each family in the faith can become a family with a mission and ministry.

Family ministries is a major priority of Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference. Regarding strengthening and supporting local directors

and leaders, Smith states that placing communication and teamwork at the center of all of our initiatives for building healthy families will be a priority. Smith also said that family wellness workshops, marriage enrichment retreats, along with communication training will undergird an effective family ministries outreach.

Let's make the year 2013 the most effective year ever for family ministries. We can do it if we all make the individual, family, church, and administrative commitments to ourselves, our families, and to God.

"God designed that the families of the earth shall be a symbol of the family in heaven.

Christian homes established and conducted in accordance with God's plan, are among His most effective agencies for the formation of Christian character and for the advancement of His work," *Testimonies*, vol. 6, page 430.

"Our work for Christ is to begin with the family in the home.... There is no missionary field more important than this....," Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, page 35.

Melvin Preston is the family ministries director at South Atlantic Conference.

Janet Essix is a freelance writer.

Family Ministries Resources

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Curriculum
Prepare Enrich

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

www.family.adventist.org
www.adventistfamilyministries.com

FREE APPS

North American Division Family

Family Worship

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David Hartman – *Kentucky-Tennessee Conference*

Melvin Preston – *South Atlantic Conference*

Melvin & Sheila Davis – *South Central Conference*

Dolphy Cross – *Southeastern Conference*



Pictured are participants of the Treasure Key ceremonies held April 22, 2012, at Tabernacle Church in Miami, Florida.

Pure Reality

BY JOHN DEVINE

“The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God,” Exodus 23:19.

In the early days, people were taught to give the first fruits (“the first and best”) of their harvest to the Lord in recognition of His blessings. Now after eight years, Pure Reality is seeing its first fruits begin to bloom.

The organization’s mission is to reinforce God’s plan that sexual purity is the standard God has set for us, and it continues its phenomenal growth through annual retreats, Treasure Key ceremonies, and its Pure Ambassador program.

The eighth annual retreat was held at Camp Kulaqua from March 16-18, 2012, and 510 individuals including staff, from 12 years old to young adults, were ready to give their lives to Jesus. Twenty-four gave their hearts to God through baptism.

The attendees reinforced their commitments through Treasure Key ceremonies held April 22, 2012, at Tabernacle Church in Miami, Florida, and on June 2, 2012 at First University Church in Tampa, Florida. In June 2011, the Pure Reality team hosted a Treasure Key weekend in Nassau, Bahamas.

Each attendee received a token key, which symbolizes that their sexual purity was reserved for their spouse, and the key was to be exchanged during their wedding vows or on their wedding night.

Though there have been baptisms and rededications, the “first fruits” of Pure Reality now include young people who are giving of themselves in marriage.

Since 2010, four couples: Jono and Ketsia Gustave, Jonathan and Natacha Dalberiste, Adley and Alexa Philos-saint, and Gregory and Clodianne Larose got married, and they use many of the principles they learned at Pure Reality to this day.

The Gustaves are at Oakwood University and serve with the National Association to Prevent Starvation



Ketsia and Jono Gustave



Jonathan and Natacha Dalberiste

(NAPS), where they travel around the world taking care of physical and spiritual needs of others while spreading the word of purity. Before their wedding, the Gustaves, both 27, shared this message with their guests.

“After Pure Reality we walked in confidence understanding what God was calling us to — a pure, sanctified relationship covered in the blood of the Savior. A year and a half after Pure Reality we decided to join in holy matrimony, and a symbolism of our love on that day was the exchange of the keys that were given to us at the Pure Reality ceremony. Even before Pure Reality we agreed not to get wedding bands, so the key that symbolized our purity in Christ was perfect!”

The Dalberistes, married on May 8, 2011, were friends since 2006 and did not begin dating until 2008. Said Natacha Dalberiste, 25, “We each agreed and made the commitment that we would remain pure for our future spouse when we were just friends, not knowing that we would end up being each other’s spouse. God has a funny

way of working things out. We made the vow of remaining pure to each other not only to be able to exchange treasure keys the night of our wedding, but also because we understood that God intended sexual intimacy to be for marriage.”

Jonathan Dalberiste, 26, introduced his future wife to Pure Reality in 2009. The two attended the 2010 retreat and were engaged months later.

Said Natacha, “There were times when the devil tried to make us believe that because we loved each other and were contemplating marriage that it was OK to indulge in activities of married couples, but praise God the Holy Spirit constantly reminded us of Hebrews 13:4: ‘Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.’ With much prayer, advice from

married couples, and constant communication with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we were able to make it through our two-and-a-half years of courting.”

While the Dalberistes have been married for a year, the Laroses and Philossaints are still in their honeymoon phase. Not only do they share the same wedding date, July 1, 2012, but many of the same beliefs regarding abstinence.

Adley Philossaint, 26, and Alexa Philossaint, 24, grew up together and have been part of Pure Reality since the beginning. In fact, Alexa is the daughter of one of the mothers who were inspired to start the program.

Said Alexa, “I had a candle from the first year of Pure Reality, [on] which



Alexa and Adley Philossaint



Clodianne and Gregory Larose

I had written a promise to keep myself pure until my wedding day. And when I was finally able to give it to my husband, the feeling was exhilarating because God helped me to achieve what the world said was impossible — waiting until marriage.”

Added Adley, “It has been so amazing to experience true love, love that is patient, kind, and long-suffering. But all this comes only with waiting on the Lord’s master plan for your life.”

The Philossaints dated four years before they were married. Both have completed their undergraduate degrees. Adley is preparing to be a certified public accountant, while Alexa is in law school at the University of Miami. The future is bright, but only because God comes first in their lives.

And these are lessons that they would like to pass on to others.

“Pure Reality has given me so

much,” said Alexa. “I can’t imagine not giving back to show young people that living a lifestyle of purity is possible with the help and constraint of the one and only true living God.”

The Dalberistes and Philossaints had long relationships before dating, but the Laroses met at Pure Ambassador training. The Pure Ambassadors are young people who are specially trained to talk to their peers about the merits of such a program. From that program, love bloomed.

Said Clodianne Larose, 25, of her new spouse Gregory, 23, “During the Pure Ambassador training and the game night, we were learning, growing, and planning for our future spouse. We had no idea we were sitting right next to each other the

whole time. It surprised us that God was playing matchmaker, and we were meant to be more than just friends.”

As Pure Reality continues to grow and evolve, so do the relationships of the individuals involved. Seven years ago, the goal was to lay out the plan of love and marriage as young people transitioned from adolescence to adulthood. Now adulthood and marriage have been reached, the message has not only spread throughout the country, but it has deepened the bonds of matrimony.

Clodianne Larose summed it up best when she said, “At our wedding, many witnessed God’s real version of love, pure love, and were inspired. We believe this ministry is powerful, and we definitely want to share it.”

For more information about the Pure Reality program, visit www.pure-reality.org.



SUMMER CANVASSING PROVIDES GROWTH AND FUNDS

BY RENEITA SAMUEL AND TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

During the past decade, Frontline Magabook Ministries (the Georgia-Cumberland Conference student Magabook program) has remained the top Conference in student Magabook sales throughout North America. There are countless experiences of the power of God and prayer, as well as Bible studies and baptisms. Through this ministry, the youth in our Union and beyond are able to find work, pay off school debts, and, most importantly, develop a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Nadele Bertus, who canvassed with the Macon, Georgia, program, said, "One of the most important lessons I've learned after two years of canvassing, is that singing and praying with someone changes things.

I learned that lesson when I was in the Kroger parking lot. I saw a woman in a very nice looking car. She looked like she was reading something and was very occupied, so I was unsure whether to approach her or not. I passed by her a couple of times. Finally, I ignored my thoughts and walked

up to the car and knocked on the window. As I showed her the cookbook she handed it right back and was about to shut me down. I continued and showed her *Peace Above the Storm*. I showed her the page with the song on it, and surprisingly she joined me in singing it. Tears came into her eyes, and she gave me \$25 for it. After I prayed, she said, 'You know, when I first saw you, the first thought in my mind was, "I don't have any money for that girl." Then after you sang with me, my mindset completely changed and I

just had to say yes.' After that, I prayed with people more often."

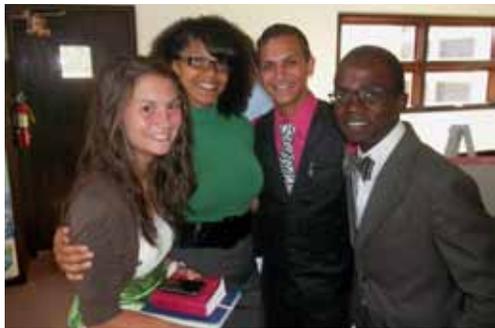
Adam Dunka, who canvassed with the Knoxville, Tennessee, program, said, "My second experience just happened the last day of canvassing. I

entered a UPS parking lot and went to the office. It was closed. No UPS employees were outside and everything seemed abandoned. When I was ready to walk away, I saw two guys working on construction in the middle of the UPS parking lot. I decided to talk to one of them, but when I got

closer I saw him grabbing his cell phone and starting a conversation with someone. In my mind, I went 'That's Satan trying to work against God...' I also said, 'God please let his call drop if you want me to talk to him.' I did not even finish this short prayer in my mind when the guy goes, 'Hello... Hello... Hello...!' My back filled with goose bumps as I observed his call suddenly drop. Now I had a complete conviction that he was meant to be canvassed. We had a short conversation and he was very interested. Even though he did not have a lot of money, he searched for a reasonable donation and ended up getting the book *God's Answers to Your Questions*. This experience taught me a big lesson about the great power of prayer."

Each year the Georgia-Cumberland Conference employs 80-100 students, age 16 and older, to work as student literature evangelists. According to Tim Leffew, Conference publishing director, they establish three to four base groups of students scattered around the Conference, with one group always based in Atlanta, Georgia. The student sales totaled about \$60,000 last summer, and, on average, a student can expect to earn \$3,500-\$4,000 per summer with many schools providing matching scholarships as well.

For more information on the Frontline Magabook Ministries Programs, please contact ReNeita Samuel at rsamuel@gccsda.com.



Student literature evangelists Trystan Ratcliff (left), Caira Graci, Michael Rivera, and Pascal Jean participated in the 2012 summer program, working in the Atlanta, Georgia, area.

TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Live Life to the Fullest With The Power of CHOICE!

WONDERFUL NEWS

God created you with the power of choice. Let that word “power” sink in for a minute so it does not become the cliché of a disengaged mind.

You have the power to determine the direction and quality of your life. Wow!

SATISFIED?

Are you pleased with the direction of your relationships, dreams, career, and walk with God? If left unchanged, what quality of life can you expect, and

where will your journey end?

YOU ARE IN CHARGE

The life you have now, generally speaking, is either the result of the choices you have made or intentionally allowed; you are what you choose - which is great because you are just a choice

away from turning things around.

H.A.L.T.

The power of choice

resides in the brain’s frontal lobe. Of the many things



CREATIONHealth.com

you can do to strengthen the frontal lobe for better decision-making, here is an easy one: Remember H.A.L.T. Do not make major decisions when you are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired, because it is a formula for disaster.

GO!

You are only one choice away from living a better life right now - one choice away from choosing a better course and living life to the fullest. Don’t put it off another minute. Make the choice you know you need to make and get going!

That’s CREATION Health!

—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

“None of us can change our yesterdays, but all of us can change our tomorrows.”

~ Colin Powell

ONE VOICE
ONE VISION

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Sept. 5-8, 2013

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Or call 404-299-1832, x417

February 2013 • TIDINGS 11

Hospital to Offer Health Insurance in 2014

Florida Hospital Volusia/Flagler announced its intention to provide health insurance in Volusia and Flagler counties beginning in 2014. This offering will improve health care access for thousands of residents, and will be guided by a trusted name in health care for Central Florida.

“We believe that the health care system should be managed locally by providers,” said Daryl Tol, CEO of the Volusia/Flagler division of Florida Hospital. “By offering the community another insurance option, we will be able to provide even more residents with the high quality, compas-

sionate care for which Florida Hospital is known.”

The five Florida Hospitals in Volusia and Flagler counties are working with Health First Health Plans of Brevard County, Fla., to create the infrastructure for the plan. With more than 15 years of experience, a 4.5 Star Medicare Advantage Rating, and more than 60,000 members, Health First Health Plans will manage the operational responsibilities through the Florida Hospital Volusia/Flagler provider network.

“Health First Health Plans is extremely excited to be working with a premier leader in health,” said



Margaret Haney, president of Health First Health Plans. “We are always working to inspire the health of our community by providing a high quality customer experience, and we believe Florida Hospital

shares in our vision.”

The new health insurance option is in its initial planning stages now, and is expected to launch in January 2014.

“There is much work left to be done, such as filing of legal and government documentation, finalizing a physician network, and building the plan infrastructure,” Tol said. “We are looking forward to offering Volusia and Flagler county residents this new approach to health and wellness in the coming years.”

—BY LINDSAY REW

Takoma Named “Top Rural Hospital” By The Leapfrog Group

Takoma Regional Hospital in Greeneville, Tenn., was named a “Top Rural Hospital” — one of only 13 in the country — by a national organization whose focus is helping consumers compare hospitals based on outcomes and patient safety.

The Leapfrog Group

announced its annual list of Top Hospitals on December 4, 2013. The Top Hospital designation, which is the most competitive national hospital quality award in the country,

recognizes hospitals that deliver the highest quality of care by preventing medical errors, reducing mortality for high-risk procedures, and reducing hospital readmissions on conditions including pneumonia and heart attack.

Only 92 hospitals in the United States

received Top Hospital recognition. Of those, two are located in Tennessee: Takoma Regional Hospital and Vanderbilt University Hospital.

“This is a huge honor

for us,” said Daniel Wolcott, president/CEO of Takoma Regional Hospital. “Takoma once again finds itself in good company. Other Top Hospitals include the Mayo Clinic, Stanford Hospital, Duke University Hospital, and many more renowned healthcare facilities.”

Wolcott thanked Adventist Health System for their ongoing investments in technology and evidence-based care. “Their continued commitment to invest in state-of-the-art technology, beginning more than 10 years ago and continuing today, has enabled us to meet criteria that led to this top national honor,” he said.

“Leapfrog holds hospitals to a fixed set of defined and transparent standards that are extremely high, and only the hospitals that meet those standards earn the distinction,” said Leah Binder, president/CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “By achieving the Top Hospital accolade, Takoma has demonstrated exemplary performance across all areas of quality and patient safety that are analyzed on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Takoma stands out as one consistently providing safe, high-quality care, and I would be comfortable sending my family to Takoma for care.”

—BY TINA CHUDINA



Drive Collects More Than 2,000 Books for Local Community

When Becky Fisher and Sylvia Dominguez decided to collect books for a proposed lending library in Bithlo, a small, rural community in East Orange County, little did they know they would receive more than 2,000 books to fill the shelves.



Sylvia Dominguez and Becky Fisher (second and third from left), and their colleagues at Adventist University, organize and prepare the books collected for the proposed learning library in Bithlo.

Fisher and Dominguez, who both work in the Adventist University library, were involved in a service

project in Bithlo, Fla., last August when they were first introduced to Tim McKinney of the Global

Outreach Foundation. When McKinney shared his dream of starting a lending library in the community, they immediately wanted to help. Originally, they planned to donate books scheduled to be withdrawn from the University's collection. The dream grew bigger when they opened it up to University students, staff, and the whole Florida Hospital system. After one email asking for donations, the rest, as they say, is history.

"It makes me feel

so wonderful to know that we have such generosity in our employees at Florida Hospital, the University, and local businesses," said Dominguez. Fisher echoes her sentiments: "The project became a reality because of the understanding of the importance of giving back to the community. I feel so fortunate to work for an organization whose mission is to help others."

—BY STEPHANIE WRIGHT

Ukraine Mission Trip Helps Nearly 500 Children

"We have special guests today from a country that starts with 'A.' Can you guess?" A woman posed the question in Ukrainian to 120 children.

"Africa!" suggested some.

"Nyet," she smiled. "Try again."

"A-MER-EE-KA!" the children chorused.

This was the warm welcome the group from Adventist University of Health Sciences received at a children's home in Vasylykiv, Ukraine, on December 28, 2012. Since 2000, it has been an ongoing tradition for Adventist University students and faculty to travel to Russia and Ukraine to help needy children.

This year a group of six traveled with 12 suit-

cases, most stuffed with donated toys and clothing, to the Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Education (UAC) in Bucha.

After the introduction at the Vasylykiv home, the children were treated to a holiday party featuring a traditional tale, games, and songs. The children were also given much needed underwear, warm hats, and small toys, all donated from students and church members in the U.S.

After the Vasylykiv party, two more parties were held at UAC. Nearly 200 children enjoyed a program that combined Ukrainian tradition with

the spiritual message of Christ's birth — a message many of the children seldom hear. They were also given warm track-suits, underwear, socks, winter hats, gloves, and toothbrushes.

These parties brought a little joy to the children by fulfilling some of their Christmas wishes. One boy desired a skateboard.



Bozana Stefanovic, adjunct instructor for health and biomedical sciences, gives a fruit and chocolate gift bag to a Ukrainian girl.

The student overseeing the toy table helped him find a finger skateboard, and he left with a smile on his face.

After the group from Adventist University left, UAC students traveled to a very poor children's home in Chernechchyna to take their program and gifts to 150 children, and visited 30 more children who were unable to attend the parties.

Because of so many generous people, almost 500 children saw the light of Christian love. A local government official visiting one of the parties said, "You have set an example. You are not only scholars, but you have a big heart."

—BY JESSICA LOWER

Upstate Christian Academy Receives EDGE Status



The Southern Union Conference Education Department awarded Upstate Christian Academy (UCA) in Greenville, N.C., the status of an Adventist EDGE School of Excellence on December 15, 2012.

The celebration at the school consisted of officials from the Southern Union Education Department and the Carolina Conference. Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, read letters from two state representatives and Governor Nikki Haley, who could not attend the ceremony.

UCA worked diligently for two years to attain this

prestigious award, which included a School of Excellence flag, a plaque, and a crystal trophy designed with the EDGE apple and dove.

This was a team effort involving students, teachers, parents, school board, and constituent church members as they worked hard with needed improvements and the refining of activities to reflect an EDGE School of Excellence.

With the reward in receipt, the school will continue their team effort for ongoing improvement of the school.

—BY PAMELA FORBES



Diane Ruff (left), Southern Union elementary director of education; Wanda Williams, head teacher at UCA; Gary Rouse, Carolina superintendent of education; Jennifer Howland, school chairperson; Nelson Fernandez, pastor of Clemson/Greenville, S.C., Spanish churches; Kevin Pires, pastor of Anderson, S.C., Church; Gene Brewer, Southern Union staff development specialist; Jim Ingersoll, Southern Union secondary associate director of education; Jerry Mobley, pastor of Greenville, N.C., Church; and Pamela Forbes, Carolina associate superintendent of education

Mount Pisgah Academy Uses iPads for Education

This year at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) the students had the opportunity to use iPads for their school work and textbooks. Research shows that iPads provide students with new tools and resources for academic growth and achievement.



Several elementary schools in the Carolina Conference

have also started using iPads for their textbooks.

Kayla Pelle, a junior from York, S.C., says, "I love the iPads! They are super convenient. Everything you need is on them: textbooks, study tools, and note taking apps.

They are very handy!" Even the teachers find them useful for distributing assignments, grading, and illustrating lessons taught in class.

It's exciting to learn new ways to do things, and this is definitely something new.

—BY ABBY ANDREWS,
MPA JUNIOR

Charlotte Sharon Members Celebrate International Sabbath

A little like Heaven... It felt like a mini-General Conference "Parade of Nations." The Charlotte



Sharon Church in North Carolina held its fifth annual International Sabbath on October 27, 2012. More than 450 members and guests enjoyed the fanfare as 52 countries' flags were represented.

Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, marched in with the flag of India, and later delivered a stirring sermon. After the service all were invited to the Adventist Christian Academy gymnasium, where tables lined the



walls loaded with international food from 30 different countries.

It was a little like

Heaven, when all nations, kindred, and people shall stand before the Lamb.

—BY KEN FORD

Carolina Women Experience Clarity, Closeness



For the nearly 300 women of the Carolinas who attend the annual women's retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch, nothing quite compares. They got that chance they'd longed for to refuel and get strengthened by His Spirit among women of faith.

October 12-14, 2012,

the women were reminded of their calling as they focused on the theme of "How Lovely are the Feet that Share the Good News," taken from Romans 10:15. Who better to search the Scriptures with than Elizabeth Talbot, who has her doctorate in biblical studies. Her website, Je-

sus101.com, has brought many to a clearer understanding of God's Word.

"I've never had such clarity of the scriptures than this weekend," was one remark.

While the women met, there was a teen track with 16 young women participating. They were not great in num-

ber, but were able to connect and share a wonderful, inspiring, and meaningful time together. In their six sessions, they heard Marca Age's presentations and participated in discussions and activities. Besides the lessons, pontoon rides, canoe rides, a trust walk,

and smores rounded out the activities. As teenagers, these girls were able to share and glean hope and understanding for future choices, while dealing with day-to-day issues.

—BY DEBBIE RAPP



Pictured with Debbie Rapp (left), Carolina women's ministries director, is guest speaker Elizabeth Talbot.

Adventist-sponsored 5K Fun Run/Walk Impacts Ocala

Before sunrise on December 16, 2012, more than 100 individuals gathered at Citizens' Circle in Ocala, Fla., to participate in the first Stop Drug Abuse: SDA Project Ocala 5K Fun Run/Walk. This race rallied young and old in the cause to obliterate substance abuse.

An avid marathon runner, Matthew Christo, pastor, enlisted help from members of his two churches, Silver Springs

Shores and Marion Oaks, to sponsor the run/walk through the city's historic district. "Seventh-day Adventists," exclaimed Christo, "have a faith that is not only concerned about relevant, societal

issues, but one that promotes health, fitness, and fun as alternatives to drugs and alcohol."

The theme of stopping drug abuse attracted those who were not Seventh-day



JOE NEWMAN

These runners were the first five to cross the 5K Fun Run/Walk finish line.

walked the entire route arm in arm with two companions. The youngest runner was five years old. In addition, members from four different counties, representing eight Adventist churches, were among those who participated.

Others rolled, like 21-month-old Syania Grant, whose parents, Delorme and Melesia Grant, pushed her in a stroller. As they neared the finish line, Melesia proclaimed, "As Adventists, we're not just about the Sabbath; we're about every day of the week, and our doors are open to everyone!"

—BY MARYA LATSON



JOHN LATSON

Race participants pound the pavement on the 5K course through the streets of Ocala, Fla.

Devin Shaw Recognized for Achievements

Forest Lake Academy's (FLA) principal, David Denton, announced that Devin Shaw, a senior, was named a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. As such, Shaw placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Shaw is not only an excellent student, but he



Devin Shaw

is also a strong, Christ-like leader on the FLA campus.

He is a member of the servant leadership class, and has quite seriously taken the challenge of "being Jesus" to his fellow students. He spends time with freshmen each week as a leader in the mentoring program to help ninth-graders learn to treat each other as Jesus would treat them. He also works with a weekend campus ministries team helping to run Vespers and youth church programs.

In addition to working with ministries, he has

held the position of class treasurer for the past three years, played on FLA's varsity basketball and soccer teams, and has played violin all four years in the FLA string ensemble.

Learning to lead as Jesus led is definitely a priority for him. It is a foundation that will lead him to excel in all areas of his life.

—BY STEPHANIE JOHNSON

Health Fair Ties Venice Church to Community



ROBERT WILLIAMS

The Venice, Fla., Church parking lot was lined with 23 exhibits promoting the Health Fair's theme, "Stay Strong, Live Long."

"What could a small congregation of 100 members do to reach out to the community," questioned Patricia Powell, health ministries leader at Venice, Fla., Church. For some time, she had entertained the idea of holding a health fair. After all, other churches with God's help were conducting health fairs. Why couldn't her church?

She really became motivated after reading a statement by Ben Carson, M.D.: "We should not be satisfied with ordinary attainments. If we can do something of ourselves (in 'our own' power), then it's not big enough, and we cheat God of an opportunity to show us and the world what only He can do."

Believing through

God that anything and everything is possible, the church members moved forward in faith to hold one of the largest community events they had ever hosted. The goal for the fair was to gain community presence while spreading the powerful health message with a theme of "Stay Strong, Live Long." Among the 23 exhibitors

were Venice Regional Hospital, Florida Blood Center bus, literature evangelists, smoking cessation programs, Full Plate Diet, and community health professionals. Sponsors for the health fair included Home Depot, Whole Foods, Office Depot, and Publix.

The Stay Strong, Live Long Health Fair helped Venice Church bond with individuals in the community, and many have signed up

for various health-enrichment programs. The new church ties created with the community are invaluable, and church members offer thanks to God for the benefits both they and the community received through the Health Fair.

—BY LAUREN POWELL

Apopka Members Portray Adventist Pioneers

A Heritage Sabbath program at Apopka, Fla., Church commemorated organization of the Adventist Church and the 168th anniversary of the Great Disappointment on October 22, 1844. Nine church members portrayed pioneers: Hugo Kennedy (Joseph Bates), Elias Lopez



DANIEL LOUVEDEO

Courtney Wisdom (center) portrays Adventist pioneer John Loughborough at Apopka Church.

(William Miller), Chris Carey (John Nevins Andrews), Debbie Pinto, (Rachael Oakes), Roshani Sirigampola (Sarah McEnterfer), Gladymill Fuentes (Annie Smith), Courtney Wisdom (John Loughborough), Randy Allen (James White), and Jane Allen (Ellen White). Special guest Martha Natiuk, from Portland, Ore., related human interest stories passed down through the family about her great-great-grandmother, Ellen White.

—BY CHARLOTTE HUENERGARDT

Pathfinder Teens Challenged With Survival Skills



TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Teen Pathfinders from across the Conference gathered at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp to learn survival skills, including first aid, shelter, and fires. This was the second shelter these Pathfinders built, and it was created completely out of items found on the forest floor.

Almost 200 teen Pathfinders and 105 staff came to Teen Challenge November 30 to December 2, 2012, at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. They learned survival skills, including creating shelters, basic first aid, and fire building.

The keynote speaker was the new associate pastor of Collegedale Church in Tennessee, William Hurtado. “He helped us re-look at Matthew 24 in terms of seven global-thrilling signs of the times,” said Fernando Verduzco, children and junior youth ministries director.

Verduzco added, “Richard Moody, M.D., and staff, taught us first aid and water preparedness for emergencies. Gary Johnson, from the Bristol, Tenn., Club, taught us how to create a shelter with a piece of

plastic or things around us in nature. Stan Wheeler, Collegedale Club, taught us all about starting fires and the right equipment needed in an emergency situation. The comment we heard time and time again from both young people and staff: ‘I learned something new that’s going to help me be prepared.’”

“It is good learning how to survive in the wilderness, and all these different things that could happen. We need to be thinking about the end times and what will be happening. Like building the shelter: You could make a shelter out of just anything on the forest floor,” said Jamilia LaBeach, Fayette, Ga., Pathfinder.

Seth Bermudez, Greenville, Tenn., Pathfinder, says of the Teen Challenge



TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Small groups of teen Pathfinders built fires, and, using that new fire, were tasked with boiling water in a pot. This is an important skill for survival.

experience, “I have learned a bunch of things. It is really cool that they are doing this to show everyone what to do at the end of time.

Favorite thing — building a fire.”

Kellie Mathewson, a veteran 14-year Pathfinder leader with the Knoxville, Tenn., First Pathfinder Club, said, “Pastor Will, from Collegedale Church, did a great job speaking. He shared on last day events, being ready, and for the kids being relevant. The whole world is just them. But it is not just them. Your life can change in an instant, when you least expect it. God is there. He used the illustration of a plane crashing and a parachute, and how God is your parachute. When 15- to 16-year-old kids are paying attention, it is amazing to watch, and I am excited.”

“This weekend we witnessed the Lord blessing, not only with nice weather,

but the young people,” added Verduzco.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Choir, Bell Festival Inspires Students

More than 290 guests from 11 schools (Atlanta North, Augusta, Standifer Gap, Collegedale Adventist Middle School, Carman, Shoal Creek, Greenville Adventist Academy, Jellico, Duluth, Learning Tree, and Coble) came November 1-2, 2012, to worship and hone their skills at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Choir and Handbell Festival.

Nicole Rodriguez, an eighth-grade student from Atlanta North, said, "I really enjoy coming to these festivals and seeing friends that I have met from camp and different places. It's just really fun."

The student musi-

cians ranged from grades 5-8 and were led by guest directors Marvin Robertson, choir, and Mark Becker, handbells. "Doc" Robertson, was welcomed by many who had been touched by his ministry in music from the 33 years of teaching at Southern Adventist University.

Mark Becker, Forest Lake Academy, was well received for his calm, understanding nature balanced with a happy enthusiasm for working with the



Marvin "Doc" Robertson was the chorale guest director. More than 290 guests attended the Choir and Handbell Festival held at Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

children.

The piano accompanist was Kalli Wilkens, a Georgia-Cumberland Academy senior. This was her first experience to accompany a choir.

Fabiola Harper, principal of the Augusta school,

said, "Experiencing a festival is such a good opportunity, especially for the smaller schools, but for all of our students to realize that we are part of something bigger."

Harper was

able to bring two of her daughters to the festival, Angeline in grade 8, and Annabelle, grade 7. They were impressed with the new techniques that Robertson taught.

—BY BRIGETT PANKEY

New Member Retreat Welcomes New Adventists

New members from across Georgia-Cumberland were invited for a special weekend at Cohutta Springs Conference Center to learn more about being a Seventh-day Adventist.

About 100 attended this event that shared the

nuances of being a Seventh-day Adventist. Guests were also invited to a ministry expo where Conference departments shared how the new members could be involved in a variety of ministries.

"New believers retreat

is amazing. You get to meet all the people in the area from Seventh-day Adventist churches. You also get to know the reach of the Church," said Kamali Bent, from the Conyers, Ga., Church.

Beverly Denson, from the Conyers, Ga., Church took the Bible Research Course created by E.W. Dempsey, adult lay evangelism coordinator, through the mail. She was excited to meet Dempsey.

"I love the new member retreat. I am finding out so many things in my home that are Seventh-day Adventist. Like the Bible stories – I have that set for my grandchildren. I am like a little kid in a candy story. I just thank God. You

know when you are young and you hear that God has a purpose for you, God knows what is best for you and you don't. Who would have thought that God would have been preparing me to be an Adventist even in 2003?" said Denson.

Harold Cunningham, Conference vice president for pastoral ministries and discipleship, shared the Sabbath sermon on "Why we are here instead of at Wal-Mart." He said, "We are here instead of Wal-Mart because our hope rests in something better than Wal-Mart — the returning King."

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



Beverly Denson, new member at the Conyers, Ga., Church, was excited to meet E.W. Dempsey. Dempsey coordinates the Bible studies that led to Denson's baptism.

College Drive Church's Mortgage Burning

The members of College Drive Church near Jackson, Miss., celebrated paying off their mortgage on Sabbath, December 15, 2012. College Drive was formed when two churches, Florence and Jackson, combined. On September 20, 2003, the newly formed church had their first Sabbath together. Bill Devine was the pastor during the initial merger and first phases of the church building project. Pastors Joel DeWild and Javier Diaz also played an integral part during this journey.

With a combined membership of more than 350, there was an urgent need for a new and larger facility that would be more centrally located. On January 11, 2004, about 50 members met to inspect four parcels of land. The third parcel had 7.39 acres located next to Hinds

Community College, and was overwhelmingly voted on and later approved by the church during a business meeting.

The next two years were filled with meetings and planning. Since the merger, the church school had been using the old school building in Florence, but this facility was barely meeting the needs of the school. The congregation had maxed out their borrowing capacity with the church building, yet, they felt the need to move forward with the school project and let God provide the funds. Six years earlier, the Jackson Church members had purchased, for approximately \$140,000, six acres

of land. The congregation decided to sell that land. The day after they put a for-sale sign on the land, they received a call that would lead to a \$1,557,000 purchase of the land.

On January 21, 2006, College Drive had their first service in the new church



At the end of the mortgage burning program, members held hands and offered thanks as they circled their beautiful sanctuary.

facility. The school was finished six months later on July 10, 2006, just in time for the new school year to begin.

On October 30, 2012, Richie Halversen, current pastor, and Cyndi Myers, a church member and real estate agent, met to close the sale of the old Florence Church with Larry Barnes, a pastor whose church had been renting that facility. With the sale of this property, the church received the exact amount needed to pay off their mortgage, becoming debt free.

Church leaders conclude that it was only through the prayer, dedication, and sacrifice of the members of College Drive that this vision of a new church facility was made possible. However, more than all of that, it was the providential work of God that made this vision a reality.

—BY RICHIE HALVERSEN AND
MIKE WHATLEY

Nick Henson Accepts Gulf States Treasurer Position

Nick Henson has accepted the position of treasurer for the Gulf States Conference. Henson grew up in Edmore, Mich., where one of his experiences included working in his parents' hardware store. Another time he worked for a construction management company, Skanaka USA Building. He attended Cedar Lake Adventist Elementary School, Great Lakes Adventist Academy, and



Nick Henson, newly appointed Gulf States treasurer

graduated from Southern Adventist University. He earned a master of business administration degree from Webster University. After graduation he worked for Florida Hospital, and six years ago

accepted a call to the Gulf States Conference as an assistant treasurer. He is currently a member of Delta

Mu Delta - International Business Honor Society and Institute of Management Accountants. "These experiences have taught me the value of strong ethics and accountability to stakeholders," states Henson.

The important parts of his life include his wife, Joia, and their daughter, Abigail. Joia is kept busy as a full time pediatric nurse practitioner for a local pediatric group, and as mommy.

"In the last six years, I have had the privilege to meet and get to know

many of the church treasurers, teachers, and pastors. This has been a great experience, and I look forward to getting to know many more of the great members of the Conference. As we look forward to the second coming of Christ, my prayer is that the Lord uses each one of us to make someone else's life better. Showing others the compassion of Jesus will soften hearts, both the one inside and those around us," says Henson.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Gulf Coast Congregation “Plunks-it-Down”

Members, friends, visitors, and Conference officials gathered in the



Brian Danese (left), pastor of Gulf Coast Church, burns the mortgage as Mel Eisele, Conference president, and Naomi Herren, longtime member, watch.

sanctuary of the Gulf Coast Church in Biloxi, Miss., on December 1, 2012, to celebrate the burning of the mortgage and to

dedicate the church. From the youngest to the oldest, faithful members, their families, and friends were responsible for paying off a whopping \$285,942.58 eight years earlier than expected. This has freed up money to enhance existing ministries, create new ministries, and spawn evangelistic efforts locally and abroad.

This aggressive approach to eliminate the mortgage began when Mary Nelson, head deaconess, invited the deaconesses to her home. The women shared Scripture readings, prayed, and

discussed the dreams for their church. The church’s mortgage of about \$252,000 was at the top of their discussions and prayers.

“We could not envision our dreams becoming a reality as long as the church remained in debt,” says Nelson. All of their fundraising ideas were just a drop in the bucket — they needed to raise big money quickly. Nelson had heard of an offering used by another church called Plunk-it-Down. The offering was unique because givers had to get out of their seats and bring their offering to the altar.

The women loved the idea. So, every second

Sabbath since November 2008, a special offering was collected after the traditional tithes and offerings. Each month on this special Sabbath, everyone, old and young, members and visitors, had an opportunity to come forward and place their offering on the altar. The church united by paying off the mortgage eight years and two months early, and the interest saved was about \$86,092.

The members have committed to helping their sister church, Bay St. Louis, pay off their mortgage early.

—BY MARY NELSON

Conference Organizes Hispanic Church in Montgomery

Members and visitors filled the auditorium of the Montgomery, Ala., Hispanic Church on September 22, 2012, as they celebrated its organization as a church in Gulf States Conference. Mel Eisele, Conference president; Dave Livermore, Conference executive secretary; and Auturo Ledzman, Conference treasurer, welcomed the congregation. A prayer of dedication was given after the morning sermon delivered by Eisele. The ordination of the church’s elders and deaconesses followed. More than 120 members filed by to sign in as a charter member of the church.

The group began in early 2004 as a small assembly of Hispanic members who had a vision of seeing a church

in Montgomery. The group met in an extra room off from the gym of the Montgomery First Church. Sometimes, maybe 35 people, including children and visitors attend-



Montgomery Hispanic Church charter members and guests crowd onto the platform after their church organization.

ed. At first the congregation struggled; then, instead of dwelling on their problems, members were challenged, with God’s help, to have a bigger vision. Nilton Garcia, their new pastor, en-

couraged them to become a church of small groups, and focused their attention on reaching out to others. Everyone got involved, and the church began to grow.

Soon the extra room at Montgomery First Church was no longer large enough, and they began renting a church building from a Sunday-keeping church to use on Sabbaths. Since the church’s organization, the congregation has continued to grow, and they are now looking for a place to build a church of their own.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Savannah Church Members Share Outreach News

Savannah, Tenn., Church members, along with students and staff from Harbert Hills Academy (HHA), conducted their second annual food drive this past holiday season. The food drive is designed to cater to the needs of the community and bring needed food supplies to the less fortunate. The group launched the drive by going out into the community asking local residents to put food in bags and leave it on their front porch for convenient next-day pick up. The efforts yielded more food this year than last. The members also accumulated food for the needy. Substantial amounts were acquired through these means as well.

They consider this year's annual drive a great success in that they exceeded the number of baskets distributed last year. Fifty-four baskets were distributed in the community, designed to feed approximately 200 people.

The Food Pantry was started three years ago by Sharon Indian, who felt the need to reach out as a church and help the needy in the community. The following year Deloris Redden accepted the Food Pantry administrator office, and started the annual food drive with the participation of the students at HHA. The students also give monetary donations, and supply contributions to the Food Pantry all year. This



Fall Festival of Music participants

year an anonymous gift of \$1,000 was given specifically for food for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project.

Savannah Church members are also proactively seeking to bring back their missing members. As part of efforts to bring these loved ones back, they hosted a musical talent concert on September 22, 2012, promoted as the Fall Festival of Music.

This wonderful concert was orchestrated to bring the area churches together, filling the pews with people who had not seen each other in quite some time. Some brought visitors and members that had not been to church in a while. The Fall Festival of Music began at 6 p.m. with a welcome and prayer by John Johnston, pastor, and congregational singing led by Montie Cagle. It continued until every talent had been shared, culminating in an hour of snacks, refreshments, and the blessing of

fellowship.

A violin solo by Charlene Teriz was followed by a vocal solo by Kristal Moon. Eugene Rau shared a captivating story, a talented vocal group from Waynesboro presented a song, Deloris Redden performed a vocal solo, a clarinet solo was performed

solo played by Alfredo Ordonez, and a vocal solo performed by Joyce Swiatek. The Acuna family quartet sang a beautiful song in Spanish, followed by Zelda Wyatt's angelic vocal performance. Johnston concluded the event with a benediction. Fellowship and refreshments followed.

The members want to thank everyone who participated in the festival, as well as Zelda Wyatt, key organizer; John Johnston, pastor; and Richard and Liz King, Eugene and Betty Lou Rau, Ann Rey, Ladonna Smith, and Joyce Swiatek, who all assisted.

To honor the heavenly



Food drive participants

by Duane Hooper, and Lacy Bergquist continued with a vocal solo. Candace and Harian Ayra and Marisol Elwell performed a vocal trio.

A special poem was presented by Austin Culbertson. Montie and Lorina Cagle performed a duet, followed by a saw

Creator, and seek the lost and bring them home is surely the essence of faith. The Savannah Fall Festival was a tremendous success in this respect, filling the sanctuary with fellowship and praise for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ.

—BY DELORIS REDDEN
AND MARY ELWELL

Southern Student Pursues Teaching Dreams

Charlotte Tokle, member of the Lexington, Ky., Church, began her elementary years in a public school. After her father remarried, however, it was decided that she would start her third-grade year with her new siblings at Lexington Junior Academy, the local Adventist school.

“That was one of the most influential decisions of my life,” Charlotte Tokle shares. “I made incredible friends and got a whole new idea of what education could be.”

While many of Tokle’s young friends had bounced around, changing their career dreams from day to day, she always knew that she wanted to be a teacher. On top of the fact that she was inspired by several of her family members who were educators, she could not ignore the deep desire in her heart to touch children’s lives through Adventist education, just as hers had been.

Highland Academy’s work-

study program confirmed her aspiration, as she had the privilege of doing her school work half of the day and working at Highland Elementary School the other half. When she enrolled at Southern Adventist University, she declared her education major immediately. During her sophomore year, she began working at Spalding Elementary School as an assistant in both first and third grade, loving every minute of it.

As her junior year began, she continued to chase her dream of teaching, this time heading to Pohnpei as a student missionary. Upon arrival, Tokle

was surprised to learn she would be teaching second grade instead of third as she had planned. At first she was frustrated by this turn of events, but before long she came to adore her grade and her students. She had many challenges during her year of teaching abroad, but overall believes every difficult moment helped her grow as she learned to teach challenging students and manage with limited resources.

“I was always just an assistant before,” Tokle says. “I had never been the main teacher in charge. That experience proved to me that I could really do it,

giving me confidence and proving to me that God really did want me to be a teacher.”

Tokle did her student teaching at a local public school and graduated in December. She doesn’t know what God has planned for her future, but she is ready to go wherever He sends her.

“I have loved the journey He has brought me on so far,” says Tokle. “I can hardly wait to find out about the adventures He has planned for me next.”

—BY ANGELA BAERG



Charlotte Tokle



Charlotte Tokle helps one of her students.

Atlanta-Berean Members Shower Thanksgiving Blessings

Recently, the highly anticipated day had finally come, the annual Atlanta-Berean Church Community Acts 2:12 Thanksgiving Event! This event was sponsored by the Personal Ministries Department under the leadership of Charles Cunningham. The Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy school campus was transformed with an army of 250 volunteers, who tirelessly accomplished well-planned details to make sure that this event was the very best. The gymnasium, hallways, and appointed classrooms were modified for the services offered. Tables were set in anticipation of the special Thanksgiving dinner

guests. The decorations were festive and seasonal, reflecting vibrant colors of the Thanksgiving season.

Free clothes, haircuts, and health screenings were included: Body mass index, glucose level testing, blood pressure checks, and weight/height measurements were offered to guests. A prayer ministry was available for those who wanted prayer. Pampering included pedicures, manicures, massages, and facials. A flat-screen television was in place mimicking a barbershop as the men enjoyed getting haircuts.

Atlanta-Berean is blessed with the leadership of Fredrick Russell, pas-

tor, and his wife, Brenda. Russell offered a humble, sincere prayer, and let it be known that “it was our privilege and honor to serve the community, because that is what this is all about.” His spirit of humility came through as he and his wife rolled up their sleeves to serve meals to guests. The community was treated to a delectable meal of turkey, vegetarian meat, dressing, salad, corn, string beans, macaroni and cheese, rolls, juice, and an assortment of desserts. Atlanta-Berean’s top chefs and cooks did their best work. The many smiles of contentment reflected on the faces of guests as they showed

that they had been a part of an experience that cared for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. They were treated with dignity and respect. A total of 1,825 meals were served, 1,091 articles of clothing were given away, and 85 boys and men received haircuts. By the end of the event, 38 facials and 22 massages were given.

This ministry responds to the admonition of Christ to His saints at the end of time, when He says, “When you have cared for the needs of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.”

—BY BETTYE AND PAUL CLEVELAND

Atlanta Boulevard’s Community Outreach Day is a Success

News about Atlanta Boulevard’s Community Outreach Day quickly spread in the Kirkwood community around the Atlanta Boulevard Church, Atlanta, Ga. By the time the doors to the gym opened,

people had been waiting in line for half an hour or longer to take advantage of the services offered.

Months of planning under the capable leadership of Marilyn Conley, community services leader, with help from other ministries such as hospitality, health and temperance, and home and school, culminated in a variety of services being offered free to community guests — no questions asked.

By the end of the four-hour period, more than 200

people representing more than 100 families had been served. Most of those who came indicated that they had heard about the event by word of mouth; others responded to flyers that were passed out in the community the week prior to the event. A few came in response to personal invitations by church members, and others representing various parts of the Atlanta metropolitan area as far away as Riverdale to the south of the city and Alpharetta to the north.

Seventy-three bags of food were distributed, 28 haircuts provided, 66 medical screenings performed,

and 200-plus contacts made with those who were not Seventh-day Adventists, to mention just a few of the numbers served. This can only partially measure the impact this event will have on the Kirkwood community. Community residents were profuse in their expressions of thanks as they left the building, many vowing to return.

Under the leadership of Harold Thomas, Atlanta Boulevard Church pastor, is committed to reaching the community with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

—BY TAMAH HENLEY CURRY



Volunteers give free haircuts.

New School Opens in Pageland, South Carolina

Pageland Church in South Carolina recently opened a brand new elementary school. Norma D. Richards Christian School, which is named in honor of a former church member. It currently has students ranging in ages from 6 to 12.

According to Millac Chung, principal and teacher, sponsors have been generously donating money on a weekly basis, even three years prior to the opening of the institution. Chung said donors have helped bring to pass the vision that Richards had for a school in Pageland that would help educate students in a Christian environment. "Mrs. Richards invested a lot in children's education. She had a vision for a school here, even



Participating in the ribbon cutting were Demetrice Elliot (left), teacher assistant; Lawrence Elliot, Ph.D., school board chairman; Millac Chung, principal/teacher; Kim Gaiter, associate superintendent; and Christopher Whitaker, pastor.

though she didn't live to see it," said Chung.

The school currently has grades one, two, three, four, and six, but it is working toward having all grades from kindergarten to eighth in the future.

Chung said she is planning different outreaches to let the community know the school has opened. She said the church will find sponsorships and scholarships to help pay tuition for the students. The

school even has a van that picks up students; fuel for the van is paid for by donors.

Chung, a resident of Matthews, N.C., has a master of arts in teaching for curriculum and planning from La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. She is certified K-12 with an endorsement to teach Bible. Chung has one teacher assistant, Demetrice Elliot of Wadesboro, N.C.

Anyone interested in more information about enrollment can call the church at 843-672-6634.

"We want to be of service to the community," said Chung. "Learning to serve others is one of our goals."

—BY VANESSA BREWERTYSON THE LINK STAFF REPORTER

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Marvin Allison Voted to Serve as New South Central Communication Director

Marvin L. Allison Sr. was voted to serve as the new South Central communication director. He follows Michael Harpe who now serves as stewardship director. Allison will also continue to pastor the Gethsemane Church in Daphne, Ala., and New Beginnings Church in Mobile, Ala.

Allison spent the first 18 years of his life in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. He was called to the ministry at an early age, and dedicated his life to this high calling. In 1979 he began his official training for the pastoral ministry at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

While studying, his journey took him on two overseas mission tours. In 1980 he answered a call to serve as a student missionary in Hiroshima, Japan, and then in 1982, he served as a student missionary in Progresso, Belize. He completed his collegiate studies in 1991 with a master of divinity degree from Andrews University.

He then became a chaplain at Learning Experiences, a prison for troubled teens, in Coatesville, Penn. Soon after, he and his wife, Marcia, accepted a mission call to serve in Seoul, Korea, as the Seventh-day Adventist Denominational Represen-



Marvin Allison

tative to the United States Forces in Korea, where he administered the Seventh-day Adventist Servicemen's Center and pastored the Military Seventh-day Adventist Church. He served in this capacity for six years. While serving in Ko-

rea in 2001, he answered a call to return to the United States to be a local pastor in Tennessee, and ministered there for five years. Then the Lord moved him to Kentucky where he ministered for three years until his arrival in Mobile on January 2, 2010.

The Allison's have been married for 19 years, and to their union three children were born (one is deceased).

Allison believes in the ministry of the Holy Spirit and prayer. He believes that every member should be baptized by the Holy Spirit and has dedicated his ministry to that end.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

Martin Lister Elected New South Central Religious Liberty Director

Martin Lister was elected to serve as the new South Central religious liberty director. He follows Clarence Hodges, Ph.D., who recently retired.

Lister is both an ordained minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a licensed attorney. He will continue to serve the Orchard Park congregation in Chattanooga, Tenn.

He is a graduate of Oakwood University with a bachelor of arts in ministerial theology, of Andrews University with a master of divinity, and of the University of Tennessee College



Lister family

of Law with a doctor of jurisprudence.

He is married to the love of his life and childhood friend, Chavvah McCoy Lister. A gifted singer/song-writer, she received a

bachelor of arts in communication from Oakwood University, and a master of science in communication from the University of Tennessee. They have been blessed with two beautiful children, son Garrett, and daughter Amelia.

Lister's personal motto is based on Micah 6:8 and simply states, "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly." Driven by this motto, he wants to lead as many people as possible to the One who continues to write his life story.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

Mary Tacoma Maupin - 1905-2012

Possibly one of the oldest members of the South Central Conference is Mary Tacoma Maupin. She passed away on Friday, November 2, 2012, one week shy of her 107th birthday. Her funeral service was held Friday, November 9, 2012, at the Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky.; Kennedy Lockett, pastor, officiated.

Her obituary shared a snapshot of a wonderful life: Mary was born November 9, 1905, in Pleasant Hill, Mo., to the late William and Elizabeth Taylor. She was the youngest of four brothers and one sister. At age two, after the death of her mother, she went to Tulsa, Okla., to live with her uncle, Robert Bridgewater, and his wife. She often spoke fondly of her time with "Auntie and Uncle." It was during her time with them that she experienced a very important event in history — she was a survivor of the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

After high school, she attended Wilberforce College in Wilberforce, Ohio, and there met her husband of 75 years, the late Miller Maupin. To this union were born seven children: four sons and three daughters.

She was a teacher in the Jefferson County school system. All who met her would be exposed to her unique personality in this way. If anyone ever made a mistake with the English language, no matter whom it was, she



Mary Tacoma Maupin

would correct them.

Maupin's service to God in the Magazine Street Church was in the following areas: Sabbath School teacher, church pianist and organist for more than 60 years, assisting 14 pastors as a Bible worker, and organizing church choirs. Until age 100, she assisted with the Cecil Ray Scholarship program and participated in fruit fundraising for the E. L. Minnis Jr. Academy. Due to her devotion to Christian education, the Minnis Jr. Academy has dedicated

its science lab in honor of Miller and Mary Maupin.

She received an award from the City of Louisville Black Achievers, and the National Council of Negro Women Bethune Service Award. She was featured in the Southern Tidings, Loma Linda's Health Study 2005 winter newsletter, Louisville's The Courier Journal and the Huntsville Times newspapers.

Mary was a world traveler. Her adventures took her to Africa, Asia, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and across

the mainland of the United States. She was known to attend every family wedding and graduation.

Music was an important part of her life. At 106 she still had a passion for music and was playing the piano almost daily. She enjoyed taking requests for favorite hymns and playing for various soloists that would stop by the church to sing.

She was a promoter of higher education. As a result, her children graduated as honor students and received college degrees in the areas of business, medicine, healthcare, law, education, science, city planning, banking, information technology, and social work. However, her main goal was for her family to be saved.

She was preceded in death by her husband and their eldest son, Milburn T. Maupin. She is survived by six children: Roslyn Anderson of Berrien Springs, Mich., Robert Maupin and Carlyle (Violet) Maupin of Louisville, Ky., Idabeth (Simon) Jacob of Madison, Ala., LaVaunt (Alberta) Maupin of St. Louis, Mo., and Lolita McRoy of Lee's Summit, Mo. She also leaves 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 16 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

Grace Fellowship Teams Up With South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness

“Sumner is one of about 15 homeless individuals living under the James M. Beck Overpass. And while food donations are always welcomed, he and others want not for sustenance, but need employment and a safe place to stay and sleep comfortably. For someone to be on their side when they genuinely call for help.” This is a direct quote from the December 3, 2012, article in the Valdosta Daily Times. A few weeks before, Lee Roy Henderson, a local pastor and radio personality on Black Crow Media, News Talk 105.3, was having lunch with Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga.

Henderson shared with Taylor the plight of the individuals living under the overpass. This moved Taylor to take three young



Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Valdosta, Ga., is pictured with a homeless woman and her dog.

people, Loveinson Chevelon, Jemarion McEady, and Jevontay McEady from Grace Fellowship to visit the homeless under the bridge. What they saw evoked tears from Taylor and a plea to do more from 14 year-old Jemarion. “Let us go out and raise money for them right now...,” he begged. Grace Fellowship has learned that Valdosta is home to some 900 homeless individuals, with 400 in the school

system.

Taylor spoke with Rolan Dobson, local elder of Grace Fellowship, and within minutes Dobson was on the scene. Taylor and Dobson pledged Grace Fellowship’s support to fight this horrible plague called homelessness. Kenda Henley, Grace Fellowship assistant community services leader, was happy to jump to action. The very next Sabbath an army of Grace Fellowship members were under the overpass feeding the homeless. It is their pledge to be there every other Saturday providing care and nurture, with the hope that before long Valdosta will rid itself, not of the homeless, but of homelessness. Grace Fellowship is partnering with the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness (SGPEH) to fight this horrific monster.

On Valentine’s Day 2013, Grace Fellowship Church and the South

Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness will host a Valentine’s Day banquet for the homeless — 150 homeless individuals will be treated like kings and queens. The mission of the



Sisters Jada and Kamala Taylor prepare to distribute meals to share with Valdosta’s overpass homeless.

banquet is to remind the homeless that they are special, needed, and that they can contribute to society. If you would like to help with the banquet, please call Kenda Henley at 229-234-2426.

—BY ANAKAYE FAGAN

Lannie Louise Thomas Celebrates 100 Years

Lannie Louise Thomas was born to the late Kelly and Elizabeth Thomas on December 15, 1912, in Ruffin, S.C. The middle of nine children, she spent most of her childhood with her grandmother. After attending a tent meeting conducted by Calvin B. Rock, D.Min.,



Ph.D., and the late Eric C. Ward in Jacksonville, Fla., she became a Seventh-day Adventist. As a single parent, she raised two children and taught them about the love of God.

Thomas is in perfect health and does not take

prescription drugs. She walks a lot, rides the bus to the grocery stores or shopping centers, pays her bills, and cooks her food the way she likes it. She lives alone in a senior complex.

She has a sense of humor, a sweet, lovable personality, and many friends. She supports the church school and other charitable programs on her fixed income. She purchases book cases of *Steps*

to Christ, Bible Readings for the Home, and Marked Bibles and gives them away.

She feels her longevity comes from being obedient to her parents. She has one daughter who preceded her in death, eight grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. She prays constantly for them to be ready with her to meet Jesus when He returns.

—BY EVELYN LOMAS

Elim Hosts National Bible Bowl Competition



Outgoing Southeastern Bible Bowl coordinator Shearna Tolbert (right) gives a participation medal to a Southeastern Bible Bowl participant.



Sherrie Barton-Smith, incoming Southeastern Bible Bowl coordinator, moderates a match during the National Bible Bowl competition.

The 30th annual National Bible Bowl Competition was held October 25-26, 2012, at Elim Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. Thirty-five teams throughout the North American Division competed in the two-day event, which is patterned after the 1960s television game show General Electric. The competition requires competitors to display quick recall and split-second response as they answer questions from the Bible.

The teams competed in five age divisions: pre-

junior youth, ages 6-9; junior youth, ages 10-15; youth, ages 16-22; young adult, ages 23-35; and adult, ages 36-plus. Bible Bowl champions in this year's competition came from the Southwestern Conference — pre-junior and young adult divisions; and the Northeastern Conference — junior youth, senior youth, and adult divisions.

Teams from the Southeastern Conference placed in three of the five divisions: Patmos Chapel Church, Orlando, Fla.,

finished in second place in the junior youth division; Town & Country Church, Tampa, Fla., finished third in the young adult division; and New Hope Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., finished in second place in the adult division.

"It is extremely exciting to see our young people get excited about participating in a competition that encourages the study of the Bible," said

Cesar Robinson, Southeastern youth director. "We are proud of them."

In an effort to encourage young people to study the Bible, Trevor H. C. Baker, while serving as Northeastern Conference youth ministries director, conceived and launched the Bible Bowl competition in 1979.

During the closing ceremonies of the Bible Bowl, Shearna Tolbert, Southeastern Bible Bowl coordinator, announced that she was moving and Sherrie Barton-Smith would replace her as coordinator.

The Bible Bowl is sponsored by the North American Division Youth Department. Next year the Bible Bowl competition will be held in New York. For details about the Bible Bowl, visit www.bible-bowl.org.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Members of Patmos Chapel Bible Bowl team from Winter Park, Fla., answer a question during a match at the National Bible Bowl competition held at the Elim Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., on October 26, 2012.

Oakwood University Dedicates Eugenia Cunningham Hall

Faculty and staff at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., circled the lobby of the newly renovated Eugenia Cunningham Hall on Thursday, January 3, 2013, to dedicate the former dormitory for its new use as a student information center.

The \$5 million renovation converts the three-story building into a central location for all the offices that support student matriculation, including student finance, admissions, recruitment, health, counseling, registration, testing, and tutoring, as well as faculty development.

The building, which was constructed in 1947 as



Senior chaplain Howard Weems, Ph.D. (center with microphone), offers the dedicatory prayer for Eugenia Cunningham Hall at Oakwood University on Thursday, January 3, 2013, as faculty and staff ring the halls with a circle of prayer.

a women's dormitory, also now houses five state-of-the-art conference rooms.

The year-long project brings together the offices, which had been scattered

in four separate buildings around the campus, said Sabrina Cotton, vice president for financial affairs, who participated in the dedication. Other senior administrators and chaplains led the short dedication, and then the faculty and staff members were invited to take a self-guided tour of the facility.

The University saw a record enrollment of 2,023 students during fall 2012, and more than 2,000 are expected for the spring semester, Cotton said.

—BY KAY CAMPBELL
HUNTSVILLE TIMES STAFF
WRITER

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Southern Starts Vegetarian Culinary Arts Program

Beginning with the fall 2013 semester, students in Southern's new vegetarian culinary arts program will enjoy the fruits of their labors, literally, while learning how to share an important part of the Seventh-day Adventist health message in the tastiest, most visually appealing manner possible.

Southern is the only Adventist school in North America offering culinary arts, and one of only a few colleges or universities in all the country providing training focused on the



"Vegetarian Culinary Arts" is currently a one-year certificate program, but the University plans to include associate's and bachelor's degree options by 2014.

preparation of vegetarian and vegan foods. The program begins as a one-year certificate track through the School of P.E., Health

and Wellness, but the University plans to include associate's and bachelor's degree options by 2014.

The bulk of the curriculum will consist of instruction in professional cooking. Some of the other courses being

taught include food safety and sanitation; introduction to food purchasing, preparation, and presenta-

tion; international ethnic cuisines; and introduction to marketing for culinary professionals.

A new, full-time faculty member is being hired as the director and lead professor. There will also be several adjunct professors teaching classes, as well as guest speakers for class demonstrations.

To view a complete list of courses and requirements, visit southern.edu/culinary.

—BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

Students Participate in Mock Government Session, Avoid Sabbath Conflict

It comes as little surprise that Adventist students sometimes miss important co-curricular opportunities off campus due to Sabbath conflicts. Thanks to a Southern alumnus, however, a group from the University was given the opportunity to participate in a valuable event without compromising their faith.

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL), a mock state government begun in the 1960s with current delegates representing more than 80 schools, is designed to give students a hands-on lesson in how government works. But, until now, Southern has never been a part of this process. That was because TISL's program included

Saturday activities, and the organization ruled that colleges could not send students for only part of the event; it was all or nothing.

Not anymore.

TISL met

November 15-18, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn., and Southern was represented there thanks to the efforts of former student Alexander Brown, Secretary of State for TISL.

"I suggested to TISL's executive council that Southern delegates be allowed to participate in all parts of the program, except for Saturday's events, and that they not be penal-



Seven students representing a variety of majors made up Southern's first delegation to the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

ized for a commitment to Sabbath-keeping," Brown said.

The idea was well received and Executive Council approved the exception. Lisa Diller, chair of the History and Political Studies Department, and Ben MacArthur, history professor, spent several months recruiting seven students from a variety of different majors to make up

Southern's first TISL delegation.

"Participating was a great learning experience for me," said Kenia Ledezma, junior social work major.

"It not only gave me the opportunity to network with other students and government officials, but also helped me decide to pursue a degree in law."

Student representatives compose the two houses that make up the legislative branch of TISL. They write, debate, and vote on legislation. Some of what has been passed by TISL — child safety seat regulations, for example — has gone on to the actual Tennessee Legislature and become state law.

—BY LUKE EVANS

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Graduate School Open House, February 7

Get face time with faculty and administrators running Southern's graduate school programs at 6:30 p.m. in the Hulsey Wellness Center. For more information, call 423.236.2585.

Yiddish and African American Music, February 11

"Soul to Soul" performs a concert combining Yiddish and African American music at 7:30 pm in Iles P.E. Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$20 for families. For more information, call 423.236.2814.

Archaeology Lecture Series, February 12

Yosef Garfinkel, Ph.D., presents "Sanctuaries and Cult at Khirbet Qeiyafa" at 7:30 p.m. in Lynn Wood Auditorium. For more information, call 423.236.2030.

Preview Southern, February 18

Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Meals and accommodation (up to two nights) are provided for prospective students and immediate family members. For more information, call 1.800.SOUTHERN.

Renaissance Music and Science, February 19

"Galileo's Muse" takes audiences to a 17th century world where music and science interacted with profound results. Performance is at 7:30 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$12 for families. For more information, call 423.236.2814.

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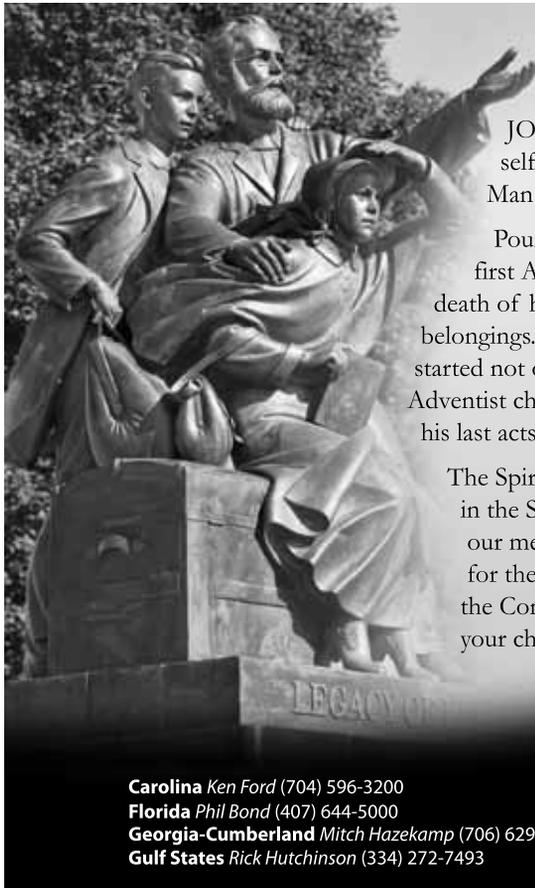
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The Spirit of the Pioneers is not dead but still resides in many members right here in the Southern Union. Planned Giving and Trust Services is designed to help all our members to further the causes they believe in as well as to adequately provide 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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JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL is looking for physicians to work in our hospital. We are currently seeking the following positions: **Family Practice, Family Practice/OB, Orthopedic, Nephrology, Internal Medicine**. Please contact Jason Dunkel @ jason.dunkel@ahss.org or 423-784-1187 for more information. [2-8]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a **law student** for a 6 to 8-week summer clerkship in 2013. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal

candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send resume and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org! [2, 3]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Dean for School of Business and Management**. A Doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received by January 31, 2013. The successful candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a SDA church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, Director of Human Resources, plcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363. [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY's School of Social Work seeks **full-time faculty**. Candidate must have MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and a PhD in related field. Candidates should be able to demonstrate CBT skills. Must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, an SDA church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a curriculum vita via email to René Drumm (rdrumm@southern.edu), Dean, School of Social Work, Southern Adventist University. [2-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Education and Psychology seeks **faculty for its Counseling programs** effective June 1, 2013. Qualified candidates must have an earned doctorate in counseling or counselor education, preferably from a CACREP-accredited program,



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Adventist Health

Advertisements

with a concentration in school or clinical mental health counseling. The candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a Seventh-day Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Priority given to applications received by March 1, 2013. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to John McCoy, School of Ed/Psych, Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370. [2]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for the position of **Program Director for a new Physician Assistant program**. A master's degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Adventist University is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to: Dr. Len M. Archer, Assoc. VP for Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; len.archer@adu.edu. [2-4]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, Orlando, FL is seeking a **Physical Therapist Program Director** beginning 2013. The Program Director will provide overall academic leadership developing this program and salary will be competitive. Requirements: doctoral degree from regionally accredited school, PT academic experience, eligible for FL PT licensure. Preferred: senior faculty status. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vita, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams, Sr VP Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; don.williams@adu.edu. [2-4]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a **full-time faculty** position focusing on **Medical-Surgical Nursing** on the Portland, Oregon campus to begin September 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. [2]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track **faculty positions in Art and Biology**. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled. [2]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as **Dean of the School of Education & Psychology** to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. [2, 3]

FAMILY PRACTICE & PEDIATRIC PHYSICIANS! 150 years ago Ellen White encouraged us to leave the cities and find rural homes to carry out our mission. If you feel it is time for a move, we hope you will consider joining a small group of mission-minded physicians in rural east Tennessee / east Kentucky in providing healthcare to the Appalachian region. Jellico has a thriving Adventist church, a wonderful elementary school, and state of the art

electronic academy as an extension of Atlanta Adventist Academy. Call Steve Boone at 423-784-7269 to find out more about the opportunities in Jellico. [2-4]

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC is seeking individuals in the following specialties: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Orthopedic Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner, Rheumatologist, Dermatologists, Pediatricians, Hospitalist, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapist, OB/GYNs, Urologist, Surgeons, Cardiologist, Dental Director and Professional Recruiter. Call now! 671-646-8881 x 102; email hr@guamsda.com; visit www.adventistclinic.com. [2]

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST/LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST urgently needed. If you are qualified and feel called to serve, come join us in serving the Lord at Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital in Georgia. If you would like to know more, please email your resume to: administrator@wildwoodhealth.org. [2, 3]

OUACHITA HILLS COLLEGE is accepting applications for the following positions: **Biology Instructor, Chemistry Instructor, English Instructor, Business Administration Instructor, Academic Dean, Construction Manager, and Director of Media Department**. Our website: www.ohc.org. Contact Magda Rodriguez at info@ohc.org or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information. [2]

REHIRE AND RETIRE IN FLORIDA! Maintenance/grounds keeper needed at the New Port Richey, FL, SDA Church (just north of Tampa area). Rent free brick home provided, plus other amenities. Duties would be lawn care around the church, daycare, and pre-k thru 8th grade school. Cleaning the church (only) is included, as well as repairs and general up-keep in all buildings. Salary negotiable. Send your resume to Mark Schiefer: 11530 Biddeford Place, New Port Richey, FL 34654. Cell: 727-439-5926, email: youthstpete@aol.com. [2]

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Collegedale, TN 37315. 423-238-7467. www.bonherbals.com [2]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER? The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at 800-248-8313 or contact us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda. [2-12]

RV's!! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been helping SDA's for over 30 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motor homes. Jayco, Newmar and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Call toll-free 1-888-933-9300. Lee's RV, Oklahoma City. www.leesrv.com or e-mail Lee Litchfield at Lee@leesrv.com. ©

BUTLER CREEK SEMINARS (A division of Wildwood Health Retreat): Conquering Lifestyle Disease seminar. Natural prevention/treatment for lifestyle diseases. March 17-24. Building Immunity Naturally seminar. March

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10-17. Both seminars include hands-on cooking classes (total vegetarian, whole foods), exercise program, health presentations. Cost: \$395. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. View our 2013 calendar: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [2]

BUTLER CREEK SEMINARS (A division of Wildwood Health Retreat): Lose Weight, Feel Great! seminar. Change your life—eat healthfully, control stress, exercise for energy. Hands-on cooking classes (total vegetarian, whole foods). Feb. 24-Mar 10 (\$740); Mar 24-April 7 (\$790). Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [2]

BUTLER CREEK SEMINARS (A division of Wildwood Health Retreat): Country Living—Family Fun! Seminar for all ages. Hands-on practical skills classes; devotionals focus on reviving the heart; interesting and spiritually rejuvenating. April 7-14 (singles \$370; family discounts available). Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. See daily schedule: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [2]

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE PROGRAM can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle. [2-5]

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HAVE YOU WRITTEN a children's book, life testimony, story of God's

love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800-367-1844 Ext 3 or email publishing@teachservices.com, for a FREE manuscript review. [2-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees. [2-5]

QUIET COUNTRY LIFE minutes from Nashville in Portland, Tennessee. Highland Academy, Highland Elementary School, and Highland SDA church are located on 400 picturesque rolling acres. Also on campus is Signature Healthcare, a 100-bed nursing home. Students enjoy Pathfinders, robotics, gymnastics, Adventurers, band, choir, bells, community outreach, mission trips, and more. We are a conservative community that shares these values with our top-rated schools. 615-325-3925. [2, 3]

GRIZZLY BEAR, black bear, wolf, elk, moose, bison, geysers, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, mountains. At last, a tour designed by and for our Adventist brothers and sisters. Join your Adventist tour leaders to Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks next summer. Structured toward Adventists. Geoffrey: 512-923-7230, www.EagleEyeNatureTours.com. [2, 3]

PEPPERTREE PRIMARY CARE – Preventive care and chronic medical treatments for various ailments. Education patients on lifestyle choices which affect health. Biblical-based alternative therapies and natural remedies. Whole-person approach to medicine. For personalized healthcare, call Dr. McEachrane-Gross, MD, MPH, Ocala, FL at 352-350-5012. [2-4]

Announcements

Sequatchie Valley Sabbath Conference – Feb 23. Sequatchie County High School Auditorium, 7067 SR 28, Dunlap, TN. Details: 423-949-6707 or www.dunlapsabbathconference.org.

Union College Homecoming – April 4-7. Honor classes: 1943, '53, '58, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93, and 2003. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend – April 12-14. Visit www.wau.edu/alumni or call 301-891-4133 for details.

Napoleon B. Smith Seventh-day Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – April 12-14. Details: Franchis Cook at nbsmithalumni@gmail.com. Visit: www.nbsmithalumni.com.

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend – April 26, 27. Honor classes: 1943, '53, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and 2003. N. Aurora, IL SDA Church. We need your e-mail addresses, postage is too expensive. Send it to: Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net; or call: 630-232-9034.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend – April 26-28. Honor classes 50+, '3's and '8's, 951 351-1445 x 244, jnelson@lsak12.com and LSA website, www.lsak12.com/alumni.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion – June 7-9. For alumni and schoolmates of 1963 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1933, '43, '53, and '63. Details are forthcoming by postal service. You may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net/> for details.



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Events Calendar

Carolina

Romance at the Ranch

English – Feb. 8-10. NPR.
Spanish – Feb. 15-17. NPR.

Piedmont Community

Services Federation – March 9. High Point.

Pathfinder Work Bee/Campout – March 15-17. NPR.

Alive Youth Rally – March 22-24. Spartanburg Church. Speaker: Pastor Sam Leonor, Pastor for La Sierra University Campus. Admission is free. Learn more at www.alivesc.com.

Women's Ministries Certification Workshop – March 22-23. Charlotte.

Children's Sabbath School Workshop – March 24. TBD.

Elders' Retreat – March 29-30. NPR.

Florida

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

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

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Feb. 23. Tallahassee.
Feb. 24. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.
March 2. Sunrise.
March 3. Plantation, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)
March 9. Naples.
March 10. Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Shores, Arcadia, Avon Park, Winter Haven.
March 16. West Palm Beach.
March 17. Midport in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)
March 23. Maranatha in Miami

Gardens.

March 24. Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

March 2. Ocala.
March 9. North Miami.
March 15, 16. Pine Lake Retreat in Groveland for Retired Denominational Workers Retreat.

March 23. Norland in Miami.
March 23. Wesley Chapel Spanish.

Men's Ministries Convention

– March 8-10. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: Walking With God. Celebrating 20 years of men's ministries. Cost: \$69-\$177 depending on accommodation choice. Free to commuters not purchasing meals. Registration: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351. Local commuter/meal registration: 407-508-2395.

Retired Denominational Workers Retreat – March 15-17. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Guest speaker: Dan Matthews. Details: 407-399-9091. Registration: mail-in forms sent to retired workers, or call 407-644-5000 x164.

New Beginnings Health Revival Week – March 24-31. North Miami Church. Details: tnobrega@bellsouth.net or 786-344-3155.

Forest Lake Academy Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

– March 25. RedTail Golf Club. Details: lebrunc@forestlakeacademy.org, or 407-772-3729.

Georgia-Cumberland

LifeGroup Experience – Feb. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

High School Retreat – Feb. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

"Let Your Light Shine" – Feb. 2. Peachtree City Church/Shoal Creek School Praise Service, Peachtree City, GA.

Leadership Training, Health & Personal Ministries – Feb. 2. Peachtree City, GA.

North Knoxville Church 20th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration – Feb. 2. Knoxville, TN.

Hispanic Layman's Festival – Feb. 8-10. Lake Yale Baptist Center, Leesburg, FL.

Children's Ministries Convention – Feb. 8-10. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Leadership Training, Health & Personal Ministries – Feb. 9. Jasper.

Pathfinder Teen Bible Conference – Feb. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

The Two Witnesses: Empower by the Living Word Prayer Conference – Feb. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Outreach Witnessing Sabbath and Sunday Fun Day – Feb. 15-18. Gatlinburg, TN.

"Getting More Out of It" LifeGroup Training – Feb. 16. Sharpsburg, GA.

Atlanta Adventist Academy Day – Feb. 21. Visit their website www.aaa.edu.

Sabbath Conference – Feb. 23. 9:15 am-6:30 pm. Sequatchie County High School Auditorium, Dunlap, TN.

Leadership Training: Health & Personal Ministries Feb. 23. Collegedale Community Church, Ooltewah, TN.
Feb. 24. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

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

Gulf States

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

Teen Invitational Caving – Feb. 1, 2.

Evangelism Boot Camp – Feb.

1-3.

Conference Executive Committee – Feb. 5. Montgomery.

Sex Offender Seminar – Feb. 17. Montgomery First Church.

Teen Invitational Backpacking – March 1, 2.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Board of Education – Feb. 14.
Evangelism Boot Camp – Feb. 15-17.

Highland/Madison Academy Winter Breaks – March 1-10.

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 8, 9.

Music Festival – March 14-16.
Highland/Madison Academy Boards – March 14.

Louisville Festival of Faith – March 15, 16.

Conference Executive Committee – March 26.

Southern Adventist University

Graduate School Open House – Feb. 7. Hulsey Wellness Center. Details: 423-236-2585.
Yiddish and African American Music – Feb. 11. "Soul to Soul" performs a concert combining Yiddish and African American music. Iles P.E. Center. Details: 423-236-2814.

Archaeology Lecture Series – Feb. 12. Yosef Garfinkel, Ph.D. Lynn Wood Auditorium. Details: 423-236-2030.

PreviewSouthern – Feb. 18. Students are invited to take a campus tour, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Details: 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Sunset						
	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	Mar. 8
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

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