

T SOUTHERN



TIDINGS



**Touching Many More Hearts
in Many More Ways**

Remember When?

In my short life span I remember Afros, bell-bottom pants, platform shoes, and baggy double-knit shirts. In my youth, I remember when wearing those hairstyles and clothing was the coolest, hippest thing you could do. Another segment of society, namely parents and authority figures, saw it as somewhat immodest and countercultural. But, a funny thing happened as the years passed. Those styles became more dated and modest. It's a process that continues today. What was considered immodest in previous eras is no longer considered so today. For instance, men's long hair was viewed in the '60s as a sign of rebellion. That's not the case today. Similar haircuts, pants, shoes, and shirts have reemerged as contemporary fashion alternatives while following a similar cycle of social acceptability and appropriateness.

Although the clothing people wear may not be absolutely indicative of the breadth and scope of their character, it may reveal in part their value system. Contemporary psychologists suggest that the way one dresses and adorns often affects attitude and behavior. Many a despondent or neurotically depressed person has tried to positively adjust the bleak perception of life's circumstances by dressing up.

If attire and adornment impact perception, attitude, behavior, and emotional well-being, perhaps it behooves us to factor in the biblical concept of modesty — appropriateness in dress, conduct, and speech. If the great God in Heaven quests that we as human beings prosper and be in health even as our souls prosper (III John 2), then a healthy approach to the way we dress, speak, and conduct ourselves is critical.

Because of radically changing times, high-pressure schedules, societal expectations, and a battery of contemporary values, it is possible to forget the importance of virtue, appropriateness, and modesty. Even if we cannot remember when an emphasis was placed on modesty, it still is God's suggestion that we be modest in all areas of our lives, while we spend the lion's share of our time adorning the inner being. The paradox of true modesty is that it is a work of the heart — indicative of an active working relationship with God — which produces fruit that clearly is seen in the way we dress, act, and think.

Perhaps Philippians 4:8 says it best: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." Holy Scripture is forthright in expressing the ideal of conduct, speech, and dress emanating from the inner man.

First Peter 3:3-5 gives further counsel on the issue: "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

We may not be able to say definitely what are appropriate or inappropriate trends of fashion, behavior, and speech; however, learning to cultivate a desire to please God can temper our approach to what we wear, what we do, and what we say.



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Volume 108, No. 2, February 2014
The *Southern Tidings* is the Official
Publication of the Southern Union
Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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SOUTHERN TIDINGS Volume 108 Number 2, February 2014.
Published monthly by the Southern Union. Free to all members.
POSTMASTER: send changes of address to Southern Tidings,
P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031
idouce@southernunion.com

COVER PHOTO: NATHAN ZINNER



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NATHAN ZINNER

Touching Many More Hearts in Many More Ways

BY WILLIAM SMITH

Expanding the Vision

Years ago, a literature evangelist (LE) led a man to purchase a *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*. After learning the truths presented in this book, the customer became such a faithful member of his local Seventh-day Adventist church that his pastor repeatedly tried to persuade him to become a preacher. The man declined, but vowed to rear his sons to become preachers. Tens of thousands of baptisms later, and we have the legends of William Clifford, Harold, and Edward Earl Cleveland. The Holy Spirit ensured the father's promise was fulfilled.

This was an example of one-soul evangelism, spoken of by Ellen White:

“The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul. To a great degree this

must be accomplished by personal labor. This was Christ's method. His work was largely made up of personal interviews. He had a faithful regard for the one-soul audience. Through that one soul the message was often extended to thousands,” *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 229.

Why is it so important to reach that one soul who might extend to thousands? Well, did you know that three of the top 10 most populous states in the nation are right here in the Southern Union Conference (SUC)? They are Florida (19.5 million), Georgia (10 million), and North Carolina (9.8 million). Add the other five states of the SUC — Tennessee (6.5 million), Alabama (4.8 million), South Carolina (4.8 million), Kentucky (4.4 million), Mississippi (3 million) — and the sum is 62.8 mil-

lion, approximately 1/5 of the total U.S. population. This demographic snapshot provides more than 62 million reasons to expand the publishing vision.

We have a reported membership of 272,630. If we divvy up the populace equally among the membership, that makes each of us responsible for providing light to approximately 237 people. If your church is like mine, the attendance doesn't always match the roll. If that's the case, your sphere of responsibility just increased. How are you going to impact those 237-plus people?

Mass Personalization

Let's remember that “Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who de-

sired their good.” Therefore, we must follow His example by “coming close to the people by personal effort,” *Ministry of Healing*, pp. 143-4.

This counsel has traditionally perled colporteurs, or literature evangelists, to emphasize meeting people in their homes to make the sale. It’s not that mailing literature to your community’s zip code is a bad idea. That’s actually a great complement to personally visiting people, with literature in hand. “The wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand for books that make plain the Scriptures of truth,” *Testimonies*, volume 4, page 392.

One inspirational book increases the appetite for another. Literature also creates a desire for fellowship with people that believe and practice the principles the books promote. Every effective option for mass distribution should be implemented to pave the way for “mass personalization.”

What if? For decades, LEs have been dubbed “Adventist Marines,” because this small group of specially

trained missionaries is on the front lines. However, our conquests for King Jesus cannot be completed without the entire Adventist Army engaged in the battle. For mass per-

card? What if every Adventist physician turned their waiting room into an evangelistic center with tracts and books for the whole family to enjoy?

What if all our educators provid-



NATHAN ZINNER

sonalization to become a reality, we need all boots on the ground!

What if all 272,630 members were regularly deployed to lighten their surroundings with books, CDs, USB Flash Drives, and DVDs? What if every Adventist business person placed their stamp on a piece of literature to serve as their business

ed children and parents with small encouraging resources on subjects like bullying, drug abuse prevention, and healthy relationships? What if every counselor included our marriage and family sets as a part of their consultation packages? What if we all shared one of our publishing resources with the grocery store clerk,

The Mechanics of Mass Personalization

For more than 60 years, the Southern Union has operated a credit sales program equipping hundreds of LEs to do full-time ministry presenting the Bible Story Books, Bible Reference Libraries, and other “big books.” Some of the services offered are credit processing, direct-to-customer shipping, weekly commission checks, bookkeeping assistance, and a customer service department.

The regional conferences of the Southern Union (and later, Florida Conference) converted to a strictly cash sales program. The literature evangelists are still able to minister on a full-time and part-time basis selling magazines, small books, MagaBooks, and

some big book sets, but are responsible for handling their own accounts. LEs working the cash and credit programs lighten an average of 400,000 homes each year.

The Southern Union is also glad to have more than 200 student LEs knocking on approximately 1.2 million doors per year, and contacting thousands of people daily as they canvass in shopping centers. Along with innumerable prayers offered, evangelistic tracts distributed, Bible studies given, Bible correspondence courses enrolled, and invitations to church services, our LEs are impacting an estimated four to five million lives each year!

mechanic, barber or beautician, mail carrier, and dog catcher as we made small talk with them?

One of the challenges of ministry is when various ministries unconsciously compete with each other. What if we consciously decided to complete one another instead? What if we formed partnerships to help each other fill our niches? What if every health ministries leader led their team to personally deliver *You Turn*, *Vibrant Life*, or *CREATION Health* to every home within two miles of their church? What if grief ministries leaders stocked hospitals, hospice centers, and funeral homes with comforting literature like *Yell at God and Live!* and *Happiness Digest*?

What if men's ministries reached out to other men with *Character Construction*, and women's ministries circulated *At Jesus Feet: The Gospel According to Mary Magdalene*? What if personal ministries encouraged every member to circulate 100 GLOW tracts a month for only \$5? What if our uniform-wearing ministries such as Pathfinders, community services, disaster relief, and elementary schools meet and greet the public with literature, while collecting donations for worthy causes?

What if publishing houses, publishing departments, Adventist Book Centers, communication departments, media ministries, and information technology departments all worked together to develop and make available the most attractive, useful, relevant resources needed to reach the masses with the message quickly?

B.L.A.S.T.

We must infuse mass personalization into our daily lifestyle and local church ministry, so that it is part of our daily routine rather than another demand upon it. To serve as

a catalyst for these possibilities taking off, the Southern Union Publishing Department is launching a new initiative called BLAST. What does BLAST stand for? **B**ooks (and tracts), **L**inking (with other ministries), **A**ll (members), **S**chools, **T**echnology.

As C. M. Willis, former General Conference associate publishing director, once said, "The object...is to inspire and capture enthusiasm, to increase our forces, and quickly circulate our literature 'like the leaves of autumn.'"

"I am excited about the expanded vision for publishing. The clarion call of God has always been for every member to spread His glorious Message by distributing our literature like the leaves of autumn. I see this new paradigm [BLAST] as unleashing the entire Church to use the power of the printed page to reach into every corner of our Union with the Good News of Christ's soon return," stated Jim Davidson, executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference.

Theus Young, Southeastern Conference publishing director, shared, "Our Publishing Department has just ordered 500,000 GLOW Tracts to be distributed by our members to some of the 19 million people in our territory. For those members who find it difficult to pass out tracts from door to door, they can still use GLOW Tracts to distribute in their daily operation as doors open to witness."

Tim Leffew, Georgia-Cumberland Conference publishing director, states, "It is our privilege to be called by God to reach people through literature. Because people respond differently, we needed to have a multifaceted program with numerous approaches. The one common element is the printed page and God's blessing on it."

Joe Holloway, Florida Confer-

ence publishing director, added, "The literature ministry is by far the most fascinating, soul-satisfying, Heaven-appointed ministry.

Stay tuned to hear what others have to say. Perhaps the next voice will be yours! ❖

William Smith is the director of the Southern Union Conference Publishing Department.

Keith Reid and Carl McRoy contributed to this article.

A humble family running a vegetarian restaurant in Rapid City, South Dakota, once gave *The Great Controversy* to an unusual patron. Because of the gracious acceptance extended to "Brother David," this non-religious, purple-haired, punk-rocker accepted the book as a gift. After reading *The Great Controversy*, David Assherick discontinued his pursuit of a medical career and responded to the call of ministry. His crusades have touched thousands, and his teaching ministry has become widely known through a variety of media.

Other LEs with regard to one-soul audiences brought the families of Dennis Ross, retired former Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, and Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, into a transforming knowledge of the truth. Where would these ministers be without the personal labor of literature evangelists? How many would they have baptized if hope had not been introduced to their homes?

Write or email your experience(s) of sharing literature either as a separate event or in conjunction with your work, school, vacation or other activity you are involved in. We would love to hear from you. Email us at: publishing@southernunion.com.

Write us at: Southern Union Publishing Department, P.O. Box 1147, Decatur, GA 30031



A GIFT YOU CAN GIVE

BY RAINEY TURLINGTON AND NANCY GAY

Like many little girls, Mindy Joy loves playing dress up in her princess-themed bedroom.

A few short months ago she was the spitting image of a little princess, with her long, curly blonde hair and tulle covered dress-up clothes, but it might as well be a lifetime ago.

Mindy's hair is now cut into a short, straight bob, and though she has on her ballerina tutu, she doesn't feel like pirouetting the way she used to. Her personality is just one of the many things cancer stole from this three-year-old girl.

Doctors diagnosed Mindy with leukemia in the fall of 2012. In a matter of days, she went from being a carefree toddler who loved playing at the beach, to a cancer patient confined to a hospital room.

Her parents expected to hear words such as chemotherapy and steroids while listening to Mindy's treatment plan, but they were shocked to hear the words blood and platelets. They never really thought about blood donations until their daughter was in need of several transfusions to bring her levels up to a place where

she could receive chemotherapy.

Mindy is not alone. According to Blood Assurance, about one in seven people who enter a hospital need blood — a gift that so many can give.

At Adventist Health System's headquarters in Altamonte Springs, Florida, employees participate in blood drives throughout the year. Some, like Penny Morche, who serves as an executive assistant in the legal services department, have given from 17 to 26 times since 2004.

"I can't be at a bedside to give a touch or helping hand," Morche said of her reason for giving. "I don't have that within me to be a nurse or a doctor, but I can take a half hour of my time and a pint of my blood four times a year to share with someone in need of that life-giving liquid."

Recently the practice has also spread to local congregations such as Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Florida, and Florida Hospital Church in Orlando, where blood collection drives regularly take place on Sabbath morning in conjunction with weekly services. While some may

look down on the activity, for people like Rebecca Chang, it's a way of following Christ's example of doing good on the Sabbath.

"To me, 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ' is about helping others and showing them, in some way, Christ's character. He was all about putting others first, loving each other, and helping those in need, whether financial or physical. Many people suffer from illnesses that require constant blood transfusions, or they go through surgery and don't have enough of their own blood stored for a transfusion and require a donation. If no one donated, these people wouldn't survive," Chang said. "When you think about it like that, I think this is a great example of 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.'"

With each unit of blood benefiting up to three people, thousands each year are blessed by the sacrificial giving of donors. Mindy is just one of them.

To find out how you can be a part of giving, visit www.oneblood.org. ❖



Suite 221 is the former bartending school purchased for the Myanmar International Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Bartending School Transformed...

Now Church for Myanmar Refugees

BY RON QUICK

Suite 221 on the second floor at 5337 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, North Carolina, will never be the same. What was once a bartending school is now being transformed into a church. Just beneath suite 221 on the first floor, things really start “hopping” at night. That space is home to a night club. But, in spite of these unique circum-

stances, this is the ideal location for the new Myanmar International Seventh-day Adventist Church. Why? Because the building happens to be right next door to the apartment complex that is home to many Adventist Myanmar refugees.

The plight of Adventist Myanmar refugees in Charlotte first came to the attention of Mike Alvarez,

a member of the Sharon Church in Charlotte, when one of the refugees showed up for Sabbath worship during the winter wearing flip flops. Alvarez investigated and discovered there was a need for a ministry to the refugee population. He shared the idea with the members at the University City Church who were preparing to launch the



Fort Mill Church plant. They immediately responded, and began laying plans for a second church plant. The Fort Mill Church plant planted a church before they themselves had even been planted!

The United States grants humanitarian protection, on a limited basis, to refugees from several countries. One such group is the Karen refugees from Burma, now called Myanmar. Because of attacks on their villages, many of the Burmese fled to refugee camps in Thailand. There are roughly nine main refugee camps on the border inside Thailand. Seventh-day Adventists are permitted to run schools in these camps. It is the refugees who grew up in the Adventist-run





Sponsoring Charlotte Church members and Myanmar refugee leaders brainstorm possible refurbishing ideas for the new Myanmar Church.

schools who have ended up in Charlotte.

It just so happened that Richard Hambley and his family recently moved back to Charlotte and was looking for a church home. They heard about the upcoming Fort Mill launch and considered joining that group, but when they heard about the needs with the Burmese, they jumped right in.

Since most of the Myanmar refugees live in an apartment complex off Albemarle Road, they began with having the worship service in one of those apartments. Since the apartment is only temporary, it was necessary to find the right location for a church. After Hambley, now the leader of the church plant, explained to the proprietor of the building next door what the space would be used for, they were able

to acquire the conveniently-located former bartending school for half the going rate.

Ryan Ashlock, University City pastor, reports, "There's a huge population of Burmese refugees living in Charlotte, and more are coming to the area. So the potential for growth and outreach is huge." He also states, "Not only will it be a church, but it will also be a community center. There will be a Care-Closet plus opportunity for job training."

"Most of the refugees have not even driven an automobile," Hambley explains, "Presently, we're giv-

ing them driving lessons."

Additional plans for this new University City Church plant include English classes, how to ride a bus, filling out medical forms for children, and many other basic parts of living in a new country.

"When the United Nations brings them over," Hambley explains, "they have eight months. After that they've got to fend for themselves."

The Myanmar Church plant is the fourth plant for the active University City Church. Other church plants for the church are in Huntersville, North Carolina, and Fort Mill, South Carolina, as well as a Swahili church plant.

Ashlock proudly reports, "A space that was once used to train



An apartment has been the first location of the Myanmar plant.

bartenders to serve alcohol will now be used for a church to train people to share the message of Jesus Christ." ✨



The congregations of refugee and American families worship together in their new location.

MINISTERING TO THE PHILIPPINES DISASTER

BY JASON SHIVES AND REBECCA GRICE

Taken from the top of the ruins of the West Visayan Adventist Conference building. You could still smell the death and decay as bodies were found.

Jason Shives, a medical doctor in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and a member of Bass Memorial Church, is also the medical director of ACTS World Relief. A few days after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, Shives responded to a call to lead a disaster response team to the Philippines. This is his story.

“Dr. Shives, I need to show you something,” said Cyril, village captain. He led me to his villagers who were suffering from wounds received during the typhoon. Cyril was my interpreter and my assistant in caring for those who had received no medical care. However, the last house we went to was different. As we walked into the wall-less, roof-less home, Cyril introduced me to some of his family, “Dr. Shives, this is my sister and her husband.” Then Cyril looked behind me and said, “And that is my niece.” I turned and saw a small black body bag with a name written on cardboard laying on it. “They finally found her after nearly two weeks of excavating,” Cyril explained. I was not brought to heal any physical wounds this time, but to provide emotional support to wounds that only God and time could heal.

Although travel to Tacloban City took four days, it was worth it to be able to help in a country that had suffered a direct hit from the strongest typhoon on record. I was leading an advance team of 10 doctors, nurses, and search and rescue teams.

Arriving in Tacloban was surreal, like driving through the aftermath of a nuclear detonation. I could smell the decay of rotting flesh, even 10 days out. Local government reports led us to believe most of the missing were yet to be extracted from the rubble. As I met with people and listened to stories of dead spouses, missing children, destroyed homes, and people who lost all three, a sense of awe, shock, and sympathy for the suffering survivors flooded my mind.

The chief medical officer of Tacloban City, Dr. Arnes, led our team and doctors from Loma Linda and Harvard to several villages. One of these unreached areas was next to the largest Adventist church. This is where we set up a clinic for displaced church members and the Leyte Mission Conference workers.

I could tell that Cyril was holding back emotional pain when he recounted the night of the hurricane. He explained that helping the team gave



Cyril (left), village captain; another village leader; Jason Shives' mother, Nephlen Shives; Jason Shives, M.D.; and a happy little child who was treated at the outdoor clinic.

him hope that things would get better. Cyril stayed with us for the entire trip. He provided much-needed security and transportation.

It was hard to leave the Philippines. The survivors had nowhere to escape. They will be struggling to recover for a very long time. For most, there was no chance for clean water or electricity for at least a year. The people of Tacloban NEED your help. If you would like to go, donate, or assist in this ongoing disaster relief, go to www.actswr.org. Thank you and please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. 🌿

God Wants Marriages Full of Love, Joy, Peace

BY BRIAN YOUNG

A change of venue allowed this year's marriage retreat to accommodate more couples. Approximately 100 couples made their getaway to the Smoky Mountains this past October, some from as far away as St. Mary's, Georgia, which was a long drive for LeShel Taylor, and her husband, Eric. "We came eight hours because our marriages are so important, and our marriages are what help keep the Church going. When we see good marriages in the Church, good marriages help support a good church. We work together as a couple in the Church, and we help support good marriages in the Church, and those help us uplift the Church" says Taylor.

This year, the speakers were Rick and Cindy Mercer, a pastor and surgical nurse respectively. They recounted the dark times in their marriage and how through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit, their marriage was restored to something greater than they ever had before. As Rick struggled with drug and alcohol addictions, sometimes not returning home at night, Cindy prayed God would give her a new spouse. She asks the audience: "Are you willing to give all for your spouse? Are you willing to completely bury it today and put it in the past, and make a commitment to start praying together, studying together, and glorifying God together in your marriage?"

There was a good deal of time set aside for couples to spend alone, so they could pray, relax, and reconnect with each other without the distractions of being at home. Paco Rodriguez, of the Alpharetta Church, looks at it this way: "I consider this an oil change where you get time to relax with your wife and enjoy that time together. What's being presented is going to build us up spiritually, and



Rick and Cindy Mercer were the presenters for the "Married Lovers: Mountain Getaway" Retreat Weekend held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Mercers shared the realities and challenges they had faced as a married couple.

it's like a tune-up that the car needs to keep going."

After a candlelit dinner to close the Sabbath, couples headed to their rooms to don their costumes in preparation for a contest to win a free ticket to next year's marriage retreat. People arrived dressed as pairs, such as peanut butter and jelly, salt and pepper, doctor and nurse. The winner, as determined by popular vote, was "Bonnie and Clyde," a couple handsomely dressed as if they had stepped right out of the 1920s.

The evening activities continued with a rousing game of "Let's Make a Deal" put together by the Family Ministries Department. Contestants had to choose between known and unknown prizes, and could win any number of things between "stress tabs" (bubble wrap), to a "washer and dryer" (a sponge and a dish towel), or an actual riverboat cruise.

Alfred "Mac" McKiver from the Augusta, Georgia, First Church, had such a good time, he keeps coming back and expressed his wishes for future marriage retreats. "This is our third trip, we just enjoyed it so much that we wanted to keep coming back. We're looking forward to a possible marriage

retreat cruise they keep talking about, we hope they come through with that," said McKiver.

"It is very encouraging to see couples of all ages and stages of their married life come away for a marriage retreat weekend. They have a desire to keep their relationship alive and their love for each other to deepen. Their commitment to one another is beautiful!" said Jo Dubs, Georgia-Cumberland Conference women's/family life ministries director.

Rick Mercer closed the weekend by saying, "I believe that God wants our marriages to be marriages full of love, full of joy, and full of peace, that they would be a beacon of light to their own families, to be a beacon of light to the communities around them, that God would receive the honor and glory he deserves. That's what it means to have a family that says 'We belong to God,' it brings Him glory." ❖



Winners of the costume contest received a free pass to the next marriage retreat weekend.

Jerline Porch Celebrates 99 YEARS

BY BETTY KOSSICK

Ninety-nine years is a long lifetime — and all of it has been lived in Gordon County. Jerline was born to Jesse Washington Mann and Ida Shepherd Mann on October 11, 1914. As the seventh of 12 children, her life provided constant interest.



Jerline Porch, a member of the Calhoun, Georgia, Church, celebrated her 99th birthday with her church family on October 6, 2013. A sweet woman with a quick smile, Porch is a lifelong resident of Calhoun. She loves roses and wearing pretty hats.

Reared on a farm, working in the fields, she learned good work ethics and a labor-intensive life. She started teaching other students before she completed seventh grade, and as an

adult, “a committee of three came to me requesting that I restart a school for Black children in Sonoraville that closed down 50 years previously.” She did — with no degree. She often performed nursing duties such as helping deliver babies and caring for the sick. She still gets tears in her eyes when speaking of a baby sister and a brother who had typhoid fever.

“I also operated on cats and chickens,” she said, chuckling.

Again, no degree for her nursing smarts. Over the years, she even worked as a truck driver.

Through it all, she sang songs like “Amazing Grace” and other “back yonder” songs, she said.

“We sang in the field while chopping cotton.”

Singing runs in her family. She still sings around the house and recently sang at church for a women’s ministries program. She notes kin as outstanding singers.

“A cousin of my Papa, Roland Hayes, was well-known, the world’s highest paid tenor in the 1920s. And, Papa’s brother was a good baritone.”

As a young woman of 20, she met Horace Porch, 22.

“I didn’t invite him to come visit, but he kept coming,” she said.

His insistence paid off, and a year later they married, becoming parents to four children, with two sons still surviving. Again, tears fill her eyes whenever speaking of her late husband and the loss of their two children.

“He could build anything from

the ground up,” she said of Horace. She lost him “after 48 years, two months, and three days.”

Regardless of her many years, her progeny is small: one granddaughter, one grandson. No greats or great-greats.

Jerline still keeps a garden, but it’s bucket gardening these days, as she grows tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, and cantaloupes for starters. And, her favorite crop: herbs. Her doctor once told her, “I don’t know what you’re doing, but whatever it is, keep doing it.” She maintains that God and the herbs get the credit.

Jerline keeps herself busy with various hobbies. She enjoys growing flowers — roses being her favorite — and is known around Calhoun for wearing pretty chapeaus, most of which she creates herself.

“I’ve always liked hats since I was a little girl,” she said.

Though several of her close relatives have lived well into their nineties, Jerline said she never thought she’d live to be 99. She notes that her heritage is Cherokee and Black on her father’s side, and Cherokee and White on her mother’s side.

When asked what she’d say to God about allowing her to have such a long life, she brightens and replies, “I’d thank Him and ask Him if I’ve done what He wanted me to do — and ask Him to forgive me for my sins.” ✨

A Celebration of Evangelism

BY URICK LADONIS



Keynote speaker Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., delivers the evening message.



Urick and Dacia LaDonis, founders of Churchpond



Kimmie McNeese, Lee Arrendale State Prison chaplain

A full house joined with Churchpond.com in celebrating “Evangelism Through Technology,” on May 4, 2013.

The one-hour program included video and live presentations describing the history of Churchpond, its current ministry, and Churchpond’s plans for the future.

The distinguished list of program participants included Fredrick Russell, senior pastor at Berean Church, Atlanta, Georgia; 11Alive anchors Brenda Wood and Karyn Greer; and 11Alive education reporter Donna Lowry, who offered pre-recorded words of greeting.

One of the program highlights was Churchpond’s new outreach ministry, focused on incarcerated women at the Lee Arrendale State Prison, Alto, Georgia. The prison chaplain, Kimmie McNeese, was a special guest that evening, and traveled to Atlanta to attend

in person. Churchpond presented McNeese with a Roku player, preloaded with Adventist content which she will provide to the women under her care.

The program culminated with keynote speaker Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries and senior pastor of Oakwood University Church, Huntsville, Alabama. His message was about the power of Churchpond’s ministry, its impact on people’s lives, how Churchpond has played a role in expanding the reach of evangelistic campaigns, and he gave several examples of people who have been baptized because of programs they have experienced through Churchpond.

The program was followed by a reception for Churchpond supporters, guests, and honorees.

Many *Southern Tidings* readers are already familiar with Churchpond.

com, a ministry that provides live and archived Adventist programming to anyone with Internet access. Although, in an age of smartphones and instant access to social media and information wherever we are, Churchpond seems almost obvious.

But, even two years ago, it would be unthinkable to have Internet access to more than 200 church services worldwide, in multiple languages — live and archived sermons and other church programs — and the largest collection of Adventist television programming to ever exist in one place, including Breath of Life, 3ABN, the Hope Channel, It Is Written, and many more.

All of this started just over 10 years ago, with a simple server and a PC (personal computer) in the balcony of Berean Church. ☸

I'M GOING "ICE FISHING"

BY DAMIEN CHANDLER

My mantra: "Be where God wants you to be, and then when you get there, do what He wants you to do, and say what He wants you to say." And, on this day the truth of that statement was like a flashing message on a billboard.

I was where God wanted me to be. I was at my daughter's kindergarten graduation. But I had this overwhelming itch that there was something He wanted me to do. The room was filled with 300 people, most of whom knew nothing about Adventism, and many who knew little about Christ. I had to tell someone about Jesus. And so I turned and started to talk to the innocent bystander next to me, and before he or I knew it, I was spewing all this Jesus stuff all over him.

I never forgot that moment. The moment I was salt. And I felt content that I had done what I was supposed to do. Months later I received a call from the same gentleman. He seemed to not forget that moment either. He happened to be the coach of the professional hockey team in town — the Huntsville Havoc. He told me that the team was looking for its first chaplain, and he wanted me to meet the owner of the team.

We met for lunch, but cordial conversation quickly changed when the owner said, "I am a Christian, and I am not quite sure that I feel comfortable making an Adventist the chaplain of my team. So I have



Damien Chandler, associate pastor at Madison Mission in Huntsville, Alabama

some questions I need answered." This was another moment when I was sure that I was where I was supposed to be. Now I needed God to help me say what I was supposed to say.

He asked if we believe in the Bible. "Your real question is what is the role of Ellen White. You read Christian authors right? And you think they are pretty good? Well there is this lady called Ellen White, and I think she is pretty good too. And, like all other authors, if what she says does not line up with the Bible, I am free to toss it out." He proceeded to ask me about my diet. "You have players that play for you. You expect them to keep their bodies in shape. Well, I have a King who expects the same, and if they can do that for you, why should I not do it for my God." His last question was about the Sabbath. "You expect your players to be at your practice on time, correct? Well I serve a King whose practice times are from sunset

Friday until sunset Sabbath, and He expects me to be there."

At the end of the meeting, I had no expectation of being the chaplain of the Huntsville Havoc, but I did know I had said what God wanted me to say.

A year later the owner of the team joined my Facebook page. For six months he read every post and looked at every picture. He laughed at the videos of my children singing for family worship, and responded to my request for prayer. This man, who passionately loves God, finally came to the conclusion that I passionately love Him, too, and that there was no way that I was a part of a cult.

And so on October 16, in the locker room of the Von Braun Civic Center, a black Adventist pastor was introduced as the chaplain in a predominantly white sport. It has been an amazing, and honestly, an unexpected experience-filled miracle. God is breaking through what is unfamiliar and bringing together a small group of men for chapel time on Thursdays. But, more than that, God has made me a part of the team and a part of their lives.

I am where God wants me to be, I am doing what He called me to do, and saying what He wants me to say. Never thought about ministry in this way, but now the arena is my sanctuary; the team is my church. And I, friends...am going ice fishing. ❄️

RICHARD PERIGO

Gordon Hospital Ranked No. 1 Small Hospital by Georgia Trend Magazine

Gordon Hospital was recently ranked the top small hospital in the state by *Georgia Trend* magazine. The annual rankings were released in the December 2013 edition of the state-wide business magazine.

“Gordon Hospital is pleased to be recognized by *Georgia Trend* as its top small hospital,” said Pete Weber, president and CEO of Gordon Hospital. “Our physicians and our staff do an excellent job of caring for our patients in all aspects of their care. Everyone on our team works tirelessly to ensure that



patients receive a top-notch healthcare experience each time they use our hospital.”

Georgia Trend's 2013 hospital rankings divide 138 of the state's hospitals

into five separate categories: teaching hospitals, large hospitals (more than 400 beds), medium-sized hospitals (151-399 beds), small hospitals (fewer than

150 beds), and critical access hospitals (rural community hospitals).

To determine the rankings, magazine officials chose to group hospitals of similar size and mission together, and compare them with their peer institutions. All information used to compile the rankings relies on publicly available information on quality of care, patient satisfaction, mortality and readmission statistics, and data on hospital-acquired infections and conditions.

—BY KIMBERLY BRAZELL

Florida Hospital Organ Donor Featured in Rose Parade

A florigraph made entirely out of seeds arrived at Florida Hospital Flagler on December 17, 2013, for its finishing touches before heading to Pasadena, Calif., for a ride in the 2014 Rose Parade. The portrait was of Jonathan Peter, a Palm Coast resident who passed away in January 2013.

After losing his fight with lung

cancer, Peter's wife, Lyn, fulfilled his wish to become an organ donor; one of his corneas was transplanted

into a 53-year-old male recipient. Upon hearing the Peter family's story, Jonathan Peter was selected as one of 81 organ donors who were honored with florigraphs on the Donate Life Rose Parade Float last month.

Lyn Peter completed the portrait at Florida Hospital Flagler, carefully arranging the seeds that formed his eyebrows.

“Everything he did, he did

with his whole heart,” she said. “It was the biggest! He was so real and honest, so patient and kind. He was generous with his family and friends, and was a caring and loving son. He was the best, most wonderful husband, and my best friend. He was a good man, and he is greatly missed. To his recipient, may I urge they live each day to the fullest and try always to be kind.”

—BY LINDSAY REW



Record Number Graduate During Winter Commencement

More than 300 students received their diplomas from Southern Adventist University during winter commencement in Iles P.E. Center on December 18, 2013. The 200 undergraduate students and 113 graduate students combined to set a record total for this mid-year ceremony.

James L. Catanzaro, Ph.D., president of Chattanooga State Community College, provided the keynote address before a standing-room only crowd, and December graduate Eric Louw supplied the class response. Several other graduating students participated as well, delivering the invocation, welcome, special music, and benediction. Robert Gadd, Ph.D., professor in the School of Business and

chair of the University Senate, served as grand marshal. John S. Nixon Sr., D.Min., professor in the School of Religion, and Kendra Stanton-Lee, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, were senior class sponsors.

This was the fourth consecutive year winter graduation has set all-time highs for participation. The large number of graduates is due, in part, to the University's increasing diversity of master's level degrees and their course scheduling flexibility. Many graduate programs — especially those in nursing, social work, business, and education — require some form of practicum or summer work, and the winter ceremony allows those stu-



Katlyn Goodwin, foreground, is all smiles after graduating with her bachelor's degree in liberal arts education.

dents to march in December rather than waiting until the following May.

Southern currently enrolls more than 430 students in 17 graduate level programs, including the University's first doctoral degree,

and a new global community development curriculum. For more information, visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

—BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

Student Group Working to Convert Used Vegetable Oil into Fuel

Turning garbage into something useful is an accurate metaphor for the goal of a Christian's life. But, students at Southern are working on a project that takes this process more literally, converting used cooking oil into biodiesel for campus vehicles and equipment.

This ambitious and environmentally-friendly idea is the brainchild of Southern's Enactus team. Formerly called SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise), Enactus is an international community of student, academic, and business leaders that frames

all of its work in the context of three guiding principles: people, planet, and profit. The biodiesel idea hits all markers.

The Food Services Department pays a company to haul away used cooking oil each month. Enactus plans to collect the waste for free, and turn it into fuel using a relatively simple process.

After that, the group plans to sell it to the University for use in campus generators, tractors, and other vehicles. If all goes well, start-up costs for this

project, primarily from the processing equipment, will be paid for by biodiesel profit within two years.

Enactus has a solid plan and strong support from local experts, including David Gutashaw, the energy specialist at Volkswagen's Chattanooga plant. But, without an on-campus location to house the conversion equipment, it's difficult to move forward. Rick Griggs, sophomore chemistry major serving as project leader for this effort, is not deterred. "This project is still in its conceptual phase, but

so many doors have been opened that I really believe this is going to happen," Griggs said. "I feel like this project is being blessed!"

The student group plans to pass those blessings along to others. One by-product of biodiesel creation is glycerin, a key ingredient in soap. Enactus will donate the glycerin to a local nonprofit and train them to make designer soaps they can then sell to support their own ministries.

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON

Beaufort Church Has a New Home



RON QUICK

Members, leaders, friends, and family were on hand to cut the ribbon to officially open the new Beaufort Church in South Carolina's Lowcountry on Sabbath, December 14, 2013. Immediately following the ribbon-cutting, members and guests toured the former shopping center that is now their new

church home. Not even the hard down-pour could stop the long-anticipated festivities.

That evening, the members celebrated the opening of



RON QUICK

the church by inviting the community to a Christmas concert with recording artists Steve Darmody, Jennifer LaMountain, Angela Bryant-Brown, and Brazilian artist Rudy. To accommodate the large crowd, the event was held in the Beaufort Center for the Performing Arts.

Participating in the ribbon-cutting from the left are Angel Irizarry, head deacon; Rick Russell, Conference treasurer; Leslie Louis, Conference president; Chad Grundy, Conference undertreasurer, and two of his children; Jason Belyeu, Beaufort Church pastor; Ruby Murrell, one of the original founders of Beaufort Church; Sadie Jenkins, long-time member; and Isaiah Small, elder.

—BY RON QUICK

Arden Members Hold Annual Prison Ministries Day

The annual Prison Ministries Emphasis Day at Arden, N.C., Church was held October 26, 2013, with David Long, Southern Union prison ministries director, as the featured speaker. Long has a passion for sharing God with those behind bars. This was evident as he ministered to the men from the local Craggy Unit who came for a Friday evening service.

Angela, on pass from the Swannanoa Correctional Unit, joined the family of God through baptism.

An Arden Church volunteer, April, ministered at the jail several years ago.

Several former inmates attended the service. During afternoon testimonies, one former inmate shared his story of getting caught up in Internet porn and being arrested. He connected with the Lord in prison, and now praises



God for his new life.

In the Asheville, N.C., area there are 10 sponsors who can take inmates out on passes to attend church. They have a monthly Sunday morning chapel service in the women's unit, and also visit several other units weekly. The need is great: holding services, visiting, letter-writing, sending Bible lessons, and more. Contact a prison volunteer in your area to learn how you can get involved.

—BY JIM WETMORE

Little Creek Adventist Fellowship: Little No Longer

In a mere seven years, the handful of Raleigh Church members who believed there should be a church plant in Johnston County have realized their vision. The Little Creek Adventist Fellowship in the Clayton and Smithfield area of North Carolina officially gained church status on December 7, 2013. Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference executive secretary, was on hand to deliver the Sabbath message, and to organize the signing of the official document the members took part in.

The very first service of the Little Creek Adventist Fellowship took place at the Elizabeth United Methodist Church in September 2006. The group met at that location for the next few years. Then in



RON QUICK

2009, members elected to begin a multi-phase church building project. The initial phase would be built on land donated by church member John Massey.

In 2011, they broke ground for phase one of the building project. The church members volunteered their time and labor to raise the building, and

after a little over a year, the multi-purpose fellowship hall was completed and dedicated. Presently, architectural design for the second phase of the building project is underway.

When Lee Griffen,

elder, shared the history of the church, he was quick to mention that Little Creek Adventist Fellowship is a praying church, and “unless the Lord builds the House they labor in vain.” He also went on to explain that, “when a visitor visits the second time they would officially be called a ‘Little-Creeker.’”

Dan Jarrard previously pastored the group. Since he has returned to full-time revival ministries, Little Creek is in the very capable hands of the dedicated lay members. Richard Peterson, pastor of Raleigh, N.C., Church, coaches this new church plant.

—BY RON QUICK

CORRECTION:

The title *Hendersonville Church Holds “Mad About Marriage” Seminar* in the January 2014 *Southern Tidings* was incorrectly titled. It should have been *Fletcher Church Sponsors “Mad About Marriage” Seminar*. We apologize for the error.

Harrises Have a Love that Spans Seven Decades

In a day and age when couples reaching their 50th anniversary is considered rare, the chance to recognize a 70th is truly a time for celebration. On December 8, 2013, Dick and Liz Harris of Hendersonville, N.C., celebrated just that — their 70th wedding anniversary!



Dick and Liz Harris

They met while attending Washington Mission-

ary College during the end of the Depression and the height of the Second World War. Dick was studying for the ministry while Liz studied and taught music. They were married on December 22, 1943, when Dick was only 19 and Liz was 20.

Dick went on to pastor churches in Virginia and Michigan with Liz by his side. Each day they

set aside time to share morning and evening devotionals to keep God in the midst of their marriage.

Their commitment to God and their love for each other is unmistakable.

When asked what kept them happily married for seven decades, Dick didn't have to think long. “Both of us love the Lord,” he explained. “The more you both love God, the closer you tend to stay together.”

—BY ANDREWS KERBS

Nativity Scene is Gift to Community

For two weekends each December, members of Columbia City Company in Lake City, Fla., present a live, drive-through Nativity scene, with emphasis placed on recapturing what transpired 2,000 years ago.



STAN GETLINGER

Junior Thomas (right), playing the part of the innkeeper, informs Joseph, portrayed by Anthony Walcott, there are no more rooms. See more photos at columbiacitysda.com/gallery.php.

The special effects, lighting, and Middle Eastern costumes worn by each participant add

a sense of realism to the event. Live animals are an added attraction to enhance

the program.

Members are trained to re-enact the scenes of the Nativity story, from shepherds tending their flocks in the fields at night to Mary and Joseph with the Holy Child in the Bethlehem manger. Visitors are then reminded of the imminent return of Christ as they exit the Nativity scene.

Each guest is given a gift bag containing two pieces of religious literature, a letter from the pastor with a standing invitation to visit the church, and a small,

inexpensive practical gift.

The event, advertised as Visiting the Holy Land Without Leaving the Homeland, creates a feeling of adventure and excitement. Families are encouraged to come with their children. Enthralled by what they see, hear, and feel, families often drive through several times.

Columbia City Company is still a fledgling group with a small membership; however, when the call is made each year for the congregation to embark on the Nativity scene evangelistic venture, the response is overwhelmingly positive.

—BY GEORGE WORRELL

Lay Advisory Committee Supports Conference

The Florida Conference Lay Advisory Committee's quarterly forums are held to discuss ways for churches to reach evangelism goals, foster church growth, consider recommendations from the laity, and strengthen the relationship between laity, pastors, and the Conference. The committee is composed of a chairperson, secretary, and two representatives from each of the seven regions of the Conference.

In the 30-plus years since its inception, the Lay Advisory Committee has brought numerous policies and programs to the Florida Conference Executive Committee's attention. Adopted suggestions have included the following:

- Pre-session meetings in each region in advance of Constituency meetings.
- Promotion of training and utilization of lay pastoral associates in churches.
- Regular evaluation of all Conference employees.
- Recommendation that a higher representation of lay persons serve on the Executive Committee.

The Lay Advisory's function is to keep churches informed of various Conference programs and projects, while soliciting the help of congregations as needed.

"If we are to continue to keep our unity, just as



MARTIN BUTLER

Florida Conference's Lay Advisory Committee members include Joe Grasso (top row from left), Eugene Torres, and Santiago Cuellar; Thompson Paris (middle row), Pat Holness, Jimmy Mitchell, and Michael Sutherland; and Adriel Bermudez (bottom row), Eric Cantillo, and Josie Oates.

the disciples did in the early church, we must continue to listen to ideas, concepts, and troubles

which our brothers and sisters share; pray that God directs us in providing help with those situations which we can address; and pray for God to intervene and help in those situations which we can do nothing but ask for His

help," says Eric Cantillo, state Lay Advisory Committee chairperson.

—BY ERIC CANTILLO

Church Shares Blessing of Christmas with Children

On a December Sunday, Solid Rock Church, Orlando, Fla. (formerly Pine Hills Church), held a Christmas party for their children and community friends.

Sponsored by the Children's Ministries Department, the party's objective was to bring joy into the children's lives as they experienced the love Jesus has for them. The decorated fellowship hall reflected the season as Romanus Leonce shared the story of Jesus' birth interspersed with Christmas carols presented by the children.



LLOYD BROWN

Children listened as Solid Rock Church member Romanus Leonce read the story of Jesus' birth.

Prior to the event, members were asked to select a child's name, purchase a gift, and bring the

gift to the celebration. As the children's names were called to a round of applause, the expressions on

their faces and shouts of joy showed how delighted they were to receive a gift.

—BY ADELLE BROWN

North Port Members Give Away Gas Cards

North Port, Fla., Church members take their mission seriously to reach out in the community. This past October, the congregation

hosted its second Gas Card Giveaway and presented \$25 gas cards, along with goodie bags and refreshments, to the first 60 people

who registered.

Recipients were initially skeptical, then pleasantly surprised to find there were no strings attached.

Many asked, "You mean I don't have to do anything?" Members responded, "We, as a church, want to show God's love in a more practical way."

The Gas Card Giveaway program began after John Mills, pastor, challenged the members to be creative in reaching out to the community. Carol Stephenson was among the first who was inspired to take on the challenge, followed by several other members.

Demographic information was gathered during the second event which will help the church members express God's love in a more practical way through targeted programming and missional outreach.

—BY ANN-MARIE JACKSON
AND GLEACIA
PHILLIPS-WILSON



AILEYAH DAWES

In an effort to show God's love in tangible and practical ways, North Port Church members reached out to its community by presenting \$25 gas cards to the first 60 people who registered.

GCA Celebrates Milestone with Dogwood Day

Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) opened its doors to students in the fall of 1965. As we

memorated at GCA.

In 1962, ground was broken for the new school. Spirits were high, and the

than 250 volunteers came to the site of the future school from across the Conference to plant 200 dogwood trees, beautifying the entrance road.

A year later, the famous Penny Campaign was launched, and children from Georgia and Tennessee collected pennies to raise money for the music building. Together, the young people collected 3.4 million pennies and brought them to the campus on March 15, 1964. It was a high day of celebration, with 3,000 guests gath-

ering on campus to hear music by the Calhoun High School band, listen to the governor of Georgia speak, and watch the tons of pennies be unloaded into a special bin constructed for

holding the pennies that day.

Recently, the Academy held a celebration to commemorate the Dogwood Day planting event, with Conference officials, alumni, and guests participating in the planting of a pink dogwood tree on campus. A special chapel service was held, and Greg Gerard, principal, shared a brief history lesson on the work of the Church in this place since 1914, as well as the story of how GCA came to be. Students, staff, and guests then exited the chapel to witness the planting of a dogwood tree between the chapel and GCA Church.

God continues to pour out His blessing on this school, and hearts are filled with gratitude as they reflect on the history of Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

—BY NANCY GERARD



NANCY GERARD

GCA student representative Caleb McKinney and the Conference president, Ed Wright, lower the Dogwood tree into the ground for planting on the campus. This tree commemorates the December 16, 1962, Dogwood Day Planting where 250 volunteers came to GCA to plant 200 dogwood trees.

look forward to our 50th anniversary celebration, there will be milestones to celebrate along the way. One of these early events in the establishment of the school was recently com-

Conference was united in sacrificial giving to make possible this new boarding academy. In December of that year, with a nearly completed administration building standing, more

Amarieis Celebrate 50 Years Together

Ioan and Lenza Amariei celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Romanian Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., on November 30, 2013. They met in the spring of 1962, while attending a Seventh-day Adventist church in Piatra Neamt, Romania, and got married November 27, 1963.

Leaving Romania

behind in the early 1980s, they took a long journey through Western Europe, and in 1986 their dream became a reality when they reach American land.

After spending a few years at Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga, Tenn., they relocated to Georgia. With a few other Romanian families, they initiated and founded the ex-



Ioan and Lenza Amariei

isting Romanian Church in Lawrenceville.

They are both retired and happy together. They are also active members of the Lawrenceville Church.

Augusta Adventist School Wins Float Award

“Christ: Into all of the World,” a parade float sponsored by the Augusta Seventh-day Adventist School in Augusta, Ga., won second place in the religious division of the Columbia County, Georgia, Christmas Parade.



REBEKAH HELBLEY

Students from the Adventist school in Augusta, Ga., were excited to represent Jesus and their country of origin at the Columbia County Christmas parade this past holiday season. They even received a second place award.

Students, hailing from various ancestral backgrounds, dressed according to their culture of origin. Countries represented included Germany, Scotland, West Indies, Canada, England, South Korea, France, Romania, Mexico, Spain, and Saudi Arabia.

With the float body recently refurbished by Olin Metts and Clint Helbley, the teachers and students eagerly transformed it.

A large six-foot-high globe sat center stage, surrounded by flags of the world and happily waving students. This was followed at the other end of the float by a stable/manger scene topped by a large cross.

The float was pulled by Manny Hernandez in his Ford truck, which aptly was colored green to match the Christ-

mas theme.

This Christmas parade reaches many throughout the community as it is also broadcast on NBC Channel 12 – WRDW. One student, Elijah Woods, even presented the on-air broadcaster with a candy cane. Students took turns passing out small gifts to many children and adults lined on the mile-and-a-half route.

Students and parents once again enjoyed this joyous yearly tradition, as the school participates with the community in celebrating the birth of Christ.

—BY REBEKAH HELBLEY

Greenhaven Mission Group Holds Bridge Banquet

For the past four years, Greenhaven Mission Group in Seal, Ala., has been eagerly looking forward to the first Sunday in November. That’s the annual date of Banquet on the Bridge (BOB).

BOB was the brain-storm of a handful of college students from several area churches in Columbus, Ga. The idea sprung from Luke 14:12-14, where, when you throw a banquet, don’t invite your rich friends, but invite the poor and needy who cannot do the favor in return. Give for the joy of giving. Serve for the joy of serving. Also, it was designed as a unity meal where anyone, from any faith or no faith, could come and sit down and enjoy a meal with others.

It has been held on a bridge between Columbus and Phenix City, Ala., where the bridge is shut down for the day for the community event. Long tables loaded with free food and rows of tables cross the bridge where close to

1,000 people came to enjoy the meal.

Greenhaven, during the years, has passed out hats, gloves, socks, books, and hot drinks. They bring two fire pits where people enjoy roasting marshmallows for s’mores. They also sing

songs with Doug Shears on the guitar, and Thomas Mellette on the windpipe. Often people stop and join in the singing. It is a community event where people can serve the needy and meet a lot of people.

The group have T-shirts

made for the event with the church’s name and website. The local media cover the event, and for 2013 Greenhaven was mentioned in the newspaper. They are already looking forward to this year, and the joy to serve others.

—BY SHERYL SHEARS



SHERYL SHEARS

The Banquet on the Bridge brings the community together to help others in Columbus, Ga. Greenhaven Mission Group looks forward to this annual event.

Pathfinders Win Against Church Elders in Bible Bowl Match

When several Pathfinders faced off against Pensacola, Fla., University Parkway Church elders in a Bible Bowl competition on December 7, 2013, their diligence and ambitious spirit was on full display as they won the contest by answering more questions correctly than the elders. Many of the questions, taken from II Samuel, were related to lesser known passages, making it a particularly challenging match.

This is the first year the church's Pathfinder club, Pensacola Gators, has put together a team to compete in the Bible Bowl, officially called the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). Erika Peterson offered to coach interested Pathfinders. "The kids have been very enthusiastic and eager to

study and learn," she said. "We are looking forward to our Conference level competition in February."

The North American Division coordinates the PBE and chooses the Bible chapter or chapters for study each year. This year it is II Samuel and the *Adventist Bible Commentary*

"Introduction to I and II Samuel." Pathfinder teams are then tested regionally, Conference-wide, at a Union level, and finally, nationally. They must score 90 percent at each level in order to advance to the next level.

Peterson first became



The church elders and pastor, Jeff Crain (second from right), concur on an answer during the Pathfinder Bible Bowl.

aware of the Bible Bowl from her cousin, who lives in a different conference. She explained, "I really admire the things her children have learned through the experience. I wanted to give my children and the youth in our church the opportunity to spend

dedicated time in guided Bible study also."

After the regular round of competition, Albert Abbey, elder, partly redeemed the church elders' standing by winning a lightning Bible verse look-up round against Pathfinder Justin Shupe. Jeff Crain, University Parkway Church

pastor, who participated on the losing team, noted that the Pathfinders did excellent as a team and really knew God's Word. Crain concluded, "All in all, it was fun."

—BY GLENDA HAAS

Auburn/Opelika Youth Deliver Hot Meals on a Cold Thanksgiving Day

The smiles of Pathfinders, Adventurers, and their families from the Auburn/Opelika, Ala., Church warmed the hearts of the residents of the King Mobile Home Park as the youth arrived to serve them a hot Thanksgiving meal. Under the leadership of church member Cathy Murray, more than 100 hot meals had already been made.



With the help of Al Murray and his truck, Pathfinders Ben and Indy delivered a hot meal and a copy of The Great Hope to the elderly residents.

The group arrived at noon on Thanksgiving Day, set up a canopy with tables, and began serving. Many gathered to pick up their meal, drink, and a copy of *The Great Hope* in either English or Spanish. Because of the cold weather, it was difficult for some of the elderly to come out, so Al Murray drove his truck around the park with

two youth who knocked on doors and delivered the meals.

One of those who helped explained, "Jesus told Peter, 'If you love me feed my sheep.' To reach the people in our neighborhoods, we must reach out to our neighbors and feed His sheep."

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA

Agnes Long Leaves Legacy of Caring About Young People

Agnes Long, 91, a long-time member of Montgomery, Ala., First Church, died November 18, 2013. She left a legacy of giving and caring for others, especially youth. Long and her husband, Clarence, who passed away two months earlier, were remembered for filling their home with young people. They lived on Clarence's family farm near Burkville, Ala., and during their early married years they invited the teens to come every Saturday night for worship by lantern light, followed by games and food.



Long taught children's Sabbath School to several generations of children. In the early '60s, she directed the Montgomery First Pathfinder Club. She then decided they needed

a pre-Pathfinder Club for children in grades 1-4. She designed a program and started what she called a pre-Pather Club. It was so successful that she was contacted by the North American Division, and they asked for her permission for them to use her pre-Pather program as a blueprint to create a new program for the younger youth of the Church. In 1972, the Adventurer Club officially began. She also worked in the community as a leader of Brownies and Girl Scouts of America.

The Longs' three chil-

dren are James, born in 1948; Gerry, born in 1953; and Kathy, born in 1958. In between those years, they cared for more than 20 foster children and troubled children from the church. Long did not quit teaching her children's Sabbath class until May of 2013, when her failing health caused her to resign her position. She is no longer with the children she cared for so much, but she will be remembered by them and countless others whose lives she touched.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Dothan Teens Learn to Share the Gospel with GLOW Tracts

On Sabbath afternoons, Carmen Trawick, teen Sabbath School teacher of Dothan, Ala., Church takes her class of teens into nearby neighborhoods to pass out water bottles and GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts. The teens never know what the reactions of the people will be when they knock on their door. One teen explains, "Most people thank me for the literature, but politely decline my offer to pray with them."

However, some reactions are very positive. After waiting a long time at one house, Ethan Lee and Eran Bates thought no one was home, so they left the

water bottle and GLOW tract on the porch. As they walked away they heard a sound and turned to see an elderly man come to the door. He said, "I have had two strokes and a heart attack, and I move slow." He was very happy for their visit and took the tract. The man received a blessing, and so did Ethan and Eran.

Teen Noah Lee says, "Because of the tracts we have been able to pray with people about their jobs, their health, and the health of their families. I believe part of being a Christian is bringing others to Christ. GLOW tracts



Dothan, Ala., youth Sabbath School class learns to witness by sharing GLOW tracts.

are one way to do that. They are helping me to

learn to spread God's love."
—BY NOAH LEE

Parsons Church Members Hold First Bible Bowl

Parsons, Tenn., Church members held their first Bible Bowl on Sabbath, December 14, 2013. Twelve children participated in the activity, covering chapters one through seven in the book of Matthew. The children studied diligently, and the



Bible Bowl participants

Bible Bowl was a great success. Certificates and awards were given. Many others attended the event to encourage the young people. It was a wonderful Sabbath afternoon together.

—BY LESLIE CAZA

Decherd Members Share Simple Baskets, Simple Message

As Decherd, Tenn., Church's potluck luncheon wrapped up, it was time to create and assemble another meal.

Potatoes, green beans, gravy mix, apples, corn-bread and cookie packets, oranges, and other food items needed to be arranged into simple baskets for the community. A marketing postcard showing the church on the front, and an invitation to Sabbath services and a Wednesday night ladies' Bible Study was conspicuously tucked into the front of each package.

Once the baskets were finished with a red ribbon tie, it was off into the surrounding streets,



With a colorful and flavorful array of contents, the baskets await their final gift wrapping.

knocking on doors, doing introductions, and leaving a blessing for the surprised neighbors.

"The annual event is a

reminder that the church is in the community for a greater purpose than to just serve as a meeting place

for members of the congregation," explains Nelson Mercado, pastor. "One of the recipients spent considerable time telling us about

health problems facing her family and asked us to pray for them. Another neighbor called the church the following week regarding a crisis he was facing."

The baskets are part of the church's strategic plan to love the community in practical ways throughout the year. Church members had previously responded to a County Health Department plea for packages of diapers and wipes that were donated to needy parents.

"One of the strengths of a small church is its ability to respond quickly to emerging needs," explains Kathy Prall, elder and community services coordinator. Decherd members are always looking for new opportunities to show God's love in a practical way.

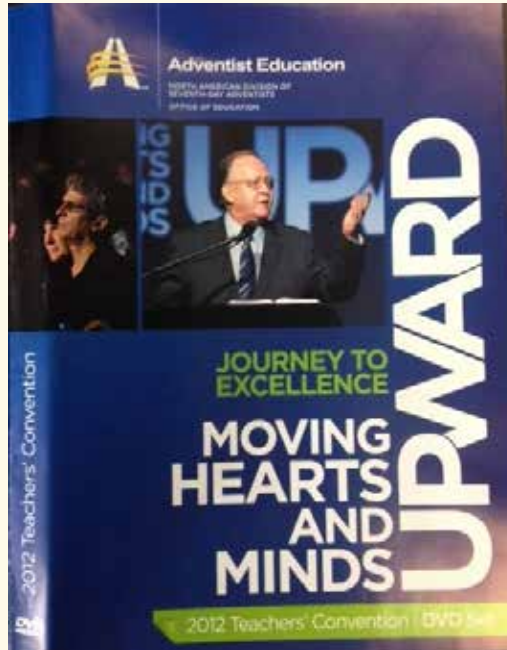
—BY JAY PRALL

Kenneth E. McHenry - 1943-2013

Ken McHenry passed away at the age of 70 on September 30, 2013. McHenry was the grade 5-8 teacher at Bill Egly Seventh-day Adventist School in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. He always gave his all in everything that he embarked upon. Whether it was studying history, teaching math, or turning psalms into songs for his students, he went at it with the energy of a teacher half his years. He especially loved being a teacher, and soaked up any creative ideas for the classroom. At every teachers' meeting or in-service, McHenry and his wife, Jeanette, could be found on the front row. The DVD cover of the recent North American Division (NAD) Teacher's Convention portrays NAD President Dan Jackson on it

along with Ken and Jeanette McHenry on the front row.

In the early 1980s, the United States Navy adopted the slogan, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure." At the same time that this slogan was being broadcast in commercials, Kenneth McHenry was returning to school to become an Adventist school teacher. The former United States Marine always looked at his teaching career as an



adventure.

McHenry was a history buff. He had relatives that had fought in nearly every war dating back to the French and Indian Wars. He brought this love of

history into the classroom. After serving three years in the Marine Corps, he spent time as a factory worker and a literature evangelist before realizing his calling as a teacher. He taught in several conferences, including Kentucky-Tennessee, Indiana, and Illinois. Even after 25 years of teaching, he still loved the classroom. He was innovative and passionate — a front-row type of teacher.

He will be greatly missed by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, as well as by his wife, Jeanette, and his children and stepchildren: Rob, Catharine, Bill, Kelly, Bevin, Casey, Corey, and Rhyann.

—BY CHRIS JUHL

Pastor Authors Discipleship Master Plan

The *Discipleship Master Plan* was presented to Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, during the Conference Executive Committee on December 10, 2013. Melvin Santos, pastor of Nashville First Church, authored the textbook which is a step by step guide and strategy for creating disciple-making pastors and churches.

Part of the vision



Melvin Santos (left), pastor of Nashville First Church, with Steve Haley, president of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

established by the Kentucky-Tennessee Evangelism Advisory team is to be able to train 60 to 70 percent of the pastors and churches in the Conference within the next two to three years in discipleship. "Jesus' Great Commission is to go and make disciples of all nations..." states Santos. "We need to focus on making more disciples and disciplers for Jesus than just members!"

Santos is also the

North American Division ministerial field liaison for discipleship and Asian Pacific pastors. He currently trains pastors on discipleship in several conferences.

—BY DENISE POPE

Ephesus Church Members Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The crunch of snow and crackle of ice reverberated through the quietness that frosty Sabbath morning as a shivering band of Adventists marched and slogged from their old church at the corner of Third Street and Dunlieth Avenue to their new church home at 1225 N. Cleve-

land Avenue in Winston-Salem, N.C. As they wound their way through the east side neighborhoods, a larger crowd assembled outside the new home of the Ephesus Church. On that December day in 1988, the congregation packed into the nearly-finished sanctuary to inaugurate their new home and to rejoice that the vision of Joseph L. Follette Sr., then pastor, had been realized.

On December 14, 2013, members old and new joined to commemorate the silver anniversary of that arrival on N. Cleveland Avenue. Among those celebrating was Follette, who during the early 1980s had mentored a young Godwin R. Mitchell Jr., assistant pastor in his district. Mitchell, now senior pastor of Ephesus, was responsible for the work at High Point's Baldwin's Chapel and the new Lexington congregation.



Godwin Mitchell Jr., senior pastor of Ephesus Church, and J. L. Follette, retired former pastor and builder of Cleveland Avenue Church, reunite after nearly 30 years apart.

At the anniversary service, the two pastors reunited as historical bookends to the story of Ephesus on Cleveland Avenue — Follette, a visionary who conceived the ambitious move to build, and Mitchell, now a sea-



Irene Chiles and Shawn Spurgeon, Ph.D., take guests on a hilarious tour of the little known facts of Ephesus' history.

soned motivator, who marshaled the church's talent and resources to refurbish and beautify the church



Joyce Hairston welcomes attendees to the 25th Anniversary Gala.

while intensifying the focus on outreach. Though the Sabbath's spotlight fell on these two men, the members publicly acknowledged the important contributions of the five men who pastored between their terms: Kenneth Moore, Lloyd Johnson, David Jones,

one service could not cover all of the rejoicing. So, the celebration spanned three events.

The three-part commemoration included the Sabbath celebration on December 14, featuring William Winston, president of South Atlantic, as the speaker; the 25th Anniversary Gala on December 15; and on New Year's Eve, the Year End Service. "Growth, Gratitude & Praise" served as the theme for the events and a reminder of the key goals for the future. Joyce Hairston, elder and chair of the 25th anniversary committee, stated, "With this three-phase event, we were praising God for where He's brought us. We're grateful to Him for allowing us to witness this time in our church's history, because we've come this far by faith." Other committee members included Ed Brown, Tarsha Damon, Ada Lyles, Godwin Mitchell, Joann Spurgeon, Horace

Wilson, Robert Wilson, and Don Wood.

The night of December 15 sparkled with sequins, bowties, and spectacular music as 112 members and friends rejoiced in the Albert H. Anderson Center Ballroom at Winston-Salem State University. Gala MCs Irene

Chiles and Shawn Spurgeon, Ph.D., guided attendees on a lighthearted journey through the action-packed saga of the last 25 years at Ephesus. Powerful music and testimonies presented by the Ayivors, The Twins, Valerie Taylor-Best, Lesly Rodriguez, and the Wray

Sisters led several to remark that it was a spiritually uplifting, refreshing evening and night to remember. But, it didn't end there!

Wednesday, December 31, iced the cake by providing a great opportunity for members new and old to share the blessings and trials

that unite the church, and look with hope to a future of service and preparation for Jesus' return. Photos of the Gala weekend events can be found at Facebook.com/ephesusadventist and at www.ephesusadventist.org.

—BY DON WOOD

Lives Rededicated After Tragedy

“Lord, save my children,” is the prayer of every Christian mother. It was the prayer of Rachel Brown of St. Mary, Jamaica, to see all of her children saved in God's Kingdom. She was a praying mother who continually petitioned the Lord. And, she encouraged her children to know and love the Lord. She did not know how much her children and family would need those prayers.

On April 7, 2011, Joan Brown Llewellyn (Rachel's fifth daughter) was in her mother's home when her estranged husband shot her in the neck, and continued gunning down her brother, Fitzroy; her father, Valdre; her mother, Rachel; and her 17-year-old daughter, Jorgjhan, before turning the gun on himself.

Llewellyn's sister, Evelyn McFarlane, a nurse at Northside Hospital in Atlan-



Joan Brown Llewellyn

ta, Ga., immediately went to Jamaica, and with much difficulty had Llewellyn flown to Northside Hospital. God spared her, but she is paralyzed from her shoulders down. Through much hard work and dedication, she is slowly improving, and is now able to move her wheelchair and raise her arms.

Llewellyn decided to rededicate her heart to the Lord by getting baptized. Olin McGraw, head elder at Mountainside Church in Decatur, Ga., was selected to give her Bible studies.

When he arrived at the house, greetings were exchanged and the question asked, “Are we ready to begin?” The answer was, “No, we need to get sister on the line.” They set up a laptop and skyped her sister who presently lives in Haacht, Belgium. When she found out that Llewellyn was going to receive Bible

studies, she wanted to be included.

Over the course of several weeks, Llewellyn and her sister, Joy Townsend, with the support of McFarlane, received Bible studies. The Bible studies were emailed to Townsend so that she could follow along. At the end of each study, she was praising God for the message and the clarity of the information.

When the lesson on baptism was presented, Townsend and Llewellyn

affirmed their decision to be baptized. Plans and sacrifices were made for Townsend to come to the United States to be baptized with Llewellyn. On August 4, 2012, with great coordination, care, and preparation, the members of Mountainside, along with the women's brother, Paul Brown, witnessed Townsend and Llewellyn (in her wheelchair) get baptized. Today, Llewellyn is a member of Mountainside Church and sings in the choir. Townsend has returned to Belgium, but worships online as there is no church in the area where she lives.

Despite the tragedy that Llewellyn encountered, she has a strong abiding faith and trust in God. She has traveled to other churches singing and giving her testimony. She declares that one day she will walk again, and go back to Jamaica to give Bible studies to the rest of her family. The prayers and desires of her mother, Rachel Brown, continue through her children.

—BY ROSEMARY GRAHAM

Conferences Honor GOspel Heroes

Hundreds from around Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences assembled at Springfield Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga., on December 7, 2013, for the biennial Festival of Praise Concert and Ministries Showcase.

The program featured musical guests from churches and academies from both conferences. "This was an unforgettable concert," said Racquel Brown. "The talents of those that were showcased truly filled my heart with gladness; we should have events like this more often." The program was eagerly anticipated by both conferences, and by those who attended the first Festival of Praise in 2011. "We are encouraged by the attendance, unity, and corporation from both conferences," said Calvin Watkins, ministerial director of South Atlantic Conference.

The ministries showcase recognized GOspel Heroes for their outstanding work and fervor to spread the Word of the Lord in their com-



Georgia United Korean Church Choir

TERRENCE BOWEN

munities. "A GOspel hero is anyone who unapologetically embraces the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:16, 17)," said Neil Reid, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ministerial director for the central region. "They've moved out of their personal comfort space and become tangibly engaged in serving the community through a church-sponsored or individually-initiated ministry with one goal in mind, to transform the lives of people for time and eternity."

The GOspel Heroes recognized were Kelly Czaykowski, Sharon McIntosh, Richard Henderson, and Gloria Webster of Burmese Ministry/F.R.E.E. (Friends of Refugees

Providing Education & Empowerment), a ministry that provides social, emotional, educational, and spiritual support to the Burmese

community in Clarkston, Ga.; Debbie Wallace of Hip Care (Health Institute For Preventive Care, Access,

Research, & Education), a ministry that offers job skills training, refugee assistance, counseling, and health care to the underserved in the greater Atlanta area; Charles and Veronica Dillard of Jharell R. Dillard Anaphylaxis Awareness Foundation, a ministry dedicated to increasing awareness, understanding, and safety regarding food allergies and anaphylaxis through education, support,

and advocacy within families and communities; Dillon Sinyard of One Day Church Project, a ministry dedicated to raising funds in support of the mission of Maranatha Volunteers to construct buildings in one day for churches overseas; Ammy Nunez of UJAM (Union De Jovenes Adventistas Del Area Metropolitana), a ministry that leads Hispanic youth from churches in Atlanta to

distribute food and clothes to those in need; and Calvin B. Preston and Victor Bartley of the WE Center (West End Family Life & Community Center), a ministry dedicated to providing educational, social, spiritual, and recreational programs and services to enhance the quality of life for at-risk youth and adults of the West End and surrounding communities of Atlanta.

To culminate an evening of praising, worshipping, and honoring was a word from guest speaker Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Md. In his message he reminded all of



GOspel Heroes are awarded with plaques.

TERRENCE BOWEN

the true mission of God's people to, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 24:19.

"We have much more in store for 2015. Plans are already underway for the next one, and it's sure to be more inspirational, more evangelistic, and more compact. We look forward to seeing everyone there," said Watkins.

—BY WHITNEY K. JORDAN



Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

TERRENCE BOWEN

Oakwood's "Miracle on 42nd Street" ... NYC's Times Square Marquee Featured Oakwood University



If they timed their Thanksgiving/Black Friday/Christmas/New Year's Eve activities in New York City's Times Square precisely, an estimated 986,000 daily visitors saw 10 seconds of Oakwood University's, Huntsville, Ala., new marketing awareness campaign flash up each hour on the marquee beneath the famed CBS-TV Eye.

It began on November 6, 2013, and ran until January 4, 2014. Oakwood could change its Times Square marquee messages every two weeks.

"Neutron Media, a full-service marketing firm that operates such high-profile

outdoor multimedia venues as the Times Square marquee beneath the CBS Eye, had a cancellation and approached us here at Oakwood University, primarily due to our social media victory with The Home Depot 'Retool your School' campaign," explained Denica King, Oakwood assistant marketing director.

At the same time, however, Oakwood University has been working to expand its awareness to its non-traditional audiences. "So, for Oakwood and Neutron Media, this created a win-win situation."

Within its hourly 10 seconds of advertising —

totaling four minutes each 24-hour day — Oakwood shared with Time Square viewers its recent endorsements, such as 1) "Best Schools" — *U.S. News and World Report*, 2014; and 2) "Julliard of the South" — WAAY-TV (ABC).

In its inaugural two-week ad cycle, Oakwood included the testimonial "A Life-changing Experience," by Rear Admiral Barry Black (ret.) (class of 1970). Black is the U.S. Senate's first-ever Seventh-day Adventist and African American chaplain, who gained international attention for his searing and provocative invocations that opened

each Senate session, during its 16-day federal government shutdown in October. His bowtie-wearing, non-partisan baritone eloquence was later parodied on television's "Saturday Night Live."

Noting that this Times Square marquee marks possibly a first-time appearance for a Seventh-day Adventist, historically Black college or university or Huntsville institution to have been so prominently displayed in this venue, King concluded that, "Oakwood will continue to explore unique opportunities to promote its brand."

—BY TIM ALLSTON

Oakwood Leadership Team Visits Valley View University

A team from Oakwood University's Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center (BCBLC) recently returned from Ghana's Valley View University, where they responded to a request to assist in the establishment of the first denominationally-sponsored leadership center in Africa.

Harold Lee, D.Min., Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., and Keith Augustus Burton, Ph.D., met with representatives from the University administration and Southern Union office, and discussed how the leadership programs at Oakwood could inform the development of Valley View University's proposed Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training (CELT).



It was unanimously agreed that the Valley View University (VUU) and Oakwood University (OU) will continue to collaborate on applying effective strategies for leadership development. Pictured clockwise: Daniel Buor, Ph.D., VUU vice chancellor; Keith Augustus Burton, Ph.D., CAMROU; Harold Lee, D.Min., OU BCBLC; Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., OU vice president; Joe Hagan, VUU public relations; and Isaac Owusu-Dwanka, Ph.D., VUU School of Business.

Pollard's explanation of the Leadership Academy concept was enthusiastically embraced, and there was vibrant discussion after Lee's presentation on how

a well-developed program could address the "leadership crisis" in the Church. The discussions also included suggestions on how current global initiatives of

Oakwood's Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations (CAMROU) could strengthen the entrepreneurship emphasis in CELT.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Valley View administration had committed to commence operations as early as spring 2014, after receiving the necessary approvals.

When fully implemented, CELT will incorporate undergraduate and graduate degree programs; ongoing professional development for university employees on all levels; and continuing education certifications for pastors, local church leaders, and business people.

—BY KEITH AUGUSTUS BURTON, PH.D.

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MIDDLETOWN CHURCH 25th ANNIVERSARY – Feb. 15. Middletown Church, Louisville, KY. Details: www.friendlychurch.com or call 502-244-6997.

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING – Feb. 21, 22. Camp Sawyer, Big Pine Key (Mile Marker 34). Speaker: Ron Halvorsen, Southern Union retired evangelist. Great music and Children's Program. Bring food for a Sabbath picnic. Details: 305-743-5268.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING – April 3-6. Honor classes: 1944, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, 1994, and '04. Special tribute to veterans and MCC. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

EASTER CONCERT – April 17. The Dalton, GA, Church will be sponsoring an Easter concert with Michael Card at 7 p.m.,

at the NW Georgia Trade and Convention Center. The concert will be preceded at 6 p.m. with a lecture by Dr. Michael Hasel entitled, "Jesus in History and Archeology." When they become available, all ticketing will be done through the Trade Center box office or online.

OAKWOOD ADVENTIST ACADEMY CLASS OF 1974 40TH REUNION – April 18-20. Huntsville, AL. Several activities are planned for Alumni Weekend. Please join us! Details: ocaclass1974@gmail.com or call 678-637-6034. You may also visit the website: <http://oca-classof1974.yolasite.com/>.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND – April 25, 26. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars, call your classmates, and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1944, '54, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, and '04. North Aurora SDA Church, North

Aurora, IL. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, and Church. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses; postage is too expensive. Send emails to: Ed Gutierrez edjulie1@att.net; or call: 630-232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

RAMAH SDA JUNIOR ACADEMY REUNION (formerly Ramah Parochial School) Celebrating 100 years of Christian Education – April 30-May 4. Savannah, GA. Students (present/former), teachers, principals, pastors, and staff are invited to the celebration. Join us on Facebook for updates and news regarding the reunion: [facebook.com/ramahacademyalumniassociation](https://www.facebook.com/ramahacademyalumniassociation); email: ramah100years@hotmail.com.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND – May 2, 3. Honor classes: 1954, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, and '04.

Friday evening reception, LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni services; afternoon potluck; campus tours; and class reunions. Details: 951 351-1445 x 244; JNelson@lsak12.com; LSA web site: www.lsak12.com.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION – June 6-8. Alumni and schoolmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1934, '44, '54, '64. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net/>.



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PRO HEALTH is looking for a female licensed **Massage Therapist/Physical Therapist** at the Hulsey Wellness Center at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN and in Calhoun, GA. Working in an excellent environment, flexible schedule, and a good salary. Please call Diego at 706-844-2142. [2-6]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a **law student** for a 6 to 8-week summer clerkship in 2014. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send resume and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org! [2, 3]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Human Resources Department seeks full-time **director** to provide direction to HR Department's activities for over 500 full and part-time employees and student employment. Bachelor's degree and 5 years of personnel administration experience, preferably within the denomination, is required. The successful candidate must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Resumes accepted until February 14, 2014. Send resumes to Thomas Verrill, Vice President for Financial Administration, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [2]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY seeks dynamic professional for position of **general manager** of 90.1 FM WJOU **radio station**. For more information and to apply, visit: <http://www.oakwood.edu/campus-services/human-resources>. [2]

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY (Riverside, California, USA) is seeking candidates for the position of **Dean of the H. M. S. Richards Divinity School** to continue advancing its growth and vision of service to church, academy, and world. A qualified candidate will hold an earned doctorate in a relevant discipline, be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination active in church life, and provide evidence of effectiveness as a pastor, teacher, and administrator. Applicants can apply online at: <https://lasieraccareers.silkroad.com/lasierraext/EmploymentListings.html>. [2]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Kinesiology Department seeks full-time **physical education professor** beginning July 1, 2014. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred, must have college teaching experience. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources, www.swau.edu. For further information, contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen, 817-202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu. [2, 3]

BLACK HILLS HEALTH & EDUCATION CENTER is adding a new program in drug & alcohol recovery, and is seeking to fill new positions and expand our existing wellness program with missionary-minded professionals: **MD, PA or NP** (with interest in preventive medicine), **nurse, vegan chef, food service, housekeeping, massage therapists, LCSW**. Applicants must be licensed professionals and able to come for an interview as part of the hiring process. Email resume: stan@bhhec.org. [2, 3]

LOOKING FOR RETIRED COUPLE to help look in on my mother while we are away 6 months, beginning April 2014. A private, wooded RV space available, at no charge. Full hookup, 50 amp service on property 3 miles from Helen, GA. Cleveland SDA Church 5 miles away. For more info, call 423-902-2216. [2]

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

INFECTON PROTECTION: Vitamin D-almost sunshine-vegan. Take daily during winter for your immune system. February sale: only \$7.95/bottle. And take Bon Herbals Immune Ammunition when you get sick or feel at risk of infection. Give your immune system the ammunition it needs. \$23.00/bottle. www.bonherbals.com. 423-238-7467. [2]

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.



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com. Hymns on videos – 12 DVDs – *Creation Sings*, with words and beautiful nature photos & videos. Call 800-354-9667. [2-6]

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. [2-5]

LIVE STREAM your church services with www.3AngelsLive.com. Visit our page today for pricing and information. [2, 3]

REVELATION SEMINAR LOVERS, you absolutely need *The Truth About 666 and the Story of the Great Apostasy* by Historicist Edwin de Kock (\$45, shipping included). Also his other books. Eminent scholars praise his research and lovely style. To order, contact your local ABC, email edwdekok@hotmail.com, or write to 12916 Los Terrazos Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78541. More details at www.propheticum.com. [2, 3]

MISCELLANEOUS

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. ©

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist. [2]

S.I.M.P.L.E. LIVING SEMINAR: A Bible-based approach to healthy living. Prevention and recovery of lifestyle disease, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis, stress, depression, alcohol and tobacco. 12-day live-in program: \$840. Butler Creek Health Education Center. www.butlercreek.us. For more information contact Darlene Keith: Ph. 931-724-6706, email: darlene@butlercreek.us. [2]

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. [2-5]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR?

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LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844. [2-4]

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. [2-5]

EIGHT NATURAL REMEDIES online & correspondence courses for laypersons and professionals. Ask about free classes. Email education@jjohnsonmd.com. Phone/fax 615-523-2136. www.healthcare-online-education.org/8remedies.html. [2]

NORTH GEORGIA WELLNESS RETREATS – Starting January 2014, Blue Creek Cabins Wellness & Spa will be offering 5-day retreats and spa packages. Located near picturesque town of Helen, our program features health lectures, cooking classes, spa services, gardening etc. Contact us: 706-865-0455, 706-865-1405, www.bluecreekwellness.com, www.bluecreekcabins.com. [2-5]

GUEST LODGING AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY – Newly renovated 2 bed/1 bath apartments. Some with equipped kitchens. Available year round. To reserve call 423-236-7000 or email guestlodging@southern.edu. [2-5]

HEALTH EXPO EVENT – Let us train and equip your church to do a health expo. This approach is a proven way to reach your community. Call Chuck Cleveland at 423-949-8211 and visit www.HealthExpoBanners.com. [2-4]

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Beginning in Fall 2014, Southern's freshmen scholarships will be renewable at 100 percent for up to four years. With \$10 million in financial aid awarded annually, Southern is committed to making traditional Adventist education available to everyone.



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Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for renewal, which is established at the end of each fall semester for the following school year. Southern's scholarships and grants cannot exceed the cost of tuition and fees.

Events Calendar

Carolina

Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 14-16. NPR. Enjoy a romantic and fun-filled weekend at the ranch “Hawaiian Style.” Visit <http://www.carolinasda.org/> to register.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 21-23. NPR.

Pathfinder Workbee – March 14-16. NPR.

Elders’ Retreat – March 28-30. NPR.

Florida

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

Florida Pathfinder events – <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/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/iym/childrenandfamily/events/>, esalzman@cfl.rr.com, 407-521-4751, or 407-721-3036.

Florida Keys Camp Meeting – Feb. 21-23. Camp Sawyer at MM34. Theme: From Street Warrior to Prayer Warrior. Guest speaker: Ron Halvorsen Sr., Southern Union Conference retired evangelist. Meetings available for youth and children Sabbath morning. Potluck fellowship meals for lunch and supper. Details: Eugene Hamlin, keysake@aol.com or 305-872-5434.

Foundation of Faith Community Nursing Training – March 3-7. Florida Hospital Trickett Building, 900 Winderley Place, Maitland. 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Cost: \$649 or \$499 if registered by Feb. 28. Registration: <http://www.healthy100churches.org/fcntraining> Details: susan.miner@flhosp.org or 407-200-8278.

Pre-retirement Seminar – March 11. Forest Lake Church. March 12. Plantation Church. 1-5:30 p.m. This free seminar presented by Del Johnson, North American Division retirement administrator, is for those who will be retiring

soon or 10 years away from retirement. Spanish translation available. Details: betsy.pena@floridaconference.com or 407-618-0268.

Retired Denominational Workers’ Retreat – March 14-16. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Guest speaker: Lonnie Melashenko. Guest musician: Jaime Jorge. Registration mail-in forms were sent to retired workers. If you did not receive a form, call 407-399-9091.

Forest Lake Academy Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament – March 24. Redtail Golf Club, Sorrento. Registration and breakfast: 8 a.m. Shotgun start: 9 a.m. Cost: \$125 with discounts for students and prepaid foursomes, includes green fees and catered lunch. Details: <http://www.forestlakeacademy.org/wp/alumni/>, kellerm@forestlake.org, or 407-748-8888.

Greater Miami Academy 5th Annual Golf Tournament – March 30. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Check-in: 12 p.m. Theme: Jump Start the Dream! Entry fee: \$185 for either golf or spa participant. Details: <http://www.gma.edu/>, ctrevilcock@gma.edu, or 305-220-5955 x151.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics
Feb. 22. Jacksonville Mandarin.
Feb. 22. Orlando Spanish.
March 8. Clearwater.
March 29. Brazilian Temple in Oakland Park.

Georgia-Cumberland

Prayer Conference – Feb. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Teen Bible Camp – Feb. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

“The Love Boat,” Valentine’s Dinner – Feb. 16. 4-9 p.m. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Hispanic Marriage Retreat – Feb. 21-23. Forrest Hill Retreat Center, Dahlongega, GA.

Leadership Training – Health and Personal Ministries
Feb. 22. Atlanta Belvedere Church, Decatur, GA.
March 1. Macon, GA.

Atlanta Adventist Academy Day – Feb. 27. Duluth, GA.

CONNECT: ACF Leadership Conference – Feb. 28-March 2. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Master Guides’ Winter Camp – Feb. 28-March 2.

Celebration of Life Weekend – March 7-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy Days – March 14, 15. Calhoun, GA.

Women’s Spring Retreat – March 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Teen Girls’ Spring Retreat – March 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gcsda.org>
Conference Executive Committee – Feb. 24. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Montgomery, AL.

Teen Invitational Backpacking – Feb. 28-March 2. Bankhead National Forest. Contact Rick and Kelly Riley, 256-778-4142 or rkaariley@aol.com.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Creation Health Workshop – Feb. 10. Conference Office.

Pathfinder 7Up Retreat – Feb. 14-16. Indian Creek Camp.

Board of Education – Feb. 20. Conference Office.

Eastern KY Camp Meeting –

March 7, 8. Prestonsburg, KY.

Highland Academy Board – March 13. Highland Academy.

Music Festival – March 13-15. Highland Academy.

Madison Academy Board – March 20. Madison Academy.

Memphis Festival of Faith – March 21-23.

Conference Executive Committee – March 25. Conference Office.

Southern Adventist University

PreviewSouthern – Feb. 17. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Archaeology Lecture Series – March 11. Jodi Magness, Ph.D., presents “Ossuaries and the Burials of Jesus and James” at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Auditorium. For more information, call 423-236-2030.

Graduate School Open House – March 20. Get face time with faculty and administrators running Southern’s graduate school programs during a 6:30 p.m. open house in the Hulsey Wellness Center. For more information, call 423-236-2585.

Sunset						
	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	Mar. 7
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:58	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

APRIL 10-12, 2014

ASI SOUTHERN UNION 2014 SPRING CONFERENCE

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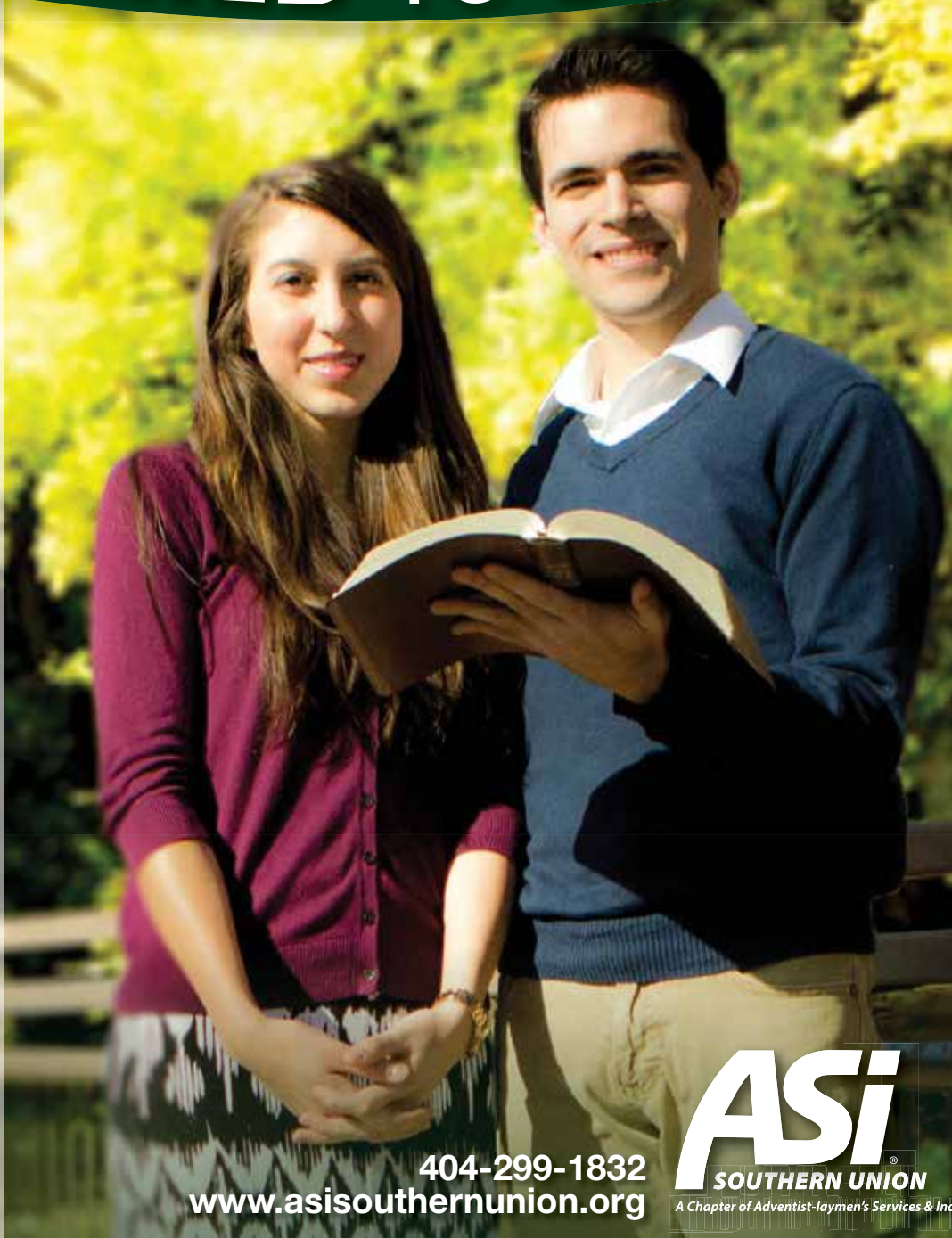
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Vida International



Ann Marie & Eric Bates
Family Coach

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THE FAITH, BE
BRAVE,
BE STRONG.**

1 Corinthians 16:13



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