

September 2013

TSOUTHERN TIDINGS



LIGHTING
PRISONS

with *Jesus*

Going Against the Grain

Popular opinion, the perspective of the majority, and established behaviors are challenging forces to anyone who chooses to make a change. What follows is usually isolation and disenfranchisement. Because some have chosen to behave differently or think independently, they have frequently felt the heat of societal ostracism. Great scientists, statesmen, writers, artists, and a host of other contributors to popular culture have often been embraced and admired after their demise — rarely before they die.

The dividends of a good name and an established legacy emerge as the fruit of making tough choices to move according to one's own convictions. The experience of Christianity speaks to this dynamic journey. God calls us to make changes in our lives that go against the grain, that fly in the face of popularity and, at times, seem illogical.

When we choose to develop and enjoy a relationship with God, change is inevitable. First and foremost is a change of heart, after which God begins to bring about outward evidences of our transformation. This is illustrated adequately by looking at the experiences of four individuals who suddenly were snatched from the comfort zone of familiarity to an insensitive world. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were planted involuntarily in a culture that daily challenged and ignored their value system, which governed their relationship with God.

They were selected with some others to go to the land of their captors, to be trained for loyal service to the king. These boys had to live in a city with strange customs and what seemed to be an unpronounceable language. In this new place, religion was not “cool” and human rights were not prioritized highly. What a tough situation in which to go against the grain.

This is the dilemma faced by anyone who seriously decides to radically adjust their professional or personal lifestyle to be a Christian. Perhaps you may find yourself in a situation in which being a Christian seems all but possible. Daniel and his three friends had to decide what many of us must decide on a daily basis. Do I rationalize and cop out of my convictions and values in quest of acceptance, popularity, or wealth?

Adherence to the practice of Christianity requires a distinctive lifestyle. It requires the sacrifice of some things that popular culture may recommend for you. There is a statement in the Apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians that is relevant here. He writes, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear,” 1 Corinthians 10:13. This encouraging Scripture gives at least three points of encouragement to anyone “going against the grain.”

1. You've never been in a situation that some other Christian hasn't been in before you.
2. God never allows you to be in a situation you can't handle.
3. If you're in a seemingly insurmountable situation, God will give you the power to get through it.

I challenge you to dare to “go against the grain” for Jesus.



Ron C. Smith,
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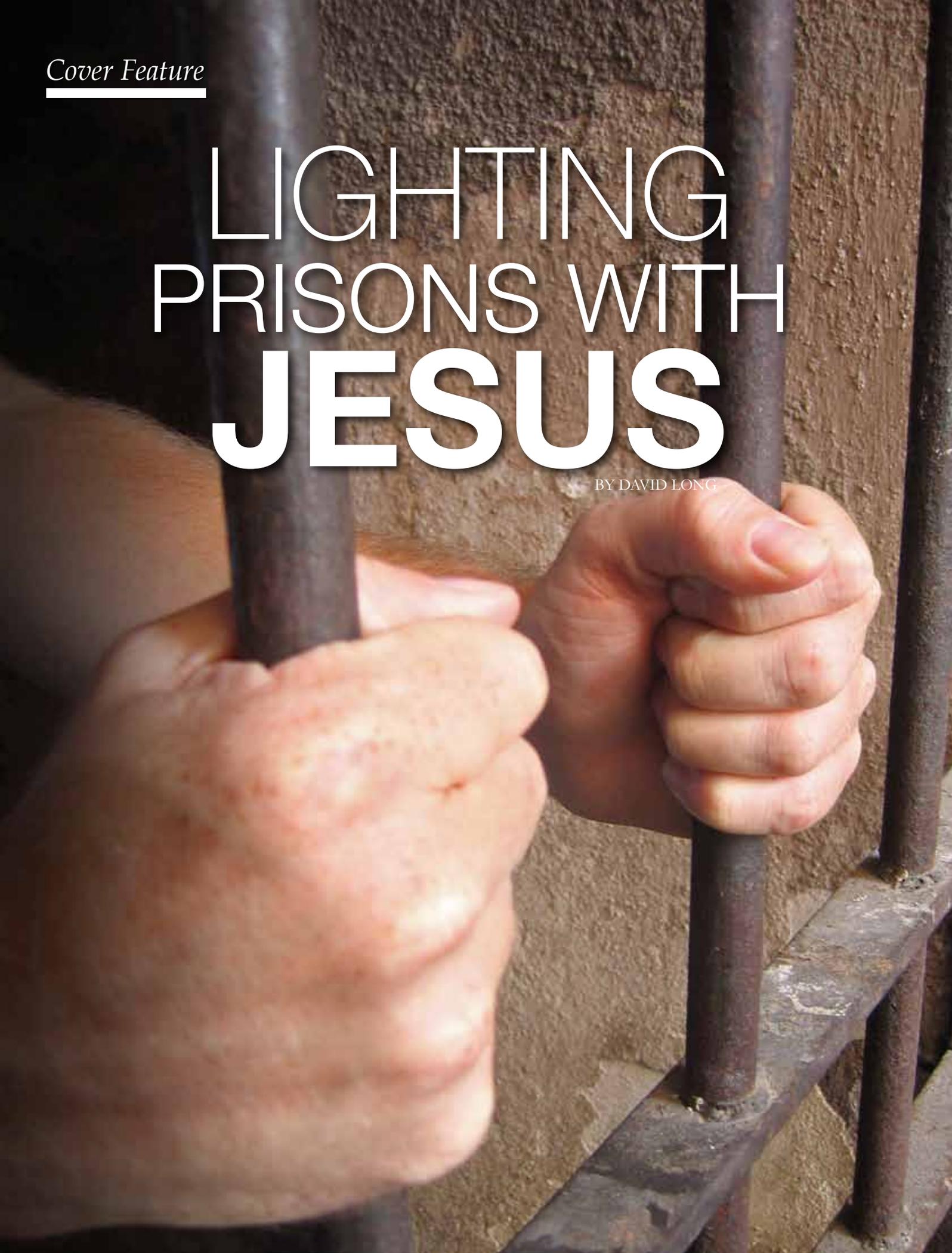
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LIGHTING PRISONS WITH JESUS

BY DAVID LONG



One of the Bible texts that form the foundation of prison ministries is Matthew 25:34-40: "Then shall the King say to them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...I was in prison and ye came unto me." There are many volunteers in the Southern Union who have been involved in prison ministries for decades, and their zeal is still increasing. They are encouraged by the positive responses of the inmates, the transformed lives of those who regularly attend their meetings, and they rejoice even more when decisions are made for baptism. An even greater joy is experienced when inmates are released from prison, and they begin to lead lives that honor their fellow man and bring glory to our heavenly Father.

It is a testimony to the power of God that many former inmates are actively involved in prison ministries. One such person is Jeffery Cobb, who "paid his dues" for a lifestyle that he now regrets. Because of his gratitude to God for changing his life, he began a ministry to assist those seeking to



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Richard Bland, director of United Prison Ministries International in Verbena, Alabama, conducts a Bible study with inmates at Staton Correctional Center, Elmore, Alabama.

re-enter society on the right side of the law. In 2002 he started Shelter from the Storm, a transition house that allows individuals the opportunity to establish themselves without depending on drugs and destruction. Many of those who finished their time of probation under its roof are now depending on the blood of the Lamb and the word

of their testimony to remain overcomers (Revelation 12:11).

Another testimony to the power of God, through former inmates actively involved in prison ministries, is witnessed in the life of James Johnson of Ephesus Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has been out of prison for more than 50 years, is still committed to his mission, and continues visiting and working in prisons. While serving on a work-team digging ditches as an inmate, one of the guards coerced him to an area out of sight of the other inmates, placed a pistol between his eyes and attempted to

pull the trigger, but the guard's finger wouldn't bend. The next day the same guard had Johnson to follow him to an area beyond the other inmates and apologized for attempting to kill him the day before. The guard then pledged to protect him for the rest of the time he was to be incarcerated because he was convinced through a dream that if Johnson was injured by an inmate, God would cause him to suffer severely.

There are many members in the Southern Union who regularly minister to inmates. In the Carolina Conference, Jim Wetmore is the prison ministries director. The Arden Church in North Carolina ministers in three prisons and two jails. They conduct chapel services and Bible studies, resulting in several inmates showing an interest for baptism. One unique privilege in North Carolina is being permitted to transport qualified inmates to attend worship services at their local church. Larry Barker serves as the South Carolina regional director. With volunteers, they minister to a Bible study group of 50, using the Sabbath School quarterly as their lesson study. Since 2000, they have baptized 30 inmates to the glory of God.

The Southeastern Conference Progress Village Church in Tampa, Florida, has been visiting the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution for more than 20 years. Two of the volunteers,



EMMANUEL BABAFEMI

Prison ministries leaders in the Southern Union territory: Abel Paulien (left), Florida Conference prison ministries director; David Long, Southern Union prison ministries director; Clarence Wright, Southeastern Conference prison ministries director; Carmen Rodriguez, Florida Conference executive secretary; Frank and Maxine Barton, former Florida Conference prison ministries directors; Jim Wetmore, Carolina Conference prison ministries coordinator; Steve Rose, Kentucky-Tennessee executive secretary and prison ministries director; and Larry Barker, South Carolina prison ministries coordinator.

Clarence Norton and Phillip Holley, are grateful for the privilege to have started with them from the beginning. Also, Jeffery Cobb of Gainesville, Florida, has been operating Shelter from the Storm for the last 12 years. The New Hope Church in Plantation, Florida, visits a male correctional facility, led by Edward Porter, as well as a female facility, led by Joy Adams-Black.

Clarence Wright is the prison ministries director for Southeastern.

There are long-standing and recently established ministries in the Gulf States and South Central conferences. United Prison Ministries International in Verbena, Alabama, led by Richard and Carolyn Bland, has been actively serving for more than 20 years. The X Offender Network of Montgomery, Alabama, was established in 2011 by Antonio Hall. Along with these ministries are many churches doing



This inmate praises God during the worship service.

and Brenda Stephens. The Maranatha Church in Montgomery ministers weekly to a large support group of ex-offenders seeking to reestablish themselves. They also conduct a correspondence ministry writing letters to the families of the incarcerated relatives, and they conduct a pre-release ministry for those who are preparing to leave to help prevent them from returning. Dave Livermore, Gulf States executive secretary, serves as prison ministries director. Jeffery Watson is prison ministries director for South Central.

Frank and Maxine Barton led prison ministries for 25 years in the Florida Conference. Abel Paulien now serves as the director. Robert Wilson, a member of Lakeland, Florida, Church, accepted the call to engage in prison ministries seven years ago, and more than 75 inmates have been baptized to this great truth.

South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences are engaged in a wide range of services to prisoners in their

territory. In South Atlantic, Harold Davis of West End Church, Atlanta, Georgia, is the leader of prison ministries in metro Atlanta, and there are a number of individuals working with him from the surrounding area. They visit six

prisons throughout the state of Georgia on a weekly basis. In Georgia-Cumberland there are several members in many churches involved in prison ministries. The Ringgold, Georgia, Church visits Walker State Prison, and presents weekly worship services and health seminars. Al Freeman serves as prison ministries director for South Atlantic, and E.W. Dempsey is prison ministries director for Georgia-Cumberland.

In the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Steve Rose, executive secretary, serves as prison ministries director. The Raleigh Church in Memphis, Tennessee, is one of many churches involved in visiting inmates in need of hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Roger and Dot Bennett and their team of volunteers, have been privileged to serve Holy Communion preceded by the foot washing ceremony behind prison walls. The service was followed by an agape feast which was enjoyed by all. The Raleigh Church is currently ministering at four prisons.

The testimonies of lives that have been changed, families that have been restored, and of prison employees who have supported the volunteers are too numerous to write about. Only Heaven will be able to recount the full, complete story of the sacrifice and toil that was expended to make sure that Jesus was ministered to while He was in prison. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow inmate." I pray that you have been moved by the Spirit of God to minister to those who are in prison or to the families.

Those who are engaged in prison ministries as well as those who have an interest are encouraged to attend the Union-wide prison ministries weekend in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2014 at the new Southern Union Conference headquarters. Details will be provided by local conference directors. ✠

David Long is Southern Union prison ministries, stewardship, health, prayer, and Sabbath School director.



Richard Bland kneels in prayer with two inmates.

their best to make a difference in the lives of those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. First Church in Montgomery, Alabama, visits the Tutwiler Women's Prison and the Maxwell Federal Prison led by Boyd

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Florida Hospital Zephyrhills
Gordon Hospital
Jellico Community Hospital
Manchester Memorial Hospital
Park Ridge Health
Takoma Regional Hospital
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(A Florida Hospital)

A Double Victory

BY BLONDEL E. SENIOR, PH.D.



Students toss their hats after their graduation ceremony.

As eight Advent Home graduates received their diplomas for 8th and 12th grades, GED, and Maturation Therapy® Program, cheers erupted and tears were shed. Truly, God was turning the “heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers,” Malachi 4:6.

Daniel Binus, Ph.D., psychiatrist and director of Beautiful Minds Ministry in California, was the guest speaker. To challenge the Advent Home graduates, he presented the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) and his journey home. “Sometimes it takes eating pigs’ food before we come to our senses,” he reminded the students.

“Where are you in this story?” he asked. “Some of you can’t wait to leave [Advent Home], some are eating pigs’ food, some are on your way back home, and some are at the father’s house.” He encouraged them, “Let’s not just go home, let’s stay home!”

Chris, a 17 year-old student in 11th grade, shared his life story — dealing



Daniel Binus, Ph.D., challenges Advent Home graduates.

with divorce at a young age, being raised by a single mom, conflict with his stepdad, then having him die when Chris was 15: “...My grades started to decline, I started to grow away from my mom, ended up with the wrong friends....I was struggling with unre-

solved issues,” he said.

He was enrolled at Advent Home, where he decided to take the program seriously and reconnected with God. “Physically, I am stronger and healthier; mentally, I can think clearly; emotionally, I deal with my feelings in a healthy way; and spiritually, I have a good relationship with God.” Chris plans to go to college to study civil engineering.

Two parents spoke candidly from their hearts. Stacy shared the joys and challenges of being an adoptive father. “I know what this school has done for my kid,” he said in appreciation of Advent Home’s services. Chris’ mom, Julie, gave a heartwarming presentation. “I love my son,” she said tearfully as she recounted her own pain and growth.

Music and achievement also highlighted the weekend. The Advent Home Student/Staff Chorale sang “I am Determined” and “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood.” Two former stu-

dents, Nate and Luke P., were present. Both of them, and Jonathan S., recently graduated from Sunnydale Adventist Academy and were offered scholarships to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition, Luke was offered a scholarship to Andrews University in Michigan. Nate and Luke are working at Advent Home for the summer.

behaviors from his biological parents. “Both parents transmit their own characteristics, mental and physical, their dispositions and appetites, to their children,” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 561. Thankfully, counseling and exposure to the peaceful quiet of country life brought Robert the calm he needed.



Jeremiah Davis (center), pastor, with Advent Home students after baptism.



Chris, an Advent Home student, shares his life story.

Changes Without

Graduating from Advent Home and being baptized symbolize a double victory over personal challenges. Robert (not his real name) had problems with anger and rage. He was only 14 and in the 7th grade, but lashed out at the slightest frustration. He was adopted and had inherited these be-

Advent Home is providentially located in beautiful rural Tennessee, where at-risk teenage boys can be far from the temptations of urban life. Some boys arrive diagnosed with ADHD and three to four years behind in school. They receive one-on-one classroom attention, which enables them to come up to grade level. Many anti-social behaviors plague our students, including alcohol, street drugs, smoking, cursing, dabbling in satanic rituals, promiscuousness, and disobedience to parents.

Maturation Therapy® counters these problems with activities that make young boys healthy and strong. Walking around campus, cultivating produce in the gardens, and improving the grounds provide essential outdoor exercise that has a positive effect. While a minimum-distraction campus, outdoor activities, alternative learning, a healthy diet, counseling, and group discussions help — they do not cause an inward change. Hence, the next step for students is conversion.

Changes Within

In May 2013, Jeremiah Davis, pastor, conducted the Week of Prayer. His message, “The Making of a Man,” resonated in the hearts of Advent Home young men. He reiterated that “males are born, but men are made by God.” When the week ended, 14 students committed their lives to Christ. During graduation weekend, three of them were baptized in the Hiwassee River on Sabbath afternoon. We are admonished that “genuine conversion changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong,” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, page 145. We give God praise for helping the Advent Home students overcome difficulties and experience success. With Christ, all things are possible. ✨

Blondel E. Senior, Ph.D., is founder/director of Advent Home in Calhoun, Tennessee. Barbara Grabam, writer/editor at Advent Home Development Department, contributed to this article.



Luke (left), Nate (center), and Jonathan S. (right) with Advent Home staff at Sunnydale Adventist Academy graduation: All three young men were offered scholarships to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

IN THE SCHOOL OF CANCER

BY RAINEY TURLINGTON



LESSONS LEARNED ON THE JOURNEY FROM CAREGIVER TO PATIENT

No one expects to arrive at work and discover they have cancer, but that is exactly what happened to Rick Perez, radiation therapy manager at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center's Cancer Center. Feeling short of breath one morning, the 47-year-old asked one of the medical oncologists to check him out.

"Breathe in deeply," the doctor said as he listened through his stethoscope to Rick's lungs. A worried look crossed his face. "I want you to get on the CAT scan table."

"You're kidding, right?" Rick asked. But it was no joke. CAT scan images revealed that Rick's left lung was filled with fluid, and a large, stage 4 tumor was growing on top of his heart. He needed to have his lung drained and additional tests done that afternoon.

Dazed, Rick called his wife and parents to share the news. Little did he know how the experiences of the coming year would transform his perspective on providing cancer care.

Lesson #1: Spiritual Care Matters as Much as Physical Care

From the moment he learned the news, Rick's co-workers rallied around him in prayer.

"Meet us in five minutes in the chapel," his supervisor said.

"I don't remember what he prayed, but it was the most beautiful prayer that I ever heard, because I was at a point that I couldn't give," Rick said. "Now I'm no longer in control. Now I'm the patient. I just started crying right there."

Later that afternoon, as he lay shaking on another table, waiting to have his lung drained, Rick again broke into tears. He reached for the physician's hand, and even though he didn't know him, asked, "Would you mind praying with me?"

"Absolutely," the physician said. He immediately stopped the procedure and bowed his head with Rick in prayer.

Although he had only worked there for a year, Rick suddenly felt he had an understanding of why God led him to Florida

Hospital Memorial Medical Center.

"Never in my life would I have imagined that this would happen to me, but the fact that it was happening here at my work where all of the medical staff were showing me the love of Jesus Christ, I saw the hand of God in all this, definitely. I felt such a peace knowing that God was already involved from the beginning of my diagnosis, and, whatever happened, it would be in His hands."

Lesson #2: See People, Not Patients

Additional tests revealed that Rick had the worst possible stage of T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma, an aggressive tumor. The physicians at

Rick's hospital foresaw that he might need a bone marrow transplant, and, unequipped to provide one at their facility, transferred him to another hospital. Once there, Rick began an intense cycle of chemotherapy that consisted of spending three weeks in the

hospital for every ten days at home.

"It was quite a humbling experience," Rick said. "I felt stripped of

"...I'M NO
LONGER IN
CONTROL.
NOW I'M
THE PATIENT."

my identity because I was in a hospital gown that I didn't want to be in. I was in a mask that I didn't want to wear. I had no hair. As I walked the halls, I felt like I was anonymous. I felt like screaming, 'I'm a person! I have a wife. I have a child. I have a job waiting for me. I'm a person!'"

Suddenly Rick's thoughts changed directions. "I thought, 'Wow, is this how my patients feel when they come and see me?' I realized that I was processing them through, caring, but not to the point that I was seeing them as children of God, that they had value, and that even though they may be stripped of their identity as my patient, they still had an identity with God. Their diagnosis doesn't change that."



Rick Perez's wife (top left) and daughter (above) did everything they could to keep him comfortable as he underwent chemotherapy.

From that moment on, Rick valued eye contact and touch in an entirely different way.

Lesson #3: Go Forward in Faith and Never Look Back

After one month of chemotherapy, the physician had good news: The CAT scan came back with no evidence of cancer. The tumor was completely gone. Nevertheless, he advised Rick to finish the eight-month treatment plan.

"You're still not out of the water," he said. "This type of tumor can come back and come back aggressively."

As the chemicals attacked Rick's cancer cells, they also wreaked havoc on his white blood cells, leaving him with little color, strength, or energy. It came to the point where Rick had to make a choice: either accept the last five doses of chemo all at once and then undergo a bone marrow transplant, or proceed with the regular rounds of chemotherapy that were weakening his entire body. The first option carried with it a two percent chance of death; the second option, more months of blood transfusions to replenish his dying white blood cells.

After much prayer, Rick made up his mind. Since he was already cancer-free, he felt God was leading him to pursue a third option: checking himself out of the hospital and enrolling in a wholistic program to rebuild his immune system through nutrition and exercise. Everyone told him he was making a mistake, except for his physician. The doctor clearly explained the benefits of sticking with the chemotherapy program, but ended with, "Rick, it's your decision. Go forward in faith and never look back."

The next time Rick returned for a checkup, his appearance was completely different. After spending a month eating whole foods, exercising, and undergoing a detox regimen at a natural health institute, Rick's color, strength, and energy were back.

"I felt better than ever in my life," Rick said. His next lab results confirmed what he already knew.

"All of your counts are up: your white blood cells, your hemoglobin, your platelets. You look like a different person, not only in person but on paper," the physician said. "I have never seen such a remarkable recovery in my entire career."

Lesson #4: Cancer Care is Sacred Work

In January 2013, Rick returned to work at the Cancer Center, where he continues to receive regular checkups. Each

day he also cares for people who are struggling with the same diagnosis and fears that he has experienced. And each day, he has the opportunity to witness to them like never be-

“NOT ONLY AM I AN EMPLOYEE HERE, I’M A PATIENT HERE. AND I’M TELLING YOU, GOD STILL PERFORMS MIRACLES.”

fore. In the process, Rick has become a living example of 2 Corinthians 1:4, which says, "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When we are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us" (NLT).

"I always kind of keep my story a secret until the point a patient says, 'I don't know if you really understand, sir.' Then I take off my badge and say, 'Not only am I an employee here, I'm a patient here. And I'm telling you, God still performs miracles.'" ❖



Rick Perez celebrates being cancer-free at Florida Hospital's Survivor Red Carpet Walk.

Army of Youth



“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” —Education, page 271

How many times have we read or heard the Ellen White quotation above? For years, this standard for evangelism was tossed about by youth leaders and committees.

Recently, the Florida Conference Youth Department began to dream of putting these words into practice and energizing youth to get involved in various forms of ministry. The result? Impact Orlando was born!

During the week of June 23-30, 2013, young people throughout the state of Florida came together for training and outreach service, equipping them to make a difference in Orlando and, ultimately, in their home churches. Headquartered at Orlando Junior Academy, 50 young people spent their mornings involved in service opportunities:

- American Red Cross — updated and repackaged first aid kits.
- Clean the World — recycled soap and shampoo for use after disasters.
- Ronald McDonald House — prepared food for guests.
- Bill Frederick Park — participated in park clean up.
- Harbor House — involved with cleaning projects, games, and activities.
- Second Harvest Food Bank — updated shelves and moved food.
- University of Central Florida — worked at Arboretum.
- Orlando Rescue Mission — prepared and served a meal and helped with programming for kids.

The afternoons were spent in training sessions with various entities such as Service and Love Together (SALT) and Florida Conference Children’s Ministries to learn methods of outreach ministry for the elderly, children, and hospital patients, through sidewalk visitation, video production, CPR, balloon animals, puppetry, art, and face painting.

“This week inspired me to go back to my church and start a homeless ministry, at least once a week, serving food and singing with them,” says one of the trainees. Trainees are already putting outreach programs learned at Impact Orlando into place at Tallahassee and Brandon churches.

“The beautiful Florida weather makes it difficult to stay indoors!” said the announcer on Saturday afternoon from Z Radio 88.3 FM, broadcasting from Lake Eola Park in Orlando at the Living With Hope Festival, as the announcer invited the listening audience to join them downtown at the Festival.

This afternoon program gave trainees an opportunity to practice



Young people learn to witness through face painting.

RHODA BURRILL

their skills while providing public awareness of the Adventist church. Activities for children, health screenings, information about ministries of the Church, lemonade, and popcorn were part of the free family day that brought this intense week of training to a close. Additional festivals were planned at Altamonte Springs Church, Apopka Church’s thrift

store, Kress Memorial Church, and Festival Park in Orlando.

The spark ignited in our young people is something we want to see reproduced. We are planning, as a youth ministries department, to offer this summer training program every year on a rotating basis at major cities in Florida.

Young people need to have a chance to be involved so they can experience what it means to live with hope, what it means to impact the city, and what it means to be used by God to live a long life of service. ☞

A video report plus bonus interviews and photos are available at <http://www.floridaconference.com/?p=6147>

Live WITH HOPE Festival

Florida Feature

"This Is Our New Church"

BY DAN SCHIFFBAUER

What does a church hope to accomplish when they set out to plan a community festival? Do the leaders have the discipling of their members in mind? Are they hoping for community awareness? Are they thinking of ways to showcase ministries of the church, provide activities and entertainment for the entire family, or present solutions for health issues?

All of these goals entered into the planning and fulfillment of the community festival held at Altamonte Springs, Florida, Church this past June. However, one of the most exciting outcomes was realized when several women exclaimed, "This is going to be our new church," and they have since attended Sabbath worship services numerous times.

Prior to the event, the members conducted a community Vacation Bible School, and many of the attending families then came to the Festival. A youth evangelism series called "Living With Hope" followed the Festival, with an average nightly attendance of more than 100, including several community visitors.

As a pastor, I believe what happened at the Festival is significant. More than half of the 300 people attending were not members of the church, and more than 80 of these nonmembers registered for some type of information at the 35-plus exhibits set up on the church grounds.

It was a time of awareness for the attendees when they realized the church members were definitely

interested and involved in the community. This message was evident in exhibits such as CREATION Health, Pathfinders, Discover Bible School, youth evangelistic meetings, Spanish-language ministries, and prayer ministries. More than 100 copies of *The Great Hope* were given away, as well as New Testament copies of the Bible and other literature.

Participating organizations from the community included the Seminole County Fire Department; Red Cross's Little Red Bus, which received blood donations; and the Altamonte Springs Police Department, offering free safety tips and giveaways for children. "This is one of the best-attended community services events I have been invited to," said the attending officer.

Vegetarian cooking demonstrations with samples, and more than 20 health-related exhibits in the gymnasium featured a variety of health screenings, including blood pressure, blood glucose, peripheral vascular circulation, breast examinations, lung capacity, and vision. Free massages and chiropractor consultations were also available.

Additional health-related exhibits featured information from Florida Hospital on home health services, nutrition, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. The American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association were represented as well.

Young people provided live Christian music, and the Eliathah

Church Pathfinder Drum Corps performed. SALT youth evangelism helped with puppet ministry, and several participants from Impact Orlando training helped with face painting and food preparation. 



Florida Conference President Mike Cauley and his wife, Dottie (middle), visit the Pathfinder and Adventurer table where guests learn about the Adventist Church's scouting program. Also pictured are Devon McCarthy (left), church treasurer and elder for youth and pathfinders, and Edwin Alvarez, Adventurer director.

Editor's Note: Altamonte Springs Church's community festival was held as part of the Florida Conference Youth Department's Live With Hope Festival, which was also conducted at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. Learn more about Impact Orlando and Live With Hope Festival on page 12. A video report is also available at <http://www.floridacconference.com/?p=6147>.

AHS Recognized for Technology, Reducing Patient Harm

Adventist Health System recently received national recognition for becoming one of health care's most wired systems and publishing a benchmark study about reducing patient harm.

Each year Hospitals & Health Networks conducts an annual survey asking hospitals nationwide to answer questions about their IT initiatives. Most Wired survey winners are then selected based on their performance in four areas: infrastructure, business and administrative management, clinical quality and safety, and clinical integration.

"The hospital field can learn from these outstanding organizations ways that IT can help improve efficiency," said Rich Umbdenstock, president/CEO of the American Hospital Association.

"Our focus is on utilizing technology to continu-



ally improve patient care, and we are honored to be recognized for our facilities' effective technology adoption," said Brent Snyder, chief information officer for Adventist Health System.

Adventist Health System was also recently recognized for improving patient safety. In July 2013, an article written by AHS's Office of Clinical Effectiveness was published in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* about how the organization

has successfully leveraged technology across multiple campuses to detect adverse events. These are defined as unintended physical injuries that occurred or were contributed to by medical care.

In 2009, Adventist Health System began using a Global Trigger Tool that reviews randomly-selected patient records for "triggers" or "clues" about adverse events that may have occurred. By using this consistent and central-

ized process, Adventist Health System was able to identify areas for improvement that may have been missed if the organization relied solely on a voluntary reporting method. The information was then used to shape best practices for clinical care in vulnerable areas, and to embed care improvement changes into computerized provider order entry (CPOE) sets, resulting in reduced patient harm and increased cost savings.

Loran Hauck, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Adventist Health System, said he is proud of his colleagues for making this major accomplishment possible. "Their dedicated efforts are making a real difference in the lives of patients every day. Hopefully other health care systems can benefit from the best practices we have discovered as well."

—BY RAINEY TURLINGTON

Florida Hospital Named #1 in State by *U.S. News & World Report*

Florida Hospital was recognized as one of the best hospitals for 2013-14 by *U.S. News & World Report*. It was also named the number one hospital in the state of Florida and the Orlando Metro Area.

"A hospital that emerges from our analysis as one of the best has

much to be proud of," said Avery Comarow, *U.S. News Health Rankings* editor.

"Only about 15 percent of hospitals are recognized for their high performance as among their region's best. Just three percent of all hospitals earn a national ranking in any specialty."

U.S. News publishes

Best Hospitals to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health problems or age. Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, the adequacy of nurse staffing

levels, and other data largely determined the rankings in most specialties.

The rankings are published online and will appear in print in the *U.S. News Best Hospitals 2014* guidebook, available in bookstores and on newsstands.

—BY SARA CHANNING

Be Strong and Live Long Through Nutrition

Those who think they have no time for healthy eating will sooner or later have to find time for illness.
~ Edward Stanley

Be Strong, Live Long

It is estimated that 400,000 people die each year in the United States due to physical inactivity and poor nutrition. But, we can decide today to be strong and live long by what we choose to eat.

Nutrition is the fuel that drives our body. A balanced diet creates energy and health. Of all available nutritional choices, two are guaranteed to improve health and longevity: 1) Eating less,

and, 2) Eating higher quality foods.

A Big Problem

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.6 billion adults (age 15-plus) are overweight, and 400 million are obese. These numbers are projected to grow to 2.3 billion people overweight and 700 million obese by 2015. WHO estimates 20 million children under the age of five are overweight globally. Poor nutrition is driving this crisis.

Foods come in different colors and contain different phytochemicals. Some 200-plus studies show the

benefits of phytochemicals (think of them as “fighter chemicals”) in fighting disease.

Eating fresh fruits and



veggies reduces the risk of cancer significantly, and lowers risk of high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Eating a colorful diet protects against disease and helps maintain a healthy weight. So, eat a wide variety of colors — the deeper the color the better.

Gaining Years of Life and Health

You can gain quality years of life by eating well. Be encouraged! You are just one **nutritional** choice away from better health and living life to the fullest today.

That's CREATION Health!

—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Carolina News

Young Canvasser Prays for the Faith of Joshua

Do you think the God of Joshua is still alive and well today? Marli Cavriales does.

Worship that morning had been about Joshua's prayer for God to hold the sun, so that His army could defeat the nations. That got Marli to thinking — if Joshua had enough courage to ask God to hold the sun, why wasn't she asking God for more? Why



didn't she have more faith? So, Marli started praying for the faith of Joshua.

Marli is spending the summer doing the canvassing program in Charlotte, N.C., with 15 other students in preparation for John Bradshaw's and It is Written's evangelistic series this coming Fall.

It is customary for canvassers to set goals for themselves every day, giving them

something to strive for when things get rough ... something to keep them going. Usually Marli's goal was to be able to give out 40 books by the end of the day. That day, however, she set her goal higher. Praying with the faith of Joshua, she set her goal at 50 books.

When her lunch break came around and she tallied her books, she realized that she already had given away 35 books. With still a good four hours to go before heading back to the church for the night, Marli

was confident that God could give her much more than her goal of 50 books. She started praying for 60.

As the hours passed, books were flying: 50, 55, 59 — Marli held her breath — 60. God had answered her wildest prayer! With a total of 63 books out that day, and more than \$1,000 in donations, she set the record for the whole Southern Union for most books out in a day by a single person.

“God always comes through,” Marli said, smiling.

—BY KARA HOLLAND

Conference Conducts Special Ordination Service During Camp Meeting

On Sabbath, June 1, 2013, for the first time in more than a decade, an ordination service was held during Camp Meeting. Three special men of God were ordained.

Tim Cove, pastor of Statesville and Mocksville churches in North Carolina; Rick Russell, Carolina Conference treasurer; and Jason Belyeu, pastor of Beaufort



Jason Belyeu (left), Tim Cove, and Rick Russell

and Hilton Head churches in South Carolina, were the ordination candidates. The service was streamed live to their churches so their

members could share in the special occasion.

General Conference President Ted Wilson presented the message, and Carolina Confer-

ence President Leslie Louis, former Carolina Conference President Ken Coonley, and John Bradshaw of It Is

Written also participated. Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial director, said, "It was very special for me and all the other pastors in attendance to be there. It allowed me to reflect and re-sense my own ordination."

A ministers' chorus made up of all of the Conference pastors sang the hymn of consecration accompanied by the Arden youth bell choir. It was an unforgettable day as three men were ordained into the ministry of God, with all of Camp Meeting as witnesses.

—BY DAVID RUMSEY

Three-Dollar Yard Sale Purchase Yields Baptisms

Jason and Griselda Hutchens love a good yard sale. They get a thrill from finding good bargains. During one rummage session, Jason found a Final Events CD-ROM by Doug Batchelor. As it was only three dollars, Jason knew it was the pick of the day. Little did he know that his three-dollar purchase would turn out to be their greatest treasure.

For years, Jason had been into spiritualism. He dressed in black, studied the occult, and listened to violent, heavy metal music that glorified the devil.

In search for something more, Jason turned to the Pentecostal church, but soon became disillusioned.

He felt that the focus at his new church seemed to be on holiness, tongues, and being slain in the spirit, rather than on a relationship with Jesus.

Then one day Jason spotted his dusty CD-ROM. He inserted it into the computer and was immediately hooked. Bible study began to dominate his life. Some nights he stayed awake as late as 3 a.m., soaking up his newfound truth.



Clockwise from top left: Tim Cove, pastor; Phyllis and Bruce James; and Jason, Faith, and Griselda Hutchens.

Three years after the three-dollar purchase, a clean-cut Jason walked

into Prayer Meeting at the Mocksville, N.C., Adventist Church, and soon he was a weekly attendee. Never had the church seen a more diligent Bible student.

One Sabbath morning at church the lead deaconess, Phyllis James, shared with a friend how she wanted to do so much for God, yet felt like she was accomplishing very little. Their conversation came to an end as Jason, Griselda, and their baby, Faith, arrived at Sabbath services for the first time.

Jason had taken a vacation day so he could come to

church!

As is their habit, Bruce and Phyllis James invited people to their house for lunch, and they made sure to invite the new family. Upon arrival at Phyllis'

house, Jason got out of his car with an excited expression on his face.

"This is it!" he exclaimed to Griselda. "This is the yard sale house!" Phyllis had sold them the

CD-ROM!

Unbeknownst to her, Phyllis had planted a seed that eventually led a young family to Christ. God watched over the seed she scattered that day at the

garage sale and helped it grow unto eternal life.

Jason and Griselda are now baptized members of the Mocksville Church.

—BY TIM COVE AND
KARA HOLLAND

Little Creek Fellowship is Success Story

Seven years ago, five families from the Raleigh, N.C., Church who lived in the Johnston County area had a burden on their hearts to start a local church plant. Now, not even a decade later, that small group of about 30 members has tripled in membership, and has made great strides in the construction of their own church building.

For the first six years, the growing church plant rented a local Methodist church. They soon, however, began raising money for a place of their own. Wanting to keep debt at a minimum, they decided to build their church in several phases, starting with the fellowship hall, kitchen, and classrooms. In September of 2012, phase one was completed, and the group moved into their new facility.

Since its creation in 2006, the Little Creek Fellowship has had more than 20 baptisms. Satisfac-



Members of the Little Creek Fellowship church plant

tion in the church is high, and the church plant received the highest Natural Church Development rating

in the Carolina Conference to date.

Although very involved in ministry and evangelism of all kinds, the church especially has a strong evangelistic media presence. They live stream their church services every week and upload them to YouTube. In the last year and a half, their YouTube channel has reached 128 countries, with more than 70,000 minutes viewed.

The overall feeling in the Little Creek Fel-

lowship is that of genuine care.

"I have been an Adventist all my life and this is the most special group I have ever been a part of," said Dan Stewart, head elder of the fellowship.

"It's amazing how well people get along and how much people love each other here!"

—BY KARA HOLLAND



Now here's a "Turnaround": Instead of Carolina Conference presenting a check to Little Creek Company for evangelism, they presented a check to the Conference! Leslie Louis (left), Conference president, receives a \$1,500 check for the "Charlotte for Christ" Revelation Today event which will take place this October in Charlotte, N.C. Pamela Simmering, church treasurer, and Dan Stewart, church elder, present the check for the "It Is Written" evangelistic event with John Bradshaw.

CORRECTION:

In the August 2013 Southern Tidings, the photo for the article "Young Canvasser Prays for the Faith of Joshua" was placed with the article on the previous page. See page 15 for the correct design.

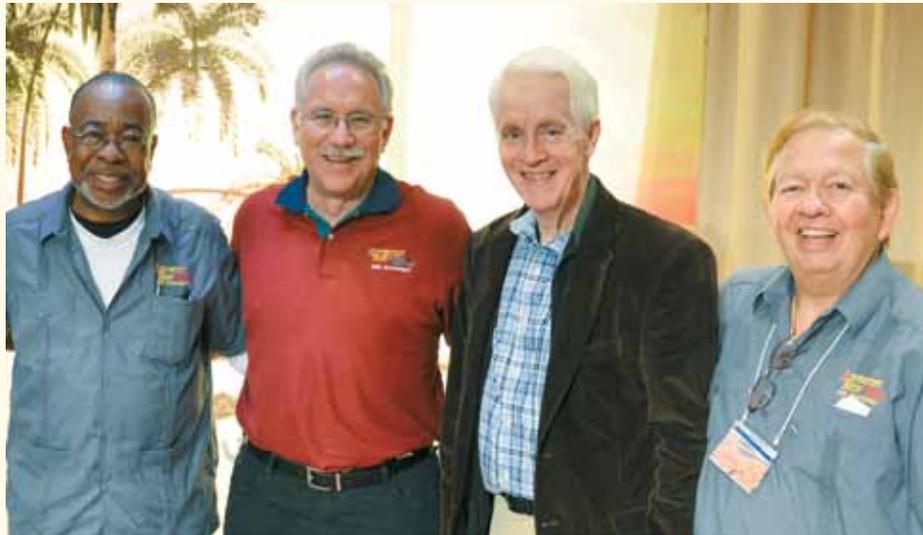
Men's Ministries — 20 Years of Transforming Lives

Imagine 1,500 men praising God in a surrounding of Christian fellowship! That's exactly what happened during the past 12 months at Florida Conference Men's Ministries Conventions.

Gatherings brought Spanish men to Palm Beach, Haitian men to Boynton Beach, and, this past March, English-speaking men to Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. Here, men of Florida and surrounding states welcomed Christian brothers from the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, and African countries to celebrate the 20th anniversary of men's ministries in Florida Conference.

This year's theme, "Walking With God," was the backdrop for men to join the original founders in celebrating God's guidance and wisdom of successful men's ministries outreach during the past two decades.

It was 1993 when Eric Allen, Glen Altermatt, Eric Cantillo, Dick O'Ffill, and Sergio Torres met to launch the journey where men of Florida are victoriously engaged today. Attending the needs of men far beyond the boundaries of Florida,



Eric Allen (left), Glen Altermatt, Richard O'Ffill, and Eric Cantillo, in addition to Sergio Torres (not pictured), returned to Camp Kulaqua to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the men's ministries program they launched in 1993.

men's ministries quickly gained the reputation as a resource for inspiration, wisdom, and spiritual nurture.

Year after year, dynamic speakers and Christ-centered seminars have challenged the men. Like a magnet, conventions during the past 20 years have drawn men seeking personal improvement to be better role models in their families, churches, and the workplace.

Relevant topics tackled during conventions have included relationships, finances, spiritual growth, health, conflict resolution, domestic interaction, and communication. Above all else, Jesus is uplifted as the Supreme Role Model for everyone.

As a result, thousands of families have been touched by the transformation seen in their husbands,

fathers, brothers, and coworkers. Local churches have benefitted by inspired leaders trained at conventions. Young males impacted by the youth track

event, men will learn in a relaxed setting to recognize that successful living is radically impacted by the seasons of life. They'll receive tools to identify and



More than 700 men filled King Chapel and the A-Frame chapel at Camp Kulaqua during the 2013 Men's Ministries Convention.

of men's ministries are now Christian models facing society's postmodern mindset in secular universities and beyond.

Looking forward, conventions in the coming

adapt to these changes. By recalibrating their energies and refocusing their goals, men will be trained to reach their maximum potential.

—BY RONALDO DA CUNHA

Frostproof Company Dedicates Second Church

Members of the Frostproof, Fla., Company dedicated their second new sanctuary within a three-year time frame. Hard work, perseverance, and ingenuity describe the talents



Members and visitors await entrance to the new Frostproof Company facility on July 6, 2013.



Program participants walk behind musicians on their way into the new church facility.

nication director, wrote, "Frostproof Company members solicit consistent and fervent prayers to make their new church a lighthouse for the Lord."

of the congregation utilized under the direction of Rupert Preddie, lay pastor.

Officiating at the July 6, 2013, service were Paul Boling, former Avon Park pastor, and George Brown, retired Inter-American Division president, who likewise participated at the 2010 dedication of the first church home for the

fledgling company. Approximately six years ago, 14 members of the parent Avon Park Church planted this church 10 miles north of their community. They purchased a four-acre property containing a house that was renovated to serve as the first church.

With a place to worship, the congregation's

attention turned to an existing 50' x 80' building on the property. With foresight, they envisioned using this building as the framework for a new church. Work proceeded on the renovations as monies came into the treasury.

When the first structure was dedicated to the Lord, Monica Preddie, commu-

They have accomplished that in not only building a new sanctuary, but in the many outreach programs conducted for the community, from Bible study groups to meeting the community's physical needs with food distribution programs.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Florida Advent Missionary Team Visits Nicaragua

Twenty-five members of the Florida Advent Missionary Team organized by South Palm Company in Delray Beach, Fla., recently visited Nicaragua. Their mission was to win souls for Christ and bring medical care to the suffering.

After being warmly welcomed by the Nicaraguan Conference, they met with



South Palm Company medical team members participated in a mission trip to Nicaragua and supported physicians Joseph Charles, M.D. (seated left), and Dwight Dawkins, M.D. (seated right).

district pastors, and each missionary was assigned a

church in which to preach the Gospel for the next eight days as part of a Revival and Reaping Campaign. At the conclusion of the campaign, there were 241 baptisms, eight weddings, and numerous miracles as a result of prayer and anointing. The churches con-

tinue follow-up work with more than 100 additional

individuals.

Two doctors, Joseph Charles, M.D., and Dwight Dawkins, M.D., seven nurses, and support staff provided care for more than 300 patients. Medical conditions were diagnosed and treated, and medication was supplied. Services were also offered by a holistic medical practitioner and a counselor.

The Florida Advent Missionary Team is planning their next mission trip to Peru in October.

—BY DERICK MORGAN

Messiah's Mansion Comes to Dalton

About 3,200 visitors from the southeast toured the enclosed 150 x 75 square foot sanctuary courtyard at Dalton, Ga., Church, June 8-16, 2013.

Visitors came from Georgia, South Carolina,

Tennessee, and Alabama to experience Messiah's Mansion. Inside the canvas walls, each sanctuary symbol was brought to life through interpreters at several stations regarding the basic structure, the courtyard, the holy place, the most holy place, and components of a priest's garment. Guests learned that every part of the sanctuary service illustrated the plan of salvation. They heard prophecies telling of Jesus and His ministry, as well as promises that God will save His people.

Chester Clark, pastor, said, "The idea for the Messiah's Mansion coming to Dalton grew from a desire to hold an 'out of the box' Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. Project coordinator Tiffany Britt and her team were looking for something that would



The sanctuary exhibit Messiah's Mansion was displayed at the Dalton, Ga., Church this past June. Five stations explained how the sanctuary service illustrated the plan of salvation. This station shared Jesus as the Lamb.

convey the distinctive beliefs in an attractive way. A sanctuary theme seemed something that would be unique in our community, and Brent Goodge began exploring the availability of the Messiah's Mansion exhibit. "All of the pieces of the puzzle just seemed to come together, and we could really see God's hand in the details."

Messiah's Mansion president Clayton Leineweber has dedicated his time in ministry to develop and manage the sanctuary exhibit, including arranging the tours both domestically and worldwide. Leineweber teaches Bible at Oklahoma Academy.

"Being involved in this project has taught me that God can make something happen for His glory regardless of

the apparent obstacles. I am amazed at how many people have come that had already been studying about the sanctuary, and were delighted to see a full scale model here in

Dalton," Goodge said.

Daily, nearly 120 children experienced a blessing during the VBS program. The deaconesses and staff hosted a soup/sandwich/salad supper for them each evening. VBS volunteer Mary Gauvin

expressed, "The children enjoyed special tours along with making mini-size replicas of the sanctuary using crafts."

Visitors traveled in groups through five stations, with 15 minutes at each stop. Tour guides received prayer from the local church members before and after each tour.

"We appreciated all reference symbols of Jesus, and the guides were young, very informed, and knowledgeable," said local residents Mary and Milton Ryman.

One Spanish visitor was so moved by the presentation that he responded with a contribution of \$1,000.

"This presentation was excellent — information I didn't know that connected to Jesus, and I am Jewish!" exclaimed Stewart Nathan from Woodstock, Ga.

—BY BRAD MENDEZ



Guests from across the southeastern United States visited Messiah's Mansion in Dalton, Ga. The church promoted the event using local billboards, and saw more than 3,000 guests.

Conference Mourns Death of Two Pastors

Jeff Brown

The Conference Office is deeply saddened to announce that Jeff Brown, pastor of Apison, Tenn., Church, died unexpectedly July 17, 2013, while leading a ShareHim evangelistic outreach in Panama. Not even two weeks later, the Conference learned that Mike Adams, pastor of Valdosta, Ga., Park Avenue Church, passed away July 29, after a battle with cancer.

Both men at one time pastored in the Valdosta/Lakeland, Ga., churches. Brown also served as a teacher at Spalding Elementary in Collegedale, Tenn. Adams pastored churches in Barwick, Thomasville, and Bainbridge, Ga.

A group of teen speakers and adult sponsors from the Apison Church were returning from a half-day outing, having hiked to a local waterfall. On the way back, the group stopped to rest and share a few snacks. Brown was in his element, mentoring young people in evangelism, and now enjoying the natural beauty of Central America.

He commented, "Isn't this beautiful!" then suddenly collapsed. The group immediately started CPR and sent for help, continuing for more than an hour until the rescue team



BRIAN YOUNG

Jeff Brown, pastor of Apison, Tenn. Church, died unexpectedly July 17, 2013, while on a ShareHim evangelistic trip to Panama.

arrived. He never regained consciousness.

Jeff, and his wife, Joy, have two adult children: Beth, married to Bradley Lasley of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Zach, temporarily in Alaska.

Mike Adams

At Adams' ordination in early 2012, he recounted and celebrated how God had led him from a life of "flirting with God" to being a sold-out, committed disciple of Jesus.

Adams said, [My wife] "was instrumental in me coming back to the Lord. I've always flirted with the Lord off and on throughout my adult life. It was a consensus between [us] that we needed to be closer to the Lord. The closer we got, the more we talked about God, read the

Bible, and discussed doctrinal issues, the more we realized God had a plan for us. It came to fruition through a long process, a long journey to get to where I am today, and a lot of arguments. God opened a lot of doors for us. Coming from a Baptist seminary to being a minister in an Adventist church is a long journey. There are a lot of loving people in the Conference that embraced us and allowed us concessions through love.

"Tammie had been to a Sabbath-keeping church, [though it] wasn't an Adventist church, when she was a teenager, and it kind of stuck with her. We were attending a Baptist church at the time, and during a Bible study, she asked the pastor's wife why we go to

She began study and to look. During this time, I had begun [my training at a Baptist seminary], and she'd gone online and took a study on Daniel, and it went from there. She didn't know it was Adventist at the time; she was just enjoying it and all of these 'a-ha' moments. She kept sharing them with me, and we discussed doctrinal issues between what she was seeing and what I was seeing over a period of years. Finally she said, 'Mike I know you've been called into the ministry by God. I know that, and I support you in whatever you do, but I'm going to start keeping the Sabbath.' She was so adamant about it and convicted about it that it made me look at it in a different light.

"I finally had a course I was taking, and the instructor jumped on the Sabbath with both feet, and I caught myself defending it. And I said, 'Wait a minute. Something's wrong with this picture.'

"Shortly thereafter, we started keeping the Sabbath. Eventually we studied some of the doctrines of the Adventist Church and decided that's where we wanted to be. We joined the Moultrie, Ga., Church at that time. I graduated from seminary, and five days later, I was baptized into the Adventist Church."

—BY ED WRIGHT,
BRITNI BRANNON,
AND BRIAN YOUNG



BRIAN YOUNG

Mike Adams, pastor of Park Avenue Church in Valdosta, Ga., passed away July 29, 2013, after a battle with cancer.

church on Sunday. I think her answer was 'tradition?' You'd have to know my wife to know that was like pouring gas on a fire.

University Parkway Women Enjoy Sweet “Re-Treet”

What do Lady Godiva and chocolate have to do with biblical themes and promises? Those and other unusual questions were explored during the women’s retreat

held June 6 and 7 at University Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla. Featured speaker DeeAnn Bragaw related how, during

her years as a classroom teacher, she received numerous small, inexpensive boxes of candy from her young students. She would always sample one and pray: “Please don’t let it be the pink one.”

She recounted the story of the legendary Lady Godiva, namesake of the premium chocolate brand. “On a dare by her husband, who, knowing her prim and proper nature and not thinking her capable of doing it, told her that if she rode naked through town, he would relent of his oppression of the people. She thus rode into history and accomplished her goal of getting him to change his harsh taxation of the people.” “Women don’t need

to go to that extreme now in order to help people,” she said.

“One reason women may lack confidence in their abilities is they believe



Guest speaker DeeAnn Bragaw (center) visits with Ketsia Desir, and her daughter, Prisilla Desir.

lies about themselves,” she told the 32 attendees. “But the truth about an individual’s acceptance and significance can be found in numerous Bible verses.” Among those she cited were John 1:12: “I am God’s child”; Colossians 1:4: “I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sin”; and Romans 8:28: “I am assured that all things work together for good.”

Attendees responded positively to the chocolate-laced spiritual program. Among the treats they enjoyed were bags of M&M’s to go with the worship service presentation, “Miracles in the Margin.” Bragaw illustrated how to find treasures in the Bible by looking up references

given in the margins.

Alternating breakout sessions and Bible stories particularly focusing on women, Bragaw stressed the value of each person in her uplifting message. A certified personality trainer and educator, Bragaw lives in Loveland, Colo. She shared her own experiences, including some personal and professional “mess-ups.” “Sometimes God leads us on a detour from our planned path, but it works out for the best for us.” She noted that she enjoys watching God work His wonders in the lives of people through the ordinary stuff of life, including chocolate.

The musical highlight of the retreat was a powerful afternoon gospel concert presented by church member Morgan Hudon. Special music was also provided by the Lucas trio, and twins Kathrine and Jacqueline and their younger sister, Monique.

A chocolate fountain for dipping fruit and cake pieces highlighted an evening social. A “spa evening” with facials and hand treatments capped off the retreat.

Edith Beans, women’s ministries leader, was pleased with the positive response of participants.

“It was successful enough that we may repeat it,” she said. Maria Nelson said, “DeeAnn was affirming, positive, and fun. Her main focus is Jesus. She is inspiring, a dynamic Bible storyteller, and she really connected with our group.” Marian Fillingim said she enjoyed the meeting very much. “The study on the book of Esther was most interesting.” These sentiments were echoed by Heidi Giles, who summed



Morgan Hudon presented a powerful musical concert in the afternoon.

up the retreat as a “great opportunity to grow closer to Christ. DeeAnn radiated the love of Jesus; you could not help but be inspired.”

—BY GLENDA HASS

Children Learn to Make a Difference at VBS

On June 10, 2013, 34 excited children arrived for Vacation Bible School (VBS), under the leadership of Amanda Carpenter, at Auburn-Opelika, Ala., Metro Church.

The theme this year was "God's Backyard Bible Camp," which focused on teaching the children how to be of service to their family, friends, neighbors, community, and



During VBS these children collected \$270 for orphans in Mexico.

lives of orphaned children in Mexico. What do orphans in Mexico need? The children discovered that orphans in Mexico need many things, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care.

With these needs in mind, the first craft at Bible camp was for each child to make a bank. Each day the children took their bank home to their family, friends, and community. The next day they brought their banks back, dumping the collected money into a big plastic container. Their goal was to raise \$100, but by God's grace, they raised \$270.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA

Jesus. Also included was a mission program, "Kids Serving Kids Beyond Your Backyard," with Back2Back

Ministries which is an international Christian nonprofit organization who help to make a difference in the

Photographer Revived at Wedding Reception

When Dwight Hendree, communication coordinator and member of Olive Branch, Miss., Church, was asked to be the photographer for the wedding and reception of William and Joan Bufford at Memphis, Tenn., Opera House, he readily accepted, not knowing there was another reason for him to be in that spot during that time. While taking pictures of the guests, Hendree began to sweat and felt fatigued. He asked the photographer working with him, Shirley Sherman, to finish taking the pictures of the bride and groom cutting their cake.

At the time, he didn't know he was experienc-

ing the first signs of sudden cardiac arrest, which could lead to sudden cardiac death within minutes. Losing consciousness, Hendree slumped to the floor. He says, "I was told that immediately the reception turned into a Prayer Meeting led by Nelson Stokes, pastor of the Breath of Life Church in Memphis." Other medical professionals in the audience and the wedding party sprang into action to help. Those who helped included Lt. Greg Mobley, Memphis Fire Department (MFD), his wife, Roberta Mobley, certified practical nurse; sons of the bride, Arthur



Dwight Hendree (bottom right) was the photographer for the wedding reception of William and Joan Bufford when he suffered cardiac arrest.

Renfro, MFD. Hendree's heart had stopped and he was unconscious for eight minutes, but because of the work of these medical professionals and the prayers of the guests, he is alive today.

Hendree says, "I am truly thankful for the grace and mercy God showed to me and my family. He still hears and answers prayer. Jesus placed everything I needed for the medical professionals present to become His hands, feet, and His voice to assist in performing a miracle."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

and Jay Hollingshed, MFD paramedic firemen; Riketta Clark, nurse practitioner; Isaac Fordjour, M.D., and-noral surgeon; and Lt. Tim

Nashville First Hosts Messiah's Mansion Exhibit

Nashville, Tenn., First Church sponsored a community-wide educational tour of the Messiah's Mansion exhibit, June 21-30, 2013. Nashville's Elmington Park was transformed into a replica of the biblical sanctuary — the largest evangelism effort to be held by Seventh-day Adventists in the city in the last four years.

Nashville First Church collaborated with Madison Campus Church in order to offer a personal, Christ-centered, Bible-based, Spirit-filled experience with the Gospel of Jesus and the sanctuary message of the end times.

"The Messiah's Mansion exhibit was the most well-attended evangelistic effort that we've sponsored since we've been in Nashville. It brought thou-

sands of people from all denominations, all ethnic groups; and it transcended the age gap," says Melvin Santos, pastor. The pastor

of a Pentecostal church nearby invited his church members for a VIP tour on Friday night. Sunday school teachers brought their classes after church to tour the exhibit, which brought 40-plus 4th and 5th graders to experience the Gospel firsthand. Nearly 4,000 people attended the 10-day exhibit. Pastors from the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Church of God, Pentecostal, non-denominational, and Catholic churches, as well as rabbis from Jewish synagogues toured the exhibit along with their excited members. They were in awe as they took pictures and videos of the biblical tabernacle replica. All felt that it was a very rewarding and exhilarating



Messiah's Mansion replica

sands of people from all denominations, all ethnic groups; and it transcended the age gap," says Melvin Santos, pastor. The pastor

experience, and the blessing was even greater for the Nashville First members. "Never before have we been this privileged to



The crowd waits to get in to see the replica of the Messiah's Mansion.

host our friends, the Amish and Mennonites, pastors from various faiths, Catholic priests and Jewish rabbis in large numbers in any of our community events," commented Santos. "I believe the Holy Spirit was the One guiding them to attend, because they have been studying their Bibles and many had been studying the sanctuary. It was as if God was sending them to come and study further," he added.

The positive response from the Bible-belt community included the overwhelming life-changing comments from people who had known Jesus for years, but for the first time were seeing, feeling, and connecting with the message of the sanctuary and the gift of salvation. One woman sent a comment: "Thank you for sponsoring the exhibit...I love Jesus even more than ever after touring and hearing the

lectures by the students." It was evident that the Holy Spirit is actively preparing His people from all walks of life.

The Nashville Messiah's Mansion exhibit resulted in more than 1,000 requests for additional information and ministries, including 338 Bible studies, and 300 End Time Events programs; 229 requests for Christian education; 100 Vacation Bible School interests; and requests in family counseling, Celebrate Recovery, and health and wellness.

By hosting the Messiah's Mansion for the community, Nashville First Church impacted the relationship and love for Christ of thousands of people. The members are praying for more laborers to meet the demand for Bible studies and other programs.

—BY MELVIN SANTOS

Taylor Mill Has Culture of Evangelism

Taylor Mill, Ky., Church members are striving for a culture of evangelism. Rather than having a single evangelistic event, each endeavor dovetails into the next preparing for reaping.

The members have supported the events with their time

and talents to accomplish many outreach efforts including:

- The first agenda item in every church board meeting is evangelism
- Handing out 800-plus copies of *The Great Controversy* door to door with ASI
- Hosting “Life Line” health-screening events
- Vacation Bible School
- The development



Some of the new members or prospects are Elaine Lillard (front row, left), Benjamin High, Sarah Stacy, Benjamyn Mock, Katelyn Robison, Virginia McCain, Paul Webber (back row, left), Stewart Lozensky, pastor, and Matthew Slater. More have been baptized but are not pictured.

of discipleship teams and small groups

- Mailing out 5,000 Bible study cards and following up with Bible studies
- Hosting the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference literature evangelism team for a week-long group canvass
- Mailing nearly 50,000 handbills with a corresponding television ad inviting people to attend the

upcoming prophecy series

- Forty days of prayer and fasting leading up to the opening night of “Revelation Speaks Hope” with Kieth Noll, Conference evangelist
 - Follow up in the “Prophecies of Hope” class held weekly at the church and personal Bible studies
- The harvest began with four people taking their stand at the end of the

series. Another eight have now made their decisions. The prophecy class has several other attendees who continue to grow in the learning of new truth. A culture of evangelism takes the support and cooperation of many people with

varying talents working together for the cause of Christ. Jesus tells us, “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest,” John 4:35 NIV.

—BY STEWART LOZENSKY

Seven Baptized at Dickson Church

It was no ordinary Sabbath at the Dickson, Tenn., Church. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the church was filled almost to capacity. However grateful they were for these special blessings, none were as special as the moment when



Pictured are Barak Chimba (left), Lenora Chimba, Kierra Gill, Tammy Moss, Kelsey Miller, Gary Skaggs, Ed Sharpe, pastor, and Carol Skaggs.

seven individuals gave their hearts to Jesus and dedicated their lives to serving the Lord on Sabbath, June 15, 2013. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19.

—BY MERRI-LYNN MILLER

South Atlantic Honors Retiring Educators

“In our life here... the greatest joy and the highest education are in service.” *Education*, page 308.

During a special evening program at South Atlantic Camp Meeting this past June, the Office of Education celebrated seven of its finest educators who retired after many years of dedicated service in the teaching ministry.

James Lamb, Ph.D., South Atlantic vice president for education, and Kim Gaiter, South



Retired teachers with their years of service: Linda Jones Campbell (left), 40 years; Shirley Ann Johnson, 42 years; Helene Myrnel Harris, 43 years; Mary Ann Smith, 43 years; Beatrice Banks, 39 years; Patricia Sherrod, 22 years; and Loretta Black, 22 years.

Atlantic associate superintendent of schools, pre-

sented each teacher a beautiful plaque commemorating their hard work and extraordinary commitment to Adventist Christian education and youth. The program was made extra special as students from many of the schools across South Atlantic participated by giving stellar performances through choral singing, recitations, poetry, and a violin solo.

Each retiring educa-

tor shared with the audience a memorable teaching experience that made their journey to excellence worthwhile. We are certain that eternity will reveal the life-changing impact that these educators have gifted to the many students who have been touched by their influence. At that time, God, the Giver of all good gifts, will reward them openly for their love, commitment, and faithfulness.

—BY KIM GAITER

Maranatha Members Salute Veterans

Members and guests at Maranatha Church in Atlanta, Ga., recognized and honored veterans during an evening program on March 2, 2013. The program began as veterans proudly marched down the center aisle while the ceremony hostess called out the name, rank, and branch of service for each honoree. Onlookers intently watched as each Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, and National Guard participant moved with calculated strides to the beat of the drum; and the march culminated with a salute to the American flag.

The “Salute to Our Veterans” program had much to offer members and friends alike. Attention was focused on speakers Sandra Reddish and Carol Hollie-Tsede, who provided insight on the topic

of depression, and the millions of adults and adolescents who suffer with this mental state beyond a temporary feeling or mood swing. A powerful testimony was given by Joan Brown and Evelyn McFarlane on Joan succumbing to the horrific statistic of domestic violence, and her joyful outcome. Attendees enjoyed songs and praises by Chern Percelle and pianist Shadana Swaby; and poems by Patricia Norwood, Reuben Dinkins, and Robert Dinkins Jr.

Sherwin Jack, Maranatha pastor, left everyone with words of inspiration. Compliments were given to the hostess, Allison Hathaway, and the much-admired

piano player, Joseph W. Mackie. Disability leader Thelma Madeam was the pioneer who spearheaded and planned the occasion.

A final acknowledgment of the veterans

of the military government. Patrick Carter, former U.S. Navy official and current South Atlantic youth leader, concluded the program with words of encouragement and prayer.

To every veteran, Maranatha salutes you and those who were recognized at this event. We hope that you continue forward as you march to the beat of a different drum in servitude for Jesus Christ.

As a result of this program, three attendees are now receiving Bible study.

—BY THELMA MADEAM



Members and guests at Maranatha Church honored the veterans during a special program.

brought the program to an end as they were individually announced and pinned in appreciation for their devoted, committed tenure of service in each branch

Maranatha Fellowship Celebrates its Graduates

The members of Maranatha Fellowship Church in Greenville, S.C., celebrated their high school and college graduates as part of their Education Day on June 22, 2013. The members eagerly watched



Brianna Mercer (left), Darla Joseph, Cameo Diamond Joseph, Alex Draper, Alesia Gresham, Tina Clarke, Morgan Barksdale, and Abel A. Bartley, Ph.D. (back row)

as the graduates donned their caps, gowns, and honor cords, and marched in to the sanctuary to the familiar tune of “Pomp and Circumstance.” Each graduate made their way to the front of the church, shook hands with the church’s assistant education leader, Abel A. Bartley, Ph.D., and was awarded a small monetary gift from the church. Five of the graduates will be attending Oakwood University in the fall, one will attend law school at the University of South Carolina, another one is going to a technical college in Greenville, and one will be working as a nurse in

the Huntsville, Ala., area. Afterwards, their parents joined the students as they formed a circle and were prayed over by Bartley.

With the depressing statistics about national high school graduation rates, Maranatha is very proud of its students and wishes them all the best. Maranatha understands that the more education one gets, the better you are equipped to do service in the Lord’s vineyard. In the book *Messages to Young People*, Ellen G. White writes, “The Lord desires us to obtain all the education possible, with the object in view of imparting our

knowledge to others. None can know where or how they may be called to labor or to speak for God. Our Heavenly Father alone sees what he can make of men. There are before us possibilities, which our feeble faith does not discern. We should not let slip even one opportunity of qualifying ourselves intellectually to work for God,” page 173. The students understand, “Outside of the will of God there can be no success. Inside the will of God there can be no failure.”

—BY ABEL A. BARTLEY

Sarah Davis Celebrates 105th Birthday

Sarah Davis celebrated her 105th birthday in a gathering hosted by her children at Washington, Ga., Church on Sabbath, June 8, 2013.

She was born June 8, 1908, when Theodore Roosevelt was president and was campaigning for his successor William Howard Taft. The prior year, Roosevelt had sent emergency aid to Davis’ home country of Jamaica because an earthquake had ravaged that nation’s capital, Kingston. Davis moved to the United States in February 1975, and then to Georgia 11 years ago; where she lives with her daughter, Udia Foster.

In addition to her daughter, Davis has three



Sarah Davis poses with her great-grandson, Jermaine Foster.

grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, most of whom attend her birthday celebration.

Davis was honored with many words of kindness and gifts. Her great-great-grandson, Jaion Turner, presented her with roses, and other well-wish-

ers gave gifts.

Church treasurer Acetra McWilliams presented Davis with a quilt from the congregation. The quilt’s label read, “Now you can wrap our love around you.”

Members of several churches serenaded her during a Sabbath afternoon dinner. The singers included Nancy Wallace and Betty Bellamy, twins from Berean Church in Charlotte, N.C., and Wendy Cleveland of Faith Christian Outreach Center of Hephzibah, Ga.

According to her oldest grandchild, George Foster, Davis has been a vegetarian for 25 years, and has abstained from pork, alcohol, and cigarettes throughout her life in accordance with the Adventist Church’s

teachings.

Davis was also honored with a birthday cake baked by her granddaughter, Georgette Wright.

Davis walks with the assistance of a walker, and her participation in dinner-time chats shows that she can still think and speak clearly. She often smiled in gratitude as she was honored, and she joined a discussion of Christian topics.

When asked for the secret of her long life, Davis said, “God’s love. God loves me and I love Him, and I want to be where He is, so I’m working hard.”

—REPRINTED FROM THE NEWS-REPORTER

Three Carolina Adventist Academy Valedictorians Graduate

The weekend of May 24, 2013, was unique at Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA), in Whiteville, N.C. Three high school seniors graduated with highest honors, all with 4.0 GPAs, and as members of the National Honor Society. The three valedictorians were classmates, and they composed the senior class at CAA. “This is the first time that this has happened in the near 17-year history of our school,” stated Charlene Berry, CAA school board chairman.

Tatiana Davidson and Kiana Berry attended CAA since first grade. The third senior, Michael Taylor, attended CAA since fourth grade. Their dedication and commitment reflected the teachers’ goals at CAA for excellence spiritually and mentally. Because of their diligence, the three students actually completed their coursework a year early and are headed to college in the fall.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, gave the baccalaureate and commencement addresses for the special occasion. He challenged the graduates to “Respect the Pillars”



Richard Berry, M.D.; Charlene Berry, CAA school board chairman; Tatiana Davidson; Kiana Berry; Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president; Michael Taylor; Karen Taylor, CAA principal; and Darryl Howard, pastor of Praise Tabernacle Church

that Samson rejected: 1) Your existence is God’s idea, 2) God has a mission for you, 3) The Word of God outlines how we are to live, and 4) God gives us His grace and power to keep us. Smith also charged the students to use power God’s way, citing that when “Christ was the weakest dying on the cross, His love was the strongest as He beat Satan.” The graduates gave their response in three valedictorian addresses and vowed to adhere to Smith’s message.

Darryl Howard, pas-

tor of Praise Tabernacle Church in Council, N.C., and Karen Taylor, CAA principal, were involved with the weekend services which included a Friday night Agape Feast dedication. The support of Praise Tabernacle and Philadelphia churches did not go unnoticed. In addition, a band composed of students and church members from both churches performed at the graduation exercises.

All three valedictorians have received scholarships and plan to attend Oakwood University in the

fall. “Adventist Christian education is second to none,” declared one of the parents, and many agreed that excellence and giving glory to God were shown in the 2013 senior class.

—BY CHARLOTTE
VERRETT, M.D.

Teachers Commissioned During Camp Meeting

During the first weekend of Southeastern Conference Camp Meeting, Elticia Buisson and Olga Simmons were commissioned as teachers. Dana Edmond, president of South Central Conference, delivered the commissioning service message.

Elticia Buisson graduated in 1999 from Oakwood

parents, Caleb and Joyce Buisson, instilled in Elticia and her twin sister, Belina Wright, the blessings of being taught of the Lord.

Buisson currently serves as the secondary social studies teacher at Miami Union Academy in North Miami, Fla. Prior to teaching, she worked for a nonprofit organiza-

Spain, Portugal, Italy, and various states in America.

Olga Simmons hails from St. Andrew, Jamaica. From a very tender age she displayed an interest in becoming a teacher. She used to talk to the bundle of shrubs in her backyard telling them to read. Her aunt, E. Oliver, who was a teacher, noticed this unique

offered a job at the school where she worked for 22 years. During this time she considered an additional career. She did studies at the College of Arts, Science, and Technology, and the University of the West Indies to become a social worker. Simmons later moved to south Florida where she worked in the

Day Care System. During that time, she received a bachelor of arts degree from Broward College in Davie, Fla., a master of arts degree from Nova, Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and an educational specialist degree in elementary education from Southern Adventist University. Collegedale, Tenn.

An educator for 38 years, Simmons is currently principal/teacher of New Hope Seventh-day Adventist School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She has been awarded Southeastern Conference Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



During the first weekend of Southeastern 2013 Camp Meeting, Elticia Buisson and Olga Simmons were commissioned as teachers. Pictured are Hubert Morel (left), Southeastern president; Barbara Davis, Southeastern associate superintendent of education; Carol Byrd, Southeastern superintendent of education; Elticia Buisson; Olga Simmons; Gwendolyn Parker, Southeastern treasurer; and Gregory Mack, Southeastern executive secretary.

University, Huntsville, Ala., with a bachelor of arts degree in history, and a minor in political science. She counts it a blessing to be a product of Southeastern Christian education, having attended both Mt. Olivet School and Miami Union Academy. Her

tion that implemented diet and nutrition training to teenage mothers in the Philadelphia Public School District. Besides teaching, she loves sharing the love of Jesus in song. Her talent has allowed her to minister in England, South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique,

quality in Olga, and decided to put the wheels of teaching in motion. Olga's ambitious attitude launched her into Mico Teacher's College where she graduated with Distinction in Teaching.

At the end of her internship year, she was

Gilberts Celebrate 70 Years of Marriage

It is extremely rare in this day and age to see any married couple celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary, but that was the happy circumstance for Edward and Gladys Gilbert this year.

In July of 1943, Edward and Gladys Gilbert were joined in holy matrimony in Mullins, W. Va. Shortly after their marriage, Edward entered the United States Navy, where he proudly served his country for two years.

After his return from military service, the Gilberts relocated to Detroit, Mich.,

where they were baptized and joined the Hartford Avenue Church, later renamed City Temple Church. They remained faithful members of City Temple Church for more than 50 years.

Through the years, they have served in various leadership positions, including Missionary Volunteer Society (now A.Y.S.) leader, elder, hospitality leader, and Sabbath School teacher.

To their union, 10 children and 11 grandchildren were born, many of whom have taken on positions of church leadership and



Edward and Gladys Gilbert

community service. Avid proponents of Christian education, all of their children attended Seventh-day Adventist schools, which

included Hartford Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Frank L. Peterson Academy, Pine Forge Academy, Oakwood Academy, Andrews University, and Oakwood University (formerly Oakwood College).

The Gilberts reside in Huntsville, Ala., with their children, where they continue to actively serve the Church in various capacities.

—BY OLIVIA D. BEVERLY

Conference Disabilities Ministries Establishes George and Flore Hamilton Disabilities Award

The George and Flore Hamilton Disabilities Leadership Award was inspired by 15 years of dedicated disabilities inclusion leadership by the Hamiltons in the five-state territory of South Central Conference. They promoted and facilitated Disabilities Awareness Day programs and a wide range of training activities which included, but were not limited to, ushers' training, safety and disaster training, disabilities coordinators' training, and numerous other tasks to increase disabilities awareness and sensitivity in the Church and community.

"Having an award

in our names is both humbling and honorable because we realize that the Lord is the One who equips all of us to serve Him, and



Eric Barker (left), George Hamilton, Flore Hamilton, Carlana Barker, and Nettie Henderson

accordingly, should be given all the praise," said George Hamilton.

Carlana Barker is the first recipient of the George and Flore Hamilton Award for outstanding disabilities inclusion leadership at Outreach Church in Opelika, Ala. The Barkers are very much like the Hamiltons in their work for Christ with excellence, as they are very supportive of each other and people with disabilities. They knocked on doors in communities surrounding their church to invite people with disabilities to come to their church to be blessed, and to be a blessing by increasing disabilities awareness by sharing their stories.

The award was presented by Nettie Henderson,

South Central disabilities ministries director, at the second disabilities inclusion celebration on June 1, 2013, at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. The guest speaker for the occasion was James Mason, committee chairman for Huntsville/Decatur Disabilities Consumer Advisory Council. He is the former director of the Governor's Office on Disabilities. Presently, he facilitates disabilities awareness seminars and train service dogs for people with disabilities. Dana Edmond, South Central president, cordially greeted everyone with encouraging remarks relative to disabilities ministries.

—BY NETTIE HENDERSON

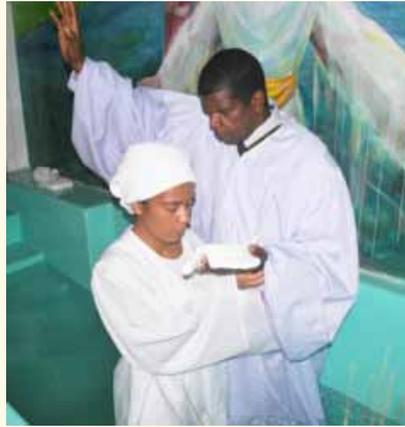
New Beginnings Hosts Anointing, Healing Conference in Mobile

New Beginnings Church in Mobile, Ala., hosted a healing and anointing conference, June 28-29, 2013. The idea began when Dean Nobles, head elder, suggested to Marvin L. Allison Sr., pastor, that the church have an anointing service for all the children in the community who had not been blessed or anointed. Before long, the idea expanded into hosting a healing conference during the same time. This idea turned out to be a blessing for the community.

On Friday evening, Roderick Elze from Atlanta, Ga., gave a powerful Vesper thought, and singer/song writer An-

thony Whigham from Fort Worth, Tex., gave special music. Claude Matthews from Jacksonville, Fla., delivered the Sabbath morning message. Divine worship was the highlight of the weekend, and the service where the children were anointed and the anointing for healing took place.

George E. Thornton Sr., Ph.D., dean of student life at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., delivered the message. All three messages during the weekend focused on faith in relation to healing of the mind, the family, and the body. Twenty families came and registered their



LaShbuna Ross returns to the Lord and is baptized by Roderick Elze.

children to be anointed; they ranged in ages from 0 to 17. The pastor and elders anointed more than 50 children, and 30-plus visitors from the community were anointed for

healing. One individual with arthritis in his hands reported shortly after the service that his hands were no longer in pain. The pastor and elders witnessed him moving his fingers effortlessly at a rapid pace. All glory for his healing was given to God.

Divine worship ended with a baptism where two precious souls who had left the Lord and the Adventist Church many years ago gave their hearts back to Jesus.

—BY MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

TGC Ministries Continues 11th-Year Ministry

The Great Commission (TGC) Ministries hosted its 11th annual Community Outreach Block Party on July 13, 2013, at Longview Heights Church in Memphis, Tenn., where James G. Owens

is pastor. Not only did the event witness to more than 250 people in the community by way of gospel music, clothing and non-perishables were given to those in need, and the prayer ministry petitioned God for answers for individuals who requested



Joseph Morris of The Chozun 1'z gives his testimony.

it on the spot. TGC Ministries members available for this event included Charlie Folsom Jr., Metrio Robinson, Kristina Johnson, Brian Johnson, Tad Yates, Keon Robinson, and Roland Everheart.

TGC Ministries has a long tradition of present-

ing God's Word through the medium of rap music into the minds of young people. TGC Ministries has built a strong foundation in the Church and community, as well as music ministries which include

eight albums and multimedia presentations. Now TGC Ministries has passed that tradition to The Chozun 1'z, whose members are Jalen Brown, Kylan Owens, Reginald Owens, Mark Townsell, and Joseph Morris. The Chozun 1'z

worked for more than a year on their album, and when they finally released it on July 13, they made sure it was a night where everyone within the sound of their voices would hear about the greatness of God.

The album is entitled "Call 2 Duty." The Chozun 1'z base their ministry on 1 Peter 2:9; they believe that through their witness others may want to realize their purpose in life in God.

—BY JOSEPH MORRIS AND CHARLIE FOLSOM JR.

ADRA Leadership Team Visits Southern to Explore Partnerships

Southern's new master's degree program in global community development is already opening up many doors for both students and faculty. One such opportunity was the chance to network with the ADRA president and vice president during their trip to the University on July 31 and August 1. While at Southern, ADRA leaders discussed potential partnerships benefitting both the global outreach organization and the school.

During their two-day



ADRA President Jonathan Duffy (left) meets with Southern Adventist University President Gordon Bietz, D.Min., during a recent visit to campus.

stay on campus, the ADRA team spoke with several University deans and chairs to discuss new options for partnering around their common goal of advancing Christ's love globally. Meetings with the School of

Religion, School of Social Work, School of Business and Management, and the History and Political Studies Department were only a few of the appointments kept during a busy visit.

As an early result of these conversations, plans are being discussed for creating an ADRA-sponsored mission trip and connecting Southern graduate students with ADRA field training experts stationed in more than 100 countries around the world.

In addition to meeting with faculty and staff privately, ADRA leaders held an open forum for both students and community members on Wednesday

evening. The meeting featured an update of the non-profit's goals and vision, and included a question-and-answer session regarding the organization and potential career opportunities with them.

"Though their team is quite busy, ADRA took the time to prioritize a visit to Southern," said Sharon Pittman, director of the Global Community Development program. "This gave us a chance to exchange creative vision and pray together about unique opportunities that we have to serve the Lord together."

—BY LUKE EVANS

Symposium to Report Findings from Adventist Retention Study

Though the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to expand globally, more and more young adult members in the United States are leaving the denomination. A recent study sought answers for the growing problem. At Southern Adventist University's Reynolds Symposium on September 21, 2013, a variety of presenters will share their interpretations on the data and discuss suggestions for bridging the age gap.

The two goals of the 21st Century Adventist Retention Study were to understand why connection

or disconnection takes place among recent university graduates, and to develop effective ways for the Church to retain or reclaim its younger demographic. Research was conducted in two phases. The first phase involved organizing focus groups using 2001-2011 Southern and Oakwood university graduates who had different levels of involvement in the Church. The second phase consisted of online surveys sent out to 2001-2012 graduates of Southern, Oakwood, and other Adventist colleges and universities. More than 1,150 graduates were surveyed.

Researchers discovered that there is actually a large group of active young adults in the Church today. But, while prayer is practiced often among younger Adventists, little Bible study is taking place. Additionally, researchers learned that a significant amount of young Adventists do not attend a single church regularly, but rather move between several.

"While some of the results of the study were encouraging, much of what has been uncovered is troubling," said Doug Jacobs, primary researcher for the study and profes-

sor of religion at Southern. "The Adventist church is graying. If we don't do something soon, the future of the Church is in trouble."

The conference's target audience is educational and spiritual leaders, but the all-day event is open to the public as well. A complimentary breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided. For more information, visit facebook.com/adventistretentionstudy or email cheryld@southern.edu.

—BY LUKE EVANS

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has resources just for you!

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Biology Lecture Series, September 19

Jack Stout, Ph.D., will present "Serendipity and Dogma: 'Unexpected' Behavior Control in a 'Simple' Animal" at 7:30 p.m. in the Hulsey Wellness Center. Stout is retired from Andrews University's Biology Department.

Archaeology Lecture Series, September 24

Scholar and author Kyle McCarter, Ph.D., will talk about the development of the Hebrew language at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. McCarter is professor of ancient near eastern studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Adventist Heritage Lecture Series, October 3

Historian and author James Nix will speak at 11 a.m. in the Collegedale Church. Nix is director of the Ellen G. White Estate.

Symphony Orchestra Concert, October 6

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

Mark Twain Celebration, October 25

Victor Fischer, principal editor of the Mark Twain Papers collection at U.C. Berkeley, will discuss Southern's extensive collection of Twain-related artifacts at 2 p.m. in McKee Library.

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COZY HOME

with 3500+ square feet. 2004 home, 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 kitchens, CH/AC, woodstoves, using year-round springs on 10 partly wooded private acres, DSL; hour north of Nashville. Churches, schools, academies 17 - 35 miles close. 859-333-0866. ©

IS LOCATION IMPORTANT?

Portland, TN. Near academy and elementary schools, churches. Gorgeous 3225 sq. ft. home on 9+ awesome acres. 3 bed, 2 bath, office. Picture perfect kitchen with island. Built-in desk. Master bedroom suite/sitting rm/fireplace. 2-car attached garage. 2 shops, barn, 3-car detached garage.

Call Pat Briley, 615-426-2992. Coldwell Banker Barnes, 615-452-0040. [9]

CABIN AND 59 ACRES

– Waynesboro, TN. 12x20 cabin. Land hilly, heavily wooded, five acres of pasture. Springs, wide and long stream, fruit trees, 120 ft. grapevines. Low taxes. Secluded. \$200,000. Call 407-373-5934. [9, 10]

CUSTOM HOME FOR LONG TERM RENTAL

on 46 acre wooded lot. 5-year old all brick, over 5,000 sq feet. 6 bed, 6.5 bath open floor plan. Full daylight basement. 10 minutes south of Adairsville, GA. \$2100/month negotiable. 678-549-7459. [9, 10]

MOUNTAIN LOT

cleared for house near Waynesville, NC. 1.3 acres, creek, septic is in, deed restricted. 352-688-2073. [9-10]

COUNTRY HOME NEAR MANCHESTER, KY

and Adventist hospital, church and school: 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, large kitchen, living, dining and family rooms, full walkout basement on 20+ acres. Also garden, orchard, barn, pasture, woods, gas well (owned mineral rights). \$194,000. Information: 606-599-1844 or <http://tinyurl.com/bn52wqx>. [9]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a **mathematics professor** to begin August 1, 2013 or January 1, 2014. Master's degree in pure or applied mathematics required; doctoral degree preferred. Contact Dr. Amy Rosenthal at 817-202-6212 or arosenthal@swau.edu. [9]

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC

is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking **physicians in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology**. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; emailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our website at www.adventistclinic.com. [9-12]

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

Manage resident care, counseling, Maturation Therapy® program. Qualifications: masters in business, social work, psychology or experience. Christ-centered, ministry-minded individual or couple; preferably with older children. Advent Home, an ASI/OCI ministry, serves at-risk boys, 12-17 and 18-23, with ADHD, academic, emotional, behavior problems. Benefits: stipend, meals, internet, country living, vacation, more. Contact Marilyn: 423-435-2033; send resume: info@adventhome.org; fax 423 336-8224; US residents/citizens only. [9, 10]

QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES

is seeking a **Chief Financial Officer** to serve as the lead director for finance, budgeting, investments and financial reporting. Minimum five years of relevant experience in accounting or finance at a department director level or higher. Not-for-profit experience preferred. Blackbaud experience highly desirable. www.qhministries.org/jobs. [9]

OCTOBER 6, 2013



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QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES is seeking a **Development Director** to lead major gift fundraising as well as developing a culture of philanthropy, and training and leading development team members. Minimum five years of relevant successful experience in fundraising (major gift experience required) with non-profit religious or charitable organization preferred. www.qhministries.org/job. [9]

QUIET HOUR MINISTRIES is seeking an **Executive Director for Evangelism** to plan and implement evangelism programs and projects including coordinating with Adventist Church leaders worldwide, developing budgets, training team leaders, recruiting team members and supervising staff. www.qhministries.org/jobs. [9]

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NEED A PIANIST? *Hymns Alive, the Adventist Hymnal* on 33 CDs. Quality accompaniment music to sing God's praises. Organ and piano. Kid's hymnals on CDs also. www.35hymns.com. Hymns on videos – 12 DVDs – *Creation Sings*, with words and beautiful nature photos & videos. Call 800-354-9667. [9-12]

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST: Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at www.pathfinderclubnames.com. For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com. [9-5]

DIGITAL CONCERT RATED SOUND SYSTEM with monitors, (2) HD video projectors with long throw lens, (2) HD screens with drapes, LED lighting with trussing, plus much more. Great for church or youth events with audiences 500 to 2000. Paid \$130,000, selling for \$90,000. tom@teaudiovideo.com. [9]

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. ©

AdventistSingles.org Free 14-day Trial! Join thousands of Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, profiles, match notifications! Adventist owners since 1993. Visit www.ElliotDylan.com for the Undercover Angels series of novels for Christian teens that build on Biblical principles and encourage integrity. Great Sabbath reading and gifts! ©

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

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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. [9-12]

WILDWOOD HEALTH RETREAT S.I.M.P.L.E. LIVING SEMINAR: Prevention and recovery of lifestyle disease, including hypertension, obesity, diabetes, osteoporosis, stress, depression, alcohol and tobacco. One week and two week programs begin every Sunday. Cost: 14-day seminars \$840. Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. For more information call Lew Keith: Phone 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [9]

BUTLER CREEK MISSION SCHOOL: Spiritual and health classes combined with practical skills. Learn Bible, health, literature evangelism, vegan cooking, and home gardening. A six-month work-study program: canvassing and other work pays for the program. For more information contact Lew Keith: 931-724-6706; 931-724-2443. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [9]

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER 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. [9-5]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver on-time. [9-12]

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. [9-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, 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/graduatestudies. [9-5]

NEW ENGLAND ADVENTIST HERITAGE TOUR – Sep. 27-Oct. 7, 2013. See the cornfield, Edson Farm, stand on Ascension Rock, Miller Farm, view James White birthplace, home of

Ellen's first vision, Joseph Bates boyhood home, plus many more pioneer sites. Alice Voorheis, Historian. Call Tarrie Geiger, 423-802-9617. [9]

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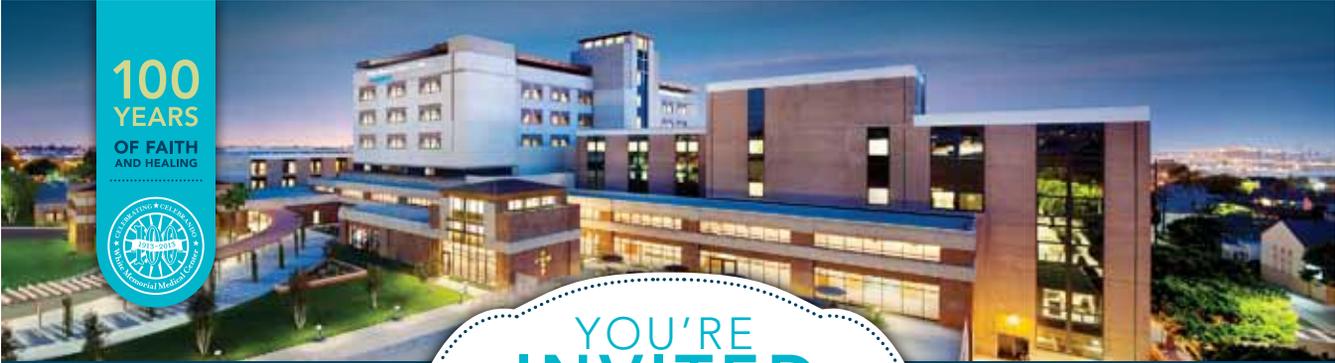
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 |
Continuing Medical Education Event

Well-known physician, writer and speaker Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | Hospital Sabbath Program

Elders Charles White, great grandson of Ellen White, and Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University
Concert by Sandi Patty, acclaimed Christian vocalist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | Centennial Gala

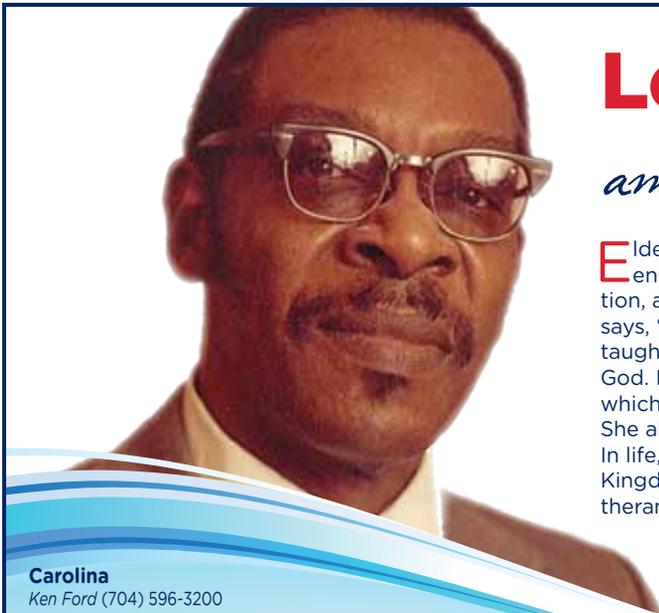
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To learn more about the weekend or to order the book, visit whitememorial.com/centennial.

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Adventist Health



Legacy to Family *and the* Lord's Work

Elder Isaac J. Johnson served faithfully in the South Central Conference as director of stewardship, trust services, ASI, communication, and other areas. His daughter, Sharon, referring to his values, says, "He was a true believer in total 360 degree stewardship. He taught that everything you have, including your talents, is a trust from God. It is the Christian's duty and privilege to give back to God that which He has so freely given."

She also stated, "He practiced what he preached. He proved the Lord. In life, his talents and time and work were devoted to building God's Kingdom. In death, he made a bequest to the conference for the furtherance of the Gospel." His legacy lives on.

► To learn how you can have your legacy live on, contact your local Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services Department today!

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Ken Ford (704) 596-3200

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Mitch Hazekamp (706) 629-7951

Gulf States
Rick Hutchinson (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee
Lin Powell (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University
Fred Pullins (256) 726-8278

South Atlantic
Lawrence Hamilton (404) 792-0535

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Michael Harpe (615) 226-6500

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Announcements

Columbia First Church Evangelistic Meeting – Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays: beginning Sept. 6 until Oct. 5. Address: 243 Riverchase Way, Lexington, SC 29072. Speakers: Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary, and Glen Altermatt, Columbia First Church pastor.

Festival of The Laity FREE Virtual Conference – Sept. 11-14. Sponsored by NAD. Visit www.festivalofthelaity.com to sign up.

Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys' 36th Annual Fall Retreat – Sept. 13-15. Amelia Island, FL. Email: SSAA@southernunion.com for details.

South Atlantic Prayer Summit – Sept. 14. Christ is the Answer Church, Orangeburg, SC 29118. Details: Olivia Morrison, 404-792-053 x107.

Shenene River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – Oct. 4, 5. Dakota Adventist Academy. Honor classes: 1939, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, '04, and '09. Details: 701-258-9000 x236, or www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/alumni/alumnievents.

Oregon Milo Alumni Weekend – Oct. 11, 12. Honored classes: 1958, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, and '13. All alumni are encouraged to come back for a warm Milo Academy Alumni welcome! Contact MaryKay Fletcher at mkfletcher@charter.net.

Stewardship & Religious Liberty Convention with Ed Reid – Oct. 18, 19. South Atlantic Conference Convention Center, Orangeburg, SC. Details: Olivia Morrison, 404-792-0535 x107.

Society of Adventist Communicators 2013 Annual Convention – Oct. 24-26. Theme: "Communicating Christ in the Chaos." Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. Register at PlusLine.org and take advantage of the **early bird discount** which expires Sept. 19. Details: www.adventistcommunicator.org.

Events Calendar

Carolina

Carolina Prayer Festival – Sept. 13, 14. Hendersonville Church. Featuring Elder Dennis Smith. Program starts at 6:15 p.m. All day on Sabbath, ending Sabbath evening. Lunch and light supper provided.

Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting – Sept. 28. Greenville North Church, 4658 Reedy Branch Rd., Winterville, NC. 28590. Starts at 10 a.m., ends at sundown. ACBC opens at sundown. Bring your water, snacks, and a picnic lunch. Speaker/Seminar Presenter: Dr. Ron Smith, Southern Union President. Adult Sabbath School Speaker: Pastor George Wennerberg.

Low Country Camp Meeting – Oct. 5. Summerville Community Church, 520 Gahagan Rd., Summerville, S.C. 29485. Starts at 10 a.m., ends at sundown. ACBC opens at sundown. Bring your water, snacks, and a picnic lunch. Speaker/Seminar Presenter: Elder Roger Hernandez, Southern Union Ministerial Director.

Revelation Today: Presented by John Bradshaw – Oct. 11-31. Ovens Auditorium. Charlotte NC. Discover more at: www.revelationtoday.com.

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Oct. 18-20. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

Florida

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

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

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

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

Resumes in autumn.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

Sept. 28. Fort Lauderdale.

Oct. 26. Northwest Miami Spanish.

Florida Conference Jewish Ministry Sukkot Camp Meeting

– Sept. 22-24. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Celebrate the joyous holy day of Sukkot (Feast of Booths) at this Jewish-Adventist Camp Meeting sponsored by Beth-El Shalom Church of New Port Richey. Cost: \$45 per person or \$120 per family. Details: <http://www.jewishheritage.net/transaction.php?category=13> or jeff@jewishheritage.net

Foundation of Faith

Community Nursing – Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Florida Hospital Tricket Building, 900 Winderley Place, Maitland. A course for nurses with active RN license that will empower you to view health through the CREATION Health philosophy and integrate a practical understanding of theology into the role of Faith Community Nursing. Cost: \$649 or \$499 if registered by August 31. Details: <http://www.healthy100churches.org/2-tr-fcn.php>, yvonne.seballo@flhosp.org, or 407-200-1657.

Teaching Nature to Kids –

Nov. 1-3. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. A training weekend for teachers, leaders, and parents to learn how to better engage young people in nature activities. Details to be announced in church posters and the Autumn 2013 issue of Florida Focus.

A New Song: The Joy of a Redeemed Heart – Nov. 9-13 and 15, 16, 7:30-9:00 p.m. A Florida Conference NET event based on the Gospel of Luke, presented by Elizabeth Talbot. Broadcast on Hope Church Channel and online at <http://www.floridaconference.com/anewsong/>

Georgia-Cumberland

Pathfinder Drill Instructor Training – Sept. 20-22. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.

Personal Ministries Rallies

Sept. 21. Hiram, GA.

Sept. 28. Auburn, GA.

Oct. 5. 2-5:00 p.m. Ogden Road Church. Dayton, TN.

NAD Let's Move Day – Sept. 22.

Association Board Meeting – Sept. 25. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

Conference Finance Committee – Sept. 25. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

God in Shoes Outreach

Sept. 27. Pikeville, TN.

Sept. 29. Collegedale Community Church, TN.

Oct. 6. Augusta, GA.

Oct. 13. Andrews, NC.

Youth Ministries Convention

– Sept. 27, 28. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Stewardship Sabbath –

Sept. 28. Chestatee Church. Dawsonville, GA.

Executive Committee – Oct. 2. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

NE Tennessee Camp Meeting – Oct. 4, 5. The Oaks. Greeneville, TN.

Hispanic Men's Retreat – Oct. 4-6. Unicoi State Park. Helen, GA.

ACF Leadership Reboot – Oct. 4-6. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Fellowship Events – Oct. 18-20.

Family Ministries Leadership Training – Oct. 18-20. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

Marriage Retreat – Oct. 25-27. Gatlinburg, TN.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online

<http://www.gcsda.org>

Culman, AL, Church Homecoming Weekend – Sept. 13, 14. Guest Speaker: Richard O'Fall.

Teen Invitational-Canoeing – Sept. 15.

BMA Board & BOE – Sept. 24. 9

a.m.-5 p.m.

Elders' Certification Training – Oct. 5. Meridian Church.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Highland/Madison Academy Boards – Sept. 5.

Women's Retreats at Indian Creek Camp

Sept. 6-8. Hispanic.

Sept. 13-15. Young Women.

Sept. 20-22. I.

Sept. 27-29. II.

Executive Committee – Sept. 24.

Pathfinder Camporee – Oct. 17-20. Salt Lick Park.

Board of Education – Oct. 24.

Men's Conference – Oct. 25-27. Indian Creek Camp.

Outdoor Education – Oct. 28-30. Indian Creek Camp.

Highland/Madison Academy Boards – Nov. 7.

Executive Committee – Dec. 10.

Southern Adventist University

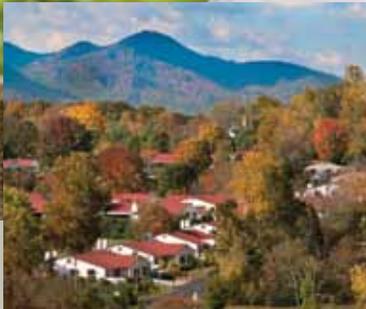
Piano Concert – Sept. 10. The Pridonoff Duo, an acclaimed husband/wife team, will perform in Ackerman Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are required (free with Southern ID). Details: 423-236-2814.

Constitution Day Speaker

– Sept. 19. Stephen Kelley, a Southern alumnus and current Superior Court judge in Georgia, will speak for convocation at 11 a.m. in the Iles P.E. Center. Admission is free. Details: 423-236-2814.

Sunset						
	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4
Atlanta, GA	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:30	7:20	7:11
Charleston, SC	7:40	7:31	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:54
Charlotte, NC	7:45	7:36	7:25	7:15	7:05	6:56
Collegedale, TN	8:02	7:52	7:42	7:32	7:22	7:13
Huntsville, AL	7:08	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:19
Jackson, MS	7:21	7:12	7:02	6:53	6:44	6:35
Louisville, KY	8:08	7:57	7:46	7:35	7:24	7:13
Memphis, TN	7:22	7:12	7:02	6:52	6:42	6:32
Miami, FL	7:37	7:29	7:21	7:14	7:06	6:59
Montgomery, AL	7:05	6:56	6:47	6:37	6:28	6:19
Nashville, TN	7:10	7:00	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:19
Orlando, FL	7:43	7:35	7:26	7:18	7:10	7:02
Wilmington, NC	7:33	7:23	7:14	7:04	6:54	6:45

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