

SOUTHERN

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



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New Southern Union Treasurer



After 21 years as Southern Union treasurer, Richard Elder Center is retiring, and will live in Collegedale, Tennessee. Elder Center has served the Lord and the Seventh-day Adventist Church his entire career in the territory of the Southern Union, beginning as an assistant auditor for the Union. He served as treasurer of the Gulf States and Georgia-Cumberland conferences prior to becoming Union treasurer.

Those of us who have worked with Elder Center know him as a gentle Christian, always kind, always helpful, a leader of integrity and trustworthiness. His winsome way and expert counsel and guidance have been invaluable to the growth of God's work. When Elder Center became our treasurer in 1984, our title was \$45,056,993, and, through the faithfulness of God's people, it has grown to \$177,203,798 in 2005, largest of all unions in the world.

Richard was married to Maxine, a nurse and faithful partner in ministry, for more than 37 years until her death in September of 1999. In September of 2001, he married Alethea Mustard (who happened to be my faithful secretary in the Lake Union at the time), whose husband taught at Newbold and had died in 1993. I know I speak for our entire Southern Union family as I thank Elder Center for his example of Christian faithfulness and commitment.

On December 15, 2005, the Southern Union Executive Committee unanimously elected Tom Evans, who has been treasurer of the Mid-America Union since 1993, to be our new treasurer. He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University and is also a certified public accountant. Out of college, he worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and also was an accounting specialist for the U. S. Army Central Finance and Accounting Office in Germany. He's a great supporter of Adventist education, having served as assistant treasurer of Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia and treasurer of Highland Academy in Tennessee.

Before becoming treasurer of Mid-America Union, Evans was treasurer of the Gulf States and Iowa-Missouri conferences. Tom Evans is an analyst who is always anxious to find a way to build up the work of the Lord. He serves on many task forces and committees for the North American Division and is proactive in assisting institutions and conferences meet their financial goals. He shared with me that the Union treasury department is here to be of service. I have known him to be a great believer in the mission of the Church.

Tom has one son, Paul, an engineer married to Ellen, who is in public relations. They live in San Antonio, Texas. He also has a daughter, Emily, a social worker married to Scott Mueller, a photographer. They live in Pensacola, Florida.

We welcome Tom Evans back to the Southern Union and pray that the Lord will continue to bless us all financially as we continue to be faithful in giving local church offerings, tithes, conference offerings, and mission offerings.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

Volume 100, No. 2, February 2006
 The *Southern Tidings* is the Official
 Publication of the Southern Union
 Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE
 3978 Memorial Drive • Mail Address
 P.O. Box 849, Decatur, Georgia 30031
 Telephone (404) 299-1832
 www.southernunion.com

Staff

Editor OLSON PERRY
 Editorial Assistant IRISENE DOUCE
 Circulation ARDITH BEERS
 Production COLLEGE PRESS
 Layout BRIAN WIEHN

Contributing Editors

Adventist Health System ANTHONY VERA CRUZ
 Carolina RON QUICK
 Florida MARTIN BUTLER
 Florida Hospital College DAWN McLENDON
 Georgia-Cumberland KEN WETMORE
 Gulf States BECKY GRICE
 Kentucky-Tennessee MARVIN LOWMAN
 Oakwood College CLARENCE HODGES
 South Atlantic JAMES LAMB
 South Central R. STEVEN NORMAN III
 Southeastern ROBERT HENLEY
 Southern Adventist University LORI FUTCHER

Conference/Institution Directory

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200
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 FLORIDA (407) 644-5000
 P.O. Box 2626, Winter Park, FL 32790-2626
 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951
 P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
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 P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117
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 P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088
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 FL 32789-3675
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 FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF
 HEALTH SCIENCES (800) 500-7747
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 OAKWOOD COLLEGE (256) 726-7000
 7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
 (800) SOUTHERN
 P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

SOUTHERN TIDINGS (USPS 507-000) Volume 100 Number 2,
 February 2006. Published monthly by the Southern Union. Free
 to all members. Periodical postage paid at Decatur, Ga., and at
 additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send changes of ad-
 dress to *Southern Tidings*, P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031



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Fighting for Justice



Mary Britton

Mary E. Britton, Adventist Pioneer and Community Leader

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

Nearly 60 years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to protest segregation on Montgomery's city buses, a charter member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Lexington, Kentucky, participated in the push to end segregation on passenger trains. Her name was Mary Ellen Britton.

In December, 1891, Senator Tipton A. Miller introduced the Separate Coach Bill to the Kentucky Legislature. The bill stated, "the railroads ... are hereby required to furnish separate coaches or cars for the travel or transportation of the white and colored passengers."

The law infuriated the black community, which quickly organized a statewide delegation of influential, silver-tongued elocutionists to resist the proposed legislation. Mary Britton, a prominent school-teacher in the Lexington area, was one of five women included in the delegation to appear before the joint railroad commission of the Kentucky Senate and House. Britton made a powerful appeal for right, which later appeared in the *Kentucky Leader*. However, their efforts failed and



Mary Britton was baptized by Alonzo Barry in 1893. Barry, a pioneer minister in what is now the South Central Conference, founded the Adventist church in Lexington, Kentucky.

the Separate Coach Bill became law in May, 1892.

Though their efforts failed, young African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar was moved by Britton's speech and recognized her in a poem, "To Miss Mary Britton." It was published in his first book of poetry, entitled *Oak and Ivy*.

Soon afterward, she began studying with Alonzo Barry and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1893. Her decision to join the Church was noted by the local newspaper in an article, "A Convert," published February 25, 1894. When the church was organized by Robert M. Kilgore and H. S. Shaw, Miss Britton was one of the 18 charter members and served as the church clerk for more than a decade.

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, Britton was a faithful witness and continued her fight for justice. On July 25, 1894, Britton, who was an officer of the American Association of Educators of Colored Youth, read a paper on the "History and Science of Teaching" at their session in Baltimore, Maryland. In this paper she argued ardently for a Biblical approach to teaching, and systematically presented views of teaching in harmony with her newly found Seventh-day Adventist faith. She also wrote newspaper articles that taught Adventist beliefs and health principles.

In 1897, Britton resigned from teaching and went to Battle Creek to study medicine. She graduated from

the American Medical Missionary College in 1902.

Dr. Britton returned to Lexington, where she received her license to practice medicine and opened a practice in her home on 545 North Limestone Street.

Britton continued to fight the Separate Coach Bill by serving as one of the organizers of the 1906 demonstration in Frankfort. She may have led this protest after J. Alexander Chiles, a local attorney who was also a Seventh-day Adventist, refused to yield his seat on a Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Train from Washington, D.C. to Lexington, Kentucky. He was removed under protest and took his case to court.

His case was argued before the U. S. Supreme Court on April 18, 1910, and decided against him on May 31, 1910, with Justice John Marshall Harlan dissenting.

Britton was active in all phases of community development. She was a founding director of the Colored Orphan Industrial School; was president of the local Women's Improvement Club; wrote numerous articles for the *American Citizen*, the *Daily Transcript*, and the *Lexington Leader*; and was a leader in the woman's suffrage movement in Kentucky.



James Alexander Chiles, a charter member of the Seventh-day Adventist church of Lexington, graduated from law school at the University of Michigan in 1899. He became the first African-American to practice before the Court of Appeals in Kentucky.

Rosa Parks, Touching Adventists Through Civil Rights

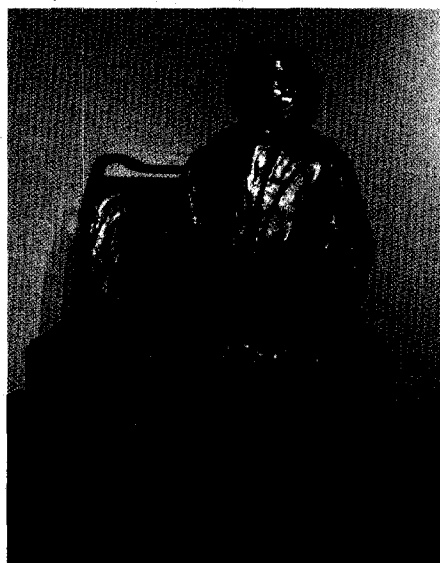
BY REGER C. SMITH, JR.

Sometimes it is the end of a journey that lets you see where you've been. The recent passing of Rosa Parks has had that effect on many in the United States and around the world. Among those who reminisced about the historic action of this humble woman and her far-reaching consequences were three who were there in 1955.

Laura Smith and Dorothy Webb were both baptized as new members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as teenagers in the autumn of 1954. A young, charismatic preacher by the name of E.E. Cleveland had set up a large tent in Montgomery, Alabama, and by the end of that year, the black Adventist congregation of 35 had grown by 500 new members. Work moved quickly on a new, large church building. In December, 1954, the tent meetings ended, and on December 24, the new church was opened.

The impact of such a large tent meeting on a relatively small city meant that everybody in town knew about the meetings. One night at the tent, Cleveland remembers coming upon a small group in intense conversation. Two visiting ministers were talking with two of his assistants.

One was Ralph Abernathy, pas-



CHRISANDRA CLAIRSON

A statue of Rosa Parks resides in the museum in Montgomery.

tor of the 1,000-member First Baptist church in Montgomery. The other man would, next to Rosa Parks, come to symbolize the very essence of the civil rights movement. This man was Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist church. The two pastors had heard that many of their members were attending these meetings and had come to see what it was all about. King and Cleveland spoke briefly, but not for the last time—a few years later Dr. King would welcome

Cleveland as a fellow-laborer for civil rights.

Another who was known to attend those tent meetings was a lady well-respected in the community and active with the Women's Political Council and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)—a Mrs. Rosa Parks.

It was one year later when Rosa Parks' famous refusal to change her seat sparked change in Montgomery and, indeed, the world. It would also have a profound impact on three people and the larger Church they represented.

Cleveland remembers that, within the Adventist Church, the official stance was to stay out of political or revolutionary causes. The Church may have been out of the mix during that time, says Cleveland, but its members were not. The new believers, in particular, were an active bunch.

Dorothy Webb was 15 at the beginning of the boycott, and, like most teens, she was ready to go where the action was. Meetings were held at the large community churches, where thousands gathered each week during the boycott.

The black community was attempting something that had never



NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT, GENERAL CONFERENCE ARCHIVES

Montgomery baptism, 1954: E.E. Cleveland (standing at pool entrance) at the first baptism of 517 new believers in Montgomery.

been done to this degree before. Earlier in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a boycott had resulted in a compromise that brought about little change, and people went back to life much as it always was. In Montgomery, as King wrote later, "the once dormant and quiescent Negro community was now fully awake." The weekly meetings were the pep rally for the boycott.

Dorothy missed the first two meetings, but at the next one, finding herself and her younger sister in the neighborhood, decided to drop by to see what was going on. They couldn't get in—thousands packed the church from the basement to the balconies and out on the lawn—but from outside they could hear the voices of King and the others.

"We had never thought about segregation until that time," says Dorothy. "That's just the way things were, and we had been brought up thinking we were inferior, that whites had their place, and ours was beneath theirs. These meetings sparked an awareness in us kids that things could—indeed should—be different. We got caught up in the spirit of the community, and of course we walked and didn't ride the buses from then on."

Laura Smith, in her late teens at the time, had a job as receptionist at a photo studio that kept her busy during the time of the meetings. She couldn't attend, but she did alter her routine and no longer rode the bus

to work. She got rides as part of the boycott.

Laura remembers that although Rosa Parks' arrest was the spark of the boycott, and a women's group, the Women's Political Council, had made the first call for the boycott, men took over the leadership of the Civil Rights Movement. She, however, remembers Mrs. Parks as being known for her gentle spirit, ladylike manner, and a character above reproach.

Dorothy remembers another focus of trying to make a difference. She recalls when she and a group of young Adventist members—who were relatively new to the Church—visited the church the white Adventists attended. The group was met with a closed door in their faces and the threat that police would be called if they didn't leave. They left.

Things are different now, muses Dorothy, and she thinks that a lot of those differences would not have happened had not Rosa Parks remained in her seat on the bus and provided the impetus for change.

Change did happen, and Adventist church members were a part of it. Many Adventist members and ministers became involved, from the early days following the bus boycott, to the well-known March on Washington (1963) and the Selma-to-Montgomery March in 1965. In addition, Adventists played an integral role in the Poor People's March on Washington following Dr. King's death in 1968. Through E.E. Cleveland's membership and involvement in King's organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), along with church leaders from other areas, the Church was presented with much-needed supplies and organization to help make that March a success.

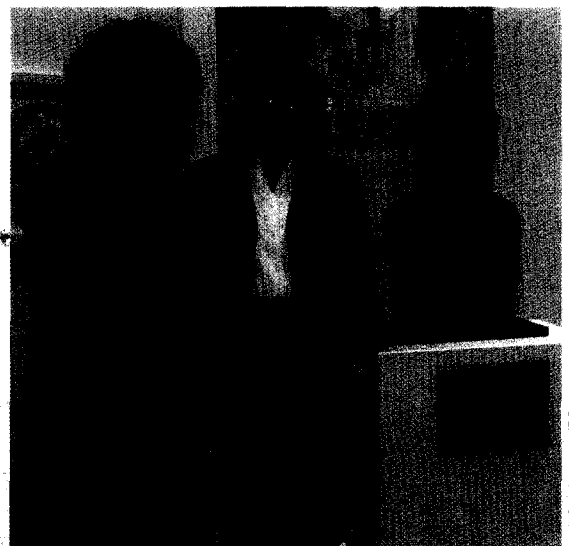
Dorothy Webb went on to school at Tuskegee Institute (now University) in

Alabama. In 1963 she was recruited for a job in the Social Security office in Montgomery and, as its first black employee, along with her friend Ruby, was written up in the local paper. The treatment she received while in that pioneering job, she doesn't want to talk about. Webb continues to live in Montgomery.

Laura Smith is now the women's ministries leader for the Southern Union Conference. She and Dorothy are still members of the Bethany church, where they worship in the same renovated structure built in 1954.

E.E. Cleveland retired after baptizing thousands on six of the seven continents. He preaches most weekends, traveling from his home in Huntsville, Alabama. He recalls that, on a trip to Huntsville in her later life, Rosa Parks asked to visit Oakwood College. While on the campus, she told her escort, "I understand your minister, Dr. Cleveland, is here. Could you take me to meet him?" Unfortunately, Cleveland was away at the time.

The bus seat Rosa Parks kept that afternoon, half a century ago, helped to make a difference in a nation, an impact on the world, and it also influenced a Church, a view clearly seen when looking back from the end of Mrs. Parks' remarkable journey.



CHRISANDRA CLAYTON

Dorothy Webb (left) and Laura Smith visit the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

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Shawn Boonstra
SPEAKER / DIRECTOR
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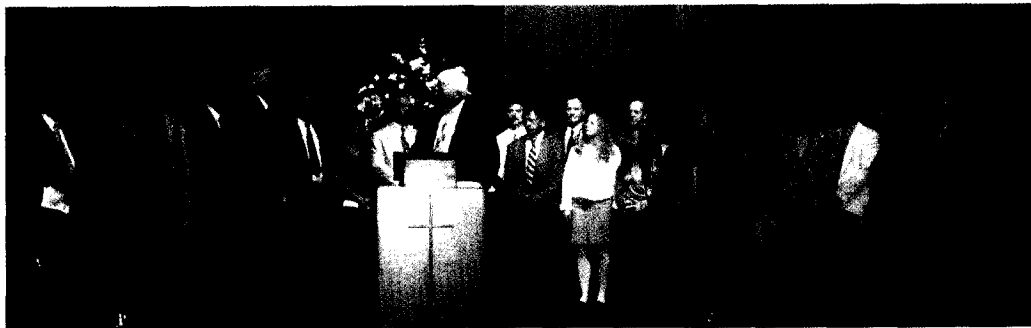
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BEGINS MARCH 10

Campaigns Held Across the Carolinas



More than 2,000 guest evangelists have held campaigns for *ShareHim* at overseas sites. These are the people that *ShareHim* is counting on to light a fire in North America.

Lay men and women, as well as full-time pastors, all across North America are signing up. The list is growing in conferences across the North American Division. Many of them have already gained experience at an international site. Others, with the aid of Christ-centered sermon graphics and easy-to-preach sermon notes, will be presenting a series for the first time.

Beginning October 14, 2005, with God's help and blessing, 36 lay men and women from the Spartanburg church began conducting two separate evangelistic meetings, concurrently, at the Spartanburg and Union, S.C., churches.

Using the "Truth for Today, Hope for Tomorrow" seminar format, these volunteer evangelists presented 19 sermons in 16 consecutive days, including three Sabbath mornings. They join their

brothers and sisters around the Carolina Conference and the Southern Union in conducting a "Homeland Campaign."

Another church to join in this Homeland initiative is the Rock Hill, S.C., church. Members held a musical revival and luncheon, September 17, in preparation for their own Homeland series. Having invited both members and non-members to share the musical talents, the service included everything—the Kid's Mission singing group, trios, quartets, pianists, solos, guitars, banjos, choirs, poetry, and excerpts from *The Great Controversy*.

A message was shared by the main speaker, Christopher C. Bradford, and continued with four

additional speakers, Althea Grey, Steve Lira, Cindy Johnson, and James Lance. The closing song, "Go Light Your World," brought the entire congregation spontaneously to its feet in reverence at the high, uplifting service. Lighted candles were a reminder of the gospel flame to be shared at their upcoming evangelistic event.

"We are excited to see what is happening with our members here in Spartanburg," says Ben Kocheowner, site organizer. "The church seems to have come alive, and one can feel the Holy Spirit working as we are willing to be used—willing to try. God is truly good, and we are experiencing it right here in South Carolina."

—BY KENNETH WYNN,



Christmas in Waynesville

The Waynesville, N.C., church did several things to place the holiday season in the proper perspective. Shown above are Seth Creason, Angelica Ernst, Starlit Ernst, and Rebecca Marie Stokeley doing their part to stack up boxes for "Operation Christmas Child."

Susan Stokeley co-orchestrated "Operation Christmas Child" with her husband, Ed. They also planned the church's Christmas party, inviting members to bring a covered dish and a toy for a needy child.

Janie Carson and Sharon Massaro placed a collection box in the church, where members donated new winter caps, scarves, gloves, etc., for the children at a local public school.

These are just some of the methods the Waynesville church utilized to make Christmas a more special event to those around them.

—BY RON REESE

Charlotte Sharon Hosts StepFast Lifestyle Series

The StepFast Lifestyle series at the Charlotte N.C. Sharon church concluded November 30, with participants making decisions to adopt a more healthful lifestyle. This video seminar, produced by health professionals from the Lifestyle Center of America, encouraged proper exercise, wise food choices, natural remedies, and reliance on God for successful living. Attendees included people with various needs and backgrounds.

Alice Feimster, who lives in the community, heard about the seminar from a friend at work. She wanted to make changes in her dietary patterns, lose weight, and improve her cholesterol numbers.

Feimster also wanted to become fit through the right kind of exercise. During the twelve-week seminar, She lost 15 pounds and lowered her blood sugar levels and cholesterol. Her doctor was amazed, and took Feimster off one of the medications she was taking.

Another attendee, from the Charlotte Berean church, suffers from Lupus, and was eager to discover natural ways to handle the disease.

Other subjects included managing diabetes, preventing osteoporosis, hypertension, and coping with stress. Positive ways to manage food intolerances and the need to become aware of harmful



exercise patterns were also discussed throughout the series. Participants were reminded to always trust in God to lead in making needed lifestyle changes.

Following the close of the series, member Louise Bartholomew received a

card from Alice Feimster saying, "I appreciate all that you have done for us, more than words could ever express." She also requested to be notified of any follow-up programs the church might have.

—BY LAWANNA MCCOY

WNC Candidate Baptized in Prison Facility



The baptism which took place Wednesday, October 19, at the Craggy Correctional Facility in Asheville, N.C., was the first inmate baptism ever conducted inside a prison facility by the Western North Carolina Prison

Ministries organization. Jim Wetmore, a member of the Arden, N.C., church and director of prison ministries for western North Carolina, shares that although several other inmate baptisms have taken place, they were granted a pass and bap-

tized in a church setting. This one was different.

The candidate, Kurt Noble, had been studying for six years. Virginia Pearson of Hendersonville and her husband, Ron, had begun corresponding with Noble shortly after he was first incarcerated.

This was not his only encounter with Seventh-day Adventists. In 2000, because of Noble's request for Bible studies, Burnsville member Byron Comp and his pastor, Ken Blake, gave a bi-weekly study at the Mountain View facility where Noble was incarcerated at the time. Another attendee was an inmate

named Bobby Finley. Since released, Finley was privileged to attend Noble's baptism.

Comp and his wife, Diane, who had recently moved away from Burnsville, happened to be visiting in the area when they learned of Noble's upcoming baptism. Mrs. Comp, recently baptized into the church herself, shared that witnessing this event "was a very unique experience."

Noble shares his joy, saying, "This is the best day of my life." He was then received into fellowship at the Burnsville congregation.

—BY JIM WETMORE

Miracles of the Heart Experienced at GMAA



LOOURDES NIEVES

Jamie Medina, a junior, was baptized by chaplain/Bible teacher Freddie Rodriguez.



PHOTOS: MARTHA MORTON

Fall Week of Prayer speaker Abiezer Rodriguez conducted separate sessions with Greater Miami Adventist Academy students—grades K-4, and grades 5-12.



Members of the drama class demonstrated the temptations of a new Christian during the Week of Prayer.



Pro Musica, under the direction of David Niño, set a spiritual tone for Fall Week of Prayer.



Vice Principal Oscar Rodriguez interviewed sophomore baptismal candidate Myla Brown.



Students attended the October 6-9 Bible retreat at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs.

After Hurricane Wilma hit south Florida on October 24, Greater Miami Adventist Academy (GMAA) was forced to close for more than a week. When classes resumed, teachers and staff paused between clean-up efforts to reflect on how they had sensed God's hand over the campus during the early months of the 2005-2006 school year.

Along with protection from the storm, miracles in the hearts of students were the greatest testimony of His presence. The Fall

Week of Prayer stood out as a time when the power of God was especially felt and seen.

During that week in mid-September, the guest speaker was Abiezer Rodriguez, youth director of the West Puerto Rico Adventist Conference. Nine students made their decisions for Jesus and were baptized. Nearly 30 others expressed their desire to prepare for baptism. Before the end of September, four seniors were baptized.

Two other students asked to be baptized in

early October at the Florida Conference High School Bible Retreat at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs.

On October 22, when the elementary and academy choral groups sang at the Miami Temple church, another student chose to be baptized.

Two days later, Hurricane Wilma struck. Yet, these Greater Miami Adventist Academy students—and so many of their schoolmates—knew they were anchored in the Lord to face life's storms.

—BY OSCAR RODRIGUEZ

Lauderhill Members/Miami Dolphins Partner



A dozen Miami Dolphins football players helped Lauderhill church members distribute take-home meals to residents who lined the church premises near Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Nearly 120 residents gathered at the Lauderhill church in south Florida to

receive a packaged, take-home dinner for a family of four. Lauderhill members,

led by Community Services Director Olive Fisher and Personal Ministries Director Neville Williams, teamed up with Miami Dolphins football players and the Daily Bread Food Bank to distribute the holiday meals.

The Lauderhill location was one of three chosen by the Daily Bread Food Bank to serve as distribution sites. Members of the Lauderhill congregation are known at the food bank because of the volunteer time and donations they contribute on a regular basis to this community nonprofit organization.

While the meal recipients waited in line, they were greeted by Burnett Robinson, Lauderhill pastor, Fisher, and Williams, who distributed inspirational tracts, and copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*.

Later, they shared the same materials with the Miami Dolphins players, who expressed sincere appreciation for their gifts and also for the personal invitation to return and visit the church.

—BY SHELLY PINNOCK

Palm Coast Members Host Food Fair

Palm Coast, Fla., church members hosted their first-ever International Food Fair, October 30, to raise funds for phase two of their church building program, according to food fair organizer and fundraising committee chairperson Jean Levy.

Three tents were pitched on the church grounds where a variety of cultural dishes were served. Guests could sample food from Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, the Philippines, and the United States.

“Our goal was to bring the community

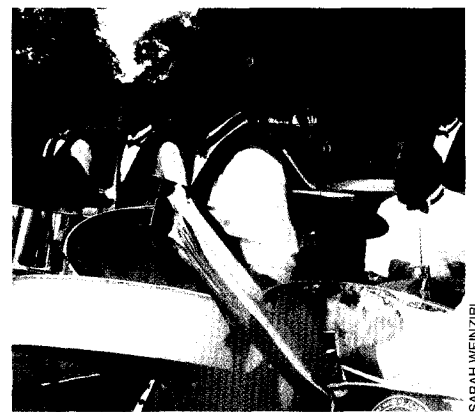


A parade of flags at the Palm Coast church's International Food Fair prompted one guest to say, “It was impressive to see people marching with their countries' flags as one big, happy family.”

to us,” said Levy, “so it was gratifying to see the church premises teeming with people as they enjoyed the exotic fare and the festive atmosphere our members created.”

“The food was delicious and the camaraderie great,” summarized guest participant Norma Mitchell of Palm Coast.

Publicity for the Sunday event was done in



Guests enjoyed performances by Fire 'n Steel, a steel drum band from Walker Memorial Academy in Avon Park, Fla., under the direction of Leonard Cann.

the community by radio, newspaper, and television ads. Fliers were also distributed, and advertising was done by word of mouth.

—BY LLOYD GOODRIDGE

CAYA Holds Third Spiritual ECO-Challenge



Participants act out scenes from Elijah's life during the ECO-Challenge.

Twelve coed teams participated in the third annual CAYA (Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action) Spiritual Eco-Challenge on the weekend of October 28-30. A Spiritual Eco-Challenge is an action-packed, outdoor adventure weekend centered on a Biblical theme. Every year the location and theme change.

This year, the organization decided to stay in

Chattanooga, Tenn. Nearly 100 people arrived at Booker T. Washington State Park on Friday evening and quickly settled in to their cabins.

The first activity of the weekend took place at the nearby Harrison church. The

group played a simulation called "Star Power," which taught lessons about competition and control, followed by a spin-off discussion and prayer.

Sabbath morning teams caravan to Snow-Laurel Pocket Wilderness near Dayton, Tenn. In store for the day was the "Elijah Wilderness Experience," a journey through the story of Elijah, involving Bible

knowledge, strategy, endurance, and teamwork.

Three different "Elijahs" (Chris Clouzet, Josh Arnold, and Brad Elliot), led groups of four teams over six miles of trail through the rugged canyon.

Twelve Southern Adventist University students enacted the major parts of the story, complete with costumes. At each stop along the trail, each team discussed the major character trait that was portrayed and a Bible verse about that trait, and was given a team challenge that reflected that character trait. Challenges included a trust fall, drinking and filtering water from the "Brook Cherith," transporting teams over a seven-foot rope, an egg drop, and the most challenging—carrying rocks from the bottom of the canyon to the top of "Mt. Carmel" to build the largest

altar.

At the end of the experience, everyone was challenged to reflect on the real meaning of Elijah's message as it relates to the last days.

Sunday morning, the group packed up and drove to the Chattanooga Nature Center and Reflection Riding. Again, they formed three large groups and did a three-hour rotation through a challenging eight-mile mountain bike ride to Skyuka Springs, a trail "run" and rock rappel on Lookout Mountain, and a service project spreading mulch and clearing brush along the trails. It was a picture-perfect weekend in which all were challenged mentally, physically, and spiritually.

—BY MARTY MILLER

102 Baptized in Gwinnett County

It sounds like this was in Africa or South America, but it happened in Georgia-Cumberland Conference, October 15-29, 2005, at the Convention Center of Radio Vida in Norcross, Ga.

It began when 55 people were baptized during an evangelistic campaign with Richard García, pastor, in May. At the end of the meetings, Edison Gonzalez, district pastor, announced they were starting plans for the next evangelistic campaign in October with

the same evangelist.

The plans began with enthusiasm. There were radio and television spots. Local newspapers announced it. More than 25,000 handbills were distributed, and area church members invited friends and family.

By the time the meetings started, the field was ready. Local churches supported the meetings with enthusiasm. The music was inspiring, the general program was of high-quality,

and the pastor/evangelist was a valuable instrument of God. At the end, 102 individuals were baptized.

At the last evening of the meeting, Gonzalez made an announcement. "We will not conclude this evening," he said. "We will continue to meet as a church permanently. The name of our church will be Agape Sev-



A new congregation was started after 102 people were baptized in Gwinnett County, Ga.

enth-day Adventist church." On the first Sabbath, 150 people came to worship together.

—BY NANCY ORTIZ

Dedication, Inspiration Present at Memorial Point

Family and friends gathered on December 2, 2005, to remember the five men who were killed when the Georgia-Cumberland Conference plane crashed one year ago. Georgia-Cumberland Conference President Dave Cress, Conference Executive Secretary Jim Frost, Conference Assistant to the President Clay Farwell, Conference Communication Director Jamie Arnall, and John Laswell, pilot, lost their lives in that accident, but the legacy that they left behind still lives in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

The service marked the dedication of Memorial Point, a park located at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga. Memorial Point has been landscaped with the purpose of allowing those who visit to remember the men who lost their lives in the plane

accident. It is a serene park located on a peninsula at the lake at Cohutta Springs. It features five waterfalls with five benches. A boulder placed in the water by the waterfall holds the names of Dave, Jim, Clay, Jamie, and John as reminders of these men who lived for Christ.

"I'm just touched by the attention given to the point itself, which is beautiful and far exceeded my expectations," said Georgia-Cumberland Conference President Ed Wright. "It's just a very fitting tribute, I think."

The dedication service for Memorial Point, however, encompassed a much larger scope than dedicating the park. It was also a time of comfort and healing for those present.

"It's comforting to know that, as a church, everyone has joined together



Water cascading over the waterfalls creates a tranquil atmosphere at Memorial Point.

to comfort each other," said Jeremy Arnall, whose twin brother, Jamie, died in the accident. "It's not only in our small family nucleus, but it's in the large church family that gathers around a table to speak, share, and comfort one another." He added, "It feels good."

President Wright agreed, saying, "I think it was what we collectively needed, giving us an opportunity to talk to the people that we really don't get to see everyday."

Following the dedication service, attendees were invited inside the Cohutta Springs Conference Center for an agape supper, which served as a time for sharing memories and rededication to God.

As Paul Hoover, a regional ministerial director for the Conference, said during the agape supper, "We're gathered here today to dedicate a piece of property—a little point on a peninsula, a few square feet. But, we've really gathered to dedicate ourselves. We've set the property aside for a sacred purpose, and it's beautiful, but we want to set ourselves aside for something beautiful, too—to carry on what these men inspired us to do; to carry on the kind of passion that their lives exemplified. The kind of things that they brought out in us, we now want to bring out in others."

For many years to come, Memorial Point will be a reminder of these five men who served God so wholeheartedly and an inspiration for all who visit to live their lives for God, as well.

—BY REBECCA BAERG



Five benches, five waterfalls, and five names on a rock remind visitors of the five men that Memorial Point was built to honor.

Church Burns Mortgage, Opens School



Martin Fancher (left), pastor; Lewis Rich, elder; Eleanor Naughton, church treasurer; Dennis Millburn, Conference treasurer; Bud Cason, benefactor; Mel Eisele, Conference president; and Fred Rimer, Conference secretary, burn the mortgage papers.

The Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., church celebrated a mortgage burning and the dedication of its new school on Sabbath, October 22, 2005. During the worship service, members, guests, and several former pastors watched as the pastor, head elder, church treasurer, Gulf States

Conference leaders, and a special benefactor burned the mortgage.

During the construction of the church, major problems had occurred, resulting in a larger mortgage than the congregation had expected.

Because of the members' faithfulness, the mort-

gage payments were made each month. The members desperately wanted to start a church school for their children, but after each mortgage payment there weren't enough funds left to operate a school.

Last summer, Bud Cason visited the Ft. Walton Beach church. As he was leaving he handed the head elder a check for \$500,000 (enough to pay off the mortgage). Cason, who is a businessman and a member of the Birmingham First church, had visited the Ft. Walton Beach church before and knew of the church's plight. During the church service Cason challenged those who had

been blessed financially "to not just have money, but to use their money to do good."

Immediately after paying off the mortgage, the church began making plans to open a school. The school opened in August with paint still drying on the walls, and newly laid carpeting in the rooms, which had been transformed from Sabbath school classrooms to schoolrooms.

Martin Fancher, pastor, says, "God has blessed us with a wonderful teacher, and a church that fully supports Christian education." He continues, "We are truly honored and blessed to have the mortgage taken care of. The church appreciates, beyond words, what this gift has done for us."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Shoals Member Elected Woman of the Year

Sherry Fowler, a member of the Shoals, Ala., church was voted the 2005 Shoals, Alabama, Woman of the Year.

At the age of 19, Fowler's daughter Darlene was struck by an intoxicated driver and sustained a severe head injury. The accident left Darlene incapacitated and the Fowlers were advised to put her in a nursing home. Instead Fowler chose to get the necessary training and to devote her life to caring for her daughter. Her daughter died in 2005 at

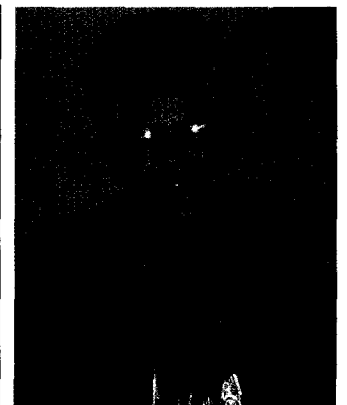
the age of 37.

In a cover article published in the *Shoals Woman*, Fowler is honored for her work, not only as a care-giver to her daughter, but also for her support and help with several organizations, including the North Alabama Head Injury Foundation.

In a letter of nomination from a local law firm, Fowler is referred to as a "human dynamo," "a good Samaritan," and as one who "does not seek glory or praise." The Alabama Head Injury Foundation

calls her "an inspiration to all who know her" and "a supporting force in the lives of Alabama families, both locally and across the state, who have sustained traumatic brain injuries, or are the family members and friends of those who have. Fowler is also praised for the ability and willingness to be a mentor to those around her.

Fowler says that caring for her daughter was a blessing. No matter the circumstances, she believes life is a precious gift from God, and her faith is the



guiding force in her life.

As a way to help others, Fowler plans to write a book about her life.

First Worship Service Held in Church Since Katrina

On December 13, the Pascagoula church congregation worshiped in its church for the first time since Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast in September. During the hurricane, shingles from the church's roof were ripped off, which resulted in extensive water damage throughout the building.

The church's normal attendance is an average of 25. Of these members, nine

of their homes were damaged by the tidal surge (three of the families lost everything). In spite of their own lost, the members came to the church to help tear away drywall, pull up the carpet, and clean up debris.



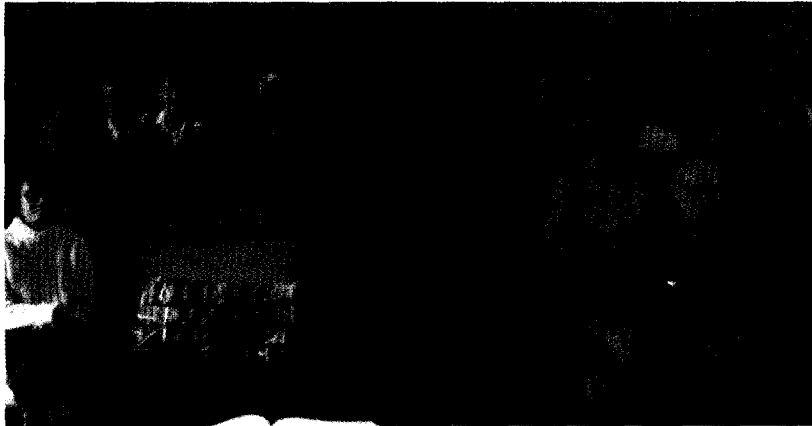
A roofer had to be hired, but Chaplain Richard Norris, a member who had retired and moved to Kentucky,

volunteered his time and expertise to come back and complete the drywall and other inside work in

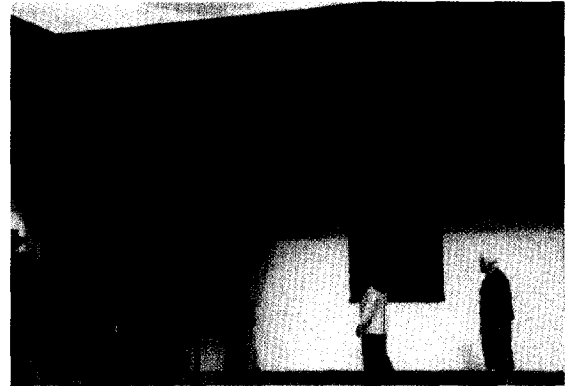
the sanctuary. At this time, installing new carpet is the only thing remaining.

"The families are happy to be able to worship in the church again," says Tony Pitt, pastor. Most members are back in their homes, except for two who are living on their property in a trailer supplied by FEMA, one who relocated, and another who is living in his RV.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Except for laying the new carpet, the sanctuary is ready.



A roofer was hired, but the other work was done by volunteers.

Newspaper Article Results in Baptism

When Sid Argo read an article in the *Anniston Star* newspaper in March, 2005, about a new church that was being started in Piedmont, Ala., he decided to visit.

The article explained how Rick Blythe, a former Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Indiana, and his wife, Ginger, had moved back to Piedmont to take care of their elderly parents. The

Blythes had dreamed of starting a church in their hometown, and through a series of providential events, the church had begun.

The members welcomed Argo, and he began attending regularly.

He made the decision to express his loyalty to serve Christ and was baptized, December 10, 2005.

Blythe says, "We need

to remember the importance of keeping our church in the forefront by all means of communication. We never know who is going to be watching or listening." The church has had two other articles published about it in the *Anniston Star*.

—BY LINDA FREEMAN



Rick and Ginger Blythe stand behind Sid Argo.

Concert Benefits Accident Victim



Rachel Brewer, before her accident

Members of the Lexington church, joined by musicians from the community, presented the musical "Mary, Did You Know?"

to a capacity audience on December 2.

This was the fifth year the church has held a Christmas concert. Previously, offerings were taken, raising a few hundred dollars to benefit some local community project. However, this year tickets were sold in advance to

raise money to help Rachel Brewer.

Rachel was a vibrant young woman taking classes at St. Petersburg Junior College in Florida. On February 6, 2005, Rachel's car hit a concrete electric pole only two blocks from her grandmother's home in Tarpon Springs where she was living. An electric wire came down from the pole and landed on Rachel's car.

Emergency vehicles soon arrived, but were unable to do anything until the power company could remove the live electric cable. When the power line was finally removed, Rachel was taken to a nearby hospital. The prognosis was not a good one: Rachel had suffered brain damage in the accident. Every day the physicians gave Rachel's family little hope of survival.

Rachel's mother, Cheryl Crews, a member of the Lexington church, enlisted the prayers of her church family. She also contacted

John Wolfe, Jr., the pastor of the St. Petersburg church. Pastor Wolfe and his elders had an anointing service for Rachel.

"That was the turning point," said Cheryl. "We had committed Rachel to the Lord, and we had peace that we would accept His will no matter what." Rachel began to improve.

After six months in the hospital, church members, friends, and family provided the financial means for Rachel to return home to Kentucky and begin to receive therapy in a hospital in Lexington. In August, due to a lack of funds, Rachel was discharged to her mother's care, and she was taken home. However, Rachel still faces a long recovery.

Cheryl quit her job to become Rachel's full-time caregiver. She faced huge challenges. Her home was not handicap accessible. Rachel is in need of

additional therapy sessions. The bare minimum of Medicaid coverage does not come close to covering her medical needs.

Hannah James, director of the Christmas Choir for the last several years, decided the charity fundraiser for 2005 should go to help Rachel. When the community began to find out about the charity concert, many people wanted to help. The goal for the fundraiser, according to James, was to raise \$10,000 to give Rachel every chance to reach her full potential and live as normal a life as possible.

—BY DON JEHL



Rachel's grandparents visit her in the hospital.



Hannah James directed the Christmas Choir at the Lexington Church.

Pastor, Layman Team for Evangelism

Dennis Rogers and Jerrett Brown, pastor, teamed up last September in Ohio County, Ky., to lead five persons into the Adventist Church. From left are Brown, Wallace Ramsey, Rogers, Barbara Bovay, Michael Hassell, and Lisa Rone. (Jimmy not pictured.) Rogers preached each night. "He truly is a soul winner. Selling cars is just the way he puts food on the table," says Brown.

—BY JERRETT BROWN



Madison Campus Centennial

Madison Campus church will celebrate its 100-year history on Sabbath, March 11, 2006. More information about the Centennial Celebration, as well as archival documents, can be found at www.madisoncampus.org

Teacher Saves Student's Life



Tara Bailey used the information she had received in the Teachers' Study Group to save Merari Gonzalez's life.

Teachers across the Conference are periodically involved in study groups – a form of in-service, continuing education to better equip them in the classroom. Just in case you were wondering whether or not those study groups are worth it, keep reading.

One afternoon after

the last bell rang at Lexington Junior Academy, several students came into Principal Tara Bailey's classroom to wait for their rides to arrive. As Bailey cleaned off her desk, she heard a distinct sound – different from the normal laughter and chatter of restless students.

She looked up and, to her surprise, a frantic little girl came tumbling her way with both hands clinched to her throat. She was choking. Her color had already begun to turn as she was completely unable to breathe. Bailey immediately thought to hit her on the back, but knew that wasn't right. So she turned her around and placed her hands in the

correct position to perform the Heimlich Maneuver (i.e., abdominal thrusts as they are now referred to). After a few thrusts, she began to gag. Bailey told her to cough and after one last thrust, the small marble candy popped out to the floor.

"I held her tight as both of our faces flooded with tears," said Bailey.

Through God's miracle working power, she was able to use the information from the CPR/First Aid Study Group, only a month before, to save a little girl's life.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Reopens School



Lloyd Schomburg (left), Lawrenceburg pastor; Larry Boughman and Pam Williams, Conference education supervisors; Dr. Norman Henderson, building committee chair; Shannon Lozano, K-2 teacher; Verne Sherman, principal and grades 3-8 teacher; Orlene Riggs, school board chair

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held December 11, at the Bill Egly Adventist School in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., to celebrate the reopening following extensive renovations. Current and former students, parents, and friends watched as teachers Shannon Lozano and Verne Sherman cut the ribbon.

New regulations from the State Fire Marshal necessitated the renovations to bring the building up to current standards. The building now has a certificate of occupancy along with other updates, including a computer lab in each classroom, fire safe hallways, and a new kitchen.

Carl Henderson, the

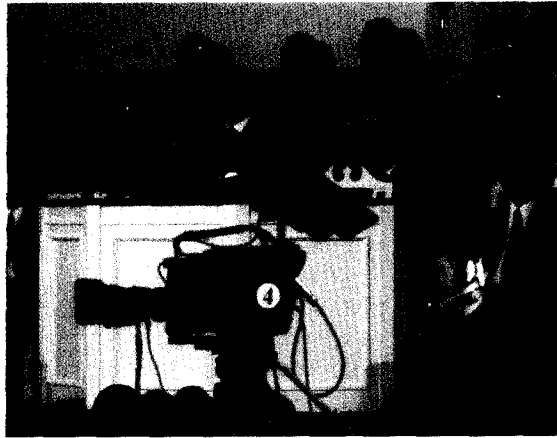
first teacher of the Lawrenceburg church school, celebrated his 102nd birthday four weeks before the ribbon cutting. According to Carl, the first year of school met in a house. The current school building was built 21 years ago by retired contractor Bill Egly. The school is named after him as a memorial to his dedication and hard work.

—BY ORLENE RIGGS,
LLOYD SCHOMBURG

Correction:

Unfortunately, the photos at the bottom of page 17 in the January issue, were accidentally switched prior to publication.

3ABN Broadcasts Live from Berean



William Winston delivers a powerful message as 3ABN broadcasts it to the world.

While most of Atlanta was centered on organizing Thanksgiving activities this past November, Berean church, located in Atlanta, Ga., was putting the finishing touches on preparations for its international debut on 3ABN.

Three Angels Broadcasting Network brought in cameras, yards of cable,

and cutting-edge satellite technology to the church to take Berean's activities live into millions of viewer homes.

The church was transformed into a giant studio, complete with monitors, TV makeup, and camera men strategically placed

throughout the sanctuary, transmitting every word and action captured by the cameras.

The broadcast began on Friday evening with a general interest question-and-answer period with a panel of local church pastors, moderated by 3ABN's general manager, Molly Steenson. Sabbath

morning continued with Sabbath school and divine worship, with the sermon by senior pastor William L. Winston, and a market-place rally on Sabbath.

The rally was televised on Sabbath afternoon, which was designed to inform the congregation how to make 3ABN a part of local cable viewing, so more people would be able to receive the programming broadcast by the network.

The Three Angels Broadcasting Network is a 24-hour Christian television and radio network whose broadcast is carried to every inhabited continent.

Viewers are offered programs concern-

ing divorce recovery, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, cooking and health, stop smoking, and weight loss, as well as music, and a variety of inspirational themes from the Bible for children and adults.

The station began broadcasting in 1986, when Danny Shelton, founder and president, was given donated equipment for broadcasting and donated land for the station.

—BY LESSIE SCURRY



The satellite and equipment trucks are parked outside, sending the signal to the 3ABN viewers.

Relax, Release, Renew

What started out as a get-together for four friends has now grown into a retreat for women.

Eight years ago, Cheryl Bowie hosted a sleepover for four of her friends. The goal of the event was to escape their daily responsibilities and schedules and just relax and network. It was her gift to them. Each guest brought a dish for the evening meal, and Bowie cooked breakfast for them the next morning.

The get-together turned into each guest grabbing a

magazine, finding an available corner, and reading, relaxing, and being thankful to have someplace to escape, even from phone calls. The next morning everyone who attended left feeling so rejuvenated that now this evening has become an annual event and the number of attendees has increased each year.

The evening focuses on growing spiritually, sharing thoughts and dreams, and participating in relaxing activities. The theme, "Relax, Release,

Renew" (RRR), originated from Bowie's experience of attending a poetry reading featuring Nikki Giovanni.

Bowie feels that it is important that Christians practice the example that Jesus modeled throughout His ministry.

As Christ relaxed and renewed Himself with his closest friends and disciples by separating from the cares of this world to pray and fellowship, we equally require time to regenerate our spirits.

At the end of the re-

treat, every guest receives a gift bag to encourage them to practice the principles experienced during the retreat throughout the rest of the year. Bowie believes, "a person cannot do the will of the Father if she is too tired physically and too weak spiritually to serve."

—BY DEBORAH D. CLARK

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The Navy was his life ... but God didn't leave it to Chance.



Randrick Chance joined the U.S. Navy to see the world. In a few short years, his naval career was thriving as he earned promotion after promotion. He delighted in knowing that his peers saw him living the "good life." He also found self-worth in driving BMWs, dressing in the trendiest clothes, wearing expensive jewelry, and impressing the ladies. What more could anybody want?

But as the lure of success beckoned Chance, so did God. As Chance explains, "One afternoon aboard a warship, I was browsing a magazine rack for something to read. I don't know how it got there, but I found an *Amazing Facts* Study Guide. I felt compelled to pick it up. It was the beginning of an adventure in discovering God."

Chance next enrolled for the entire Study Guide series and completed all 27 lessons. He adds, "I was so excited, I couldn't wait to get the next lesson in the mail!" Then on November 16, 2002, Chance was baptized into the family of Christ.

Not long after, God led Chance to resign from the Navy and enroll in the *Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism*, where he is continuing to grow in preparation for his new assignment in the Lord's Army.

Amazing Facts ... Bringing people like Chance to God every day! Please join us in this joyful work of changing lives. Call us today at 916-434-3880.

First University Celebrates 10th Anniversary



TRYSTAL WOODS

Esau and Sandra Laurencin (left), Avis Spence, Charles Ashe, Hazel Nelson, Bettye Ashe, Katie McCraw, Pamela and Mitchell Harris, Lillian Livingston, Michael Brinley, Nzuzi Gosin, Judith and Lesley Jacques, pastor, were part of the celebration.

The First University church in Tampa, Fla., celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 5.

The church began in 1996, when this little congregation grew through divine providence. "Suitcase City" (a place of habitat for low-income families) is where it all began.

The task to start a church was given to six individuals who marched with a vision and preached the gospel in this community.

Their vision for evangelism illuminated the church's existence in the community of "suitcase city," where 14 accepted Christ through baptism, which led them to be recognized as the 114th congregation of the Southeastern Conference.

The members worshiped in several locations, beginning with 1515 East Fletcher Avenue. They later moved to the University of South Florida Episcopal Center, where the members

transitioned encouraging youth to youth evangelism.

This new location was on the college campus, and that is how it inherited the name First University, becoming the first Seventh-day Adventist church on a secular campus in Tampa.

The church grew and grew, and properties 1910, 1912, and 1914 East 139th Avenue were purchased and became the final place for the congregation.

At this location, First University Spanish and

French congregations were born. Here the children of God meet together as one. The church continues to be a powerful force in the community.

Both congregations together baptized more than 30 since the final transition. There were 13 baptized at the conclusion of the crusade in October, 2005, led by former church pastor Lesley Jacques.

—BY TRYSTAL WOODS

Miami Bethany Celebrates Men's Ministries Day

The men of Miami Bethany recently celebrated men's ministries day. The theme for this special weekend was, "The Strength of a Man."

Ellen White writes in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* that, physically, Samson was the strongest

man upon the earth; but, in self-control, integrity, and firmness, he was one of the weakest. Samson's strength came not from his physical ability, but from his obedience and loyalty to God. It was the desire of the men's ministries that men will recognize that real strength

comes from an abiding relationship with God.

Several men were recognized for their service to Bethany. The honorees were Trevor Jobson, Maurice Long, Sr., Frank Johnson, Ernest Staley, Jonathan Williams, and Vinson Jones.

In keeping with Pas-

tor's Appreciation Month, the men added an elegant touch of appreciation to Pastor and Mrs. Byrd and the guest, Walter Pearson, with flowers. Pearson is the speaker/director for the Breath of Life Telecast.

—BY CAROL BYRD

Mount Olive Church Celebrates Ground-Breaking

On assuming duties at the Mount Olive church five years ago, O.E. Gordon, a veteran minister for 40 years, immediately realized that after 60 years in the same location, the church membership of 100 reflected no significant growth.

He called to the attention of his small congregation the glaring reality that spreading the Gospel demands growth.

He suggested that the limited facility and its location could very well be the basic reason for stagnation.

With the goal of building a worship and education center, the members of Mount Olive purchased 8.5 acres of land on Clarcona Road, a most attractive location.

In 2004, the church

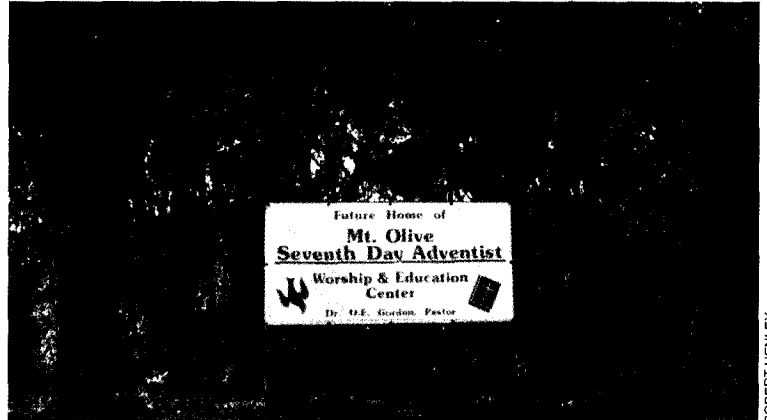
made the bold move of selling its original property, and began worshipping in a rental facility.

Fired by the indomitable courage of Pastor Gordon, the members of Mount Olive have achieved success in fundraising, and now their dream has begun blossoming into reality.

After weeks of laborious clearing of the site where the new sanctuary will stand, a tent was pitched for worship on Sabbath, November 12.

This achievement marked the beginning of a momentous ground breaking weekend event.

George Brown preached for the divine



Future site of the Mount Olive worship and education center

ROBERT HENLEY

worship hour. Members and friends of Mount Olive gathered for ground breaking on Sunday.

Again the weather was ideal, and one could feel the presence of Heaven as instrumental and vocal music of praise rang out. The challenging sermon of Richard Barron preceded

the welcomed moment of ground breaking.

The theme for the event was "From Vision to Reality." The initial building process started January, 2006.

—BY ATHLYN SAWYER-ANDERSON

Miami Union Academy Awarded Software Grant

The Miami Union Academy School of Technology (www.secsda.org/muatech) recently received a software grant from the TestOut Software Company (www.testout.com).

The grant awarded 20 student licenses, a value of \$2,000, of their A+ Certification Suite. The suite provides training for the CompTIA A+ certification exam.

Students will be able to access hundreds of hands-on lab scenarios, multimedia instructional materials (such as videos, animations, demonstrations, etc.),

and certification exam preparation tools.

The CompTIA A+ certification exam validates the knowledge and abilities of an entry-level computer engineer with six months of on-the-job experience.

Individuals that acquire A+ certification often go on to become computer and network engineers.

There are two exams in the current A+ certification program: A+ Core Hardware exam and A+ OS Technologies exam. The A+ exams test the following areas of knowledge: installation, configuring and

upgrading, diagnosis and troubleshooting, preventive maintenance, motherboard, processors and memory,

printers, basic networking, OS fundamentals, and networks.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Miami Union Academy School of Technology students hard at work

ROBERT HENLEY

Southern to Offer Industrial/Organizational Psychology Concentration

A new concentration in industrial/organizational psychology will be offered next year at Southern Adventist University.

"Students who choose the new concentration will be more marketable and will have the opportunity to find positions in

the business sector," says Penny Webster, education and psychology professor.

Only a small percentage of psychology graduates are able to pursue careers in clinical psychology, which requires a graduate level degree. The new concentration opens a

wide range of job opportunities for undergraduates by preparing them for the business sector. Employees trained in psychological principles and research methods are needed for jobs in personnel management, marketing, and management research.

The industrial/organizational psychology concentration will be offered as a collaborative effort of the School of Education and Psychology and the School of Business and Management. A minor will also be offered.

—SEAN REED

Outdoor Education Program to Add New Classes

With the Ocoee River, Smoky Mountains, and dozens of other recreation sites nearby, Southern Adventist University is ideally situated for students who are outdoor enthusiasts. Five new outdoor education courses will soon provide those students with increased opportunities for outdoor adventures and enhanced certification options.

Adventure Leadership, Challenge Course

Management, Swift Water Rescue, Rope Technician I, and Vertical Caving will be offered beginning next school year.

"These new classes give us the ability to offer a higher level of training," says Mike Hills, outdoor education professor. "Students who take these classes will get to go on outdoor adventures where people normally don't go."

—SEAN REED



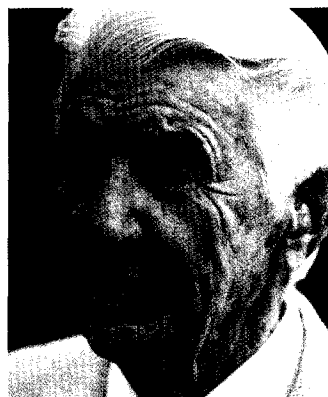
Outdoor education major Lindsey Sands scales Southern's rope course.

Former Business Manager Dies

Charles "Chick" Fleming, Jr., Southern's former business manager, died December 2 at the age of 91. Fleming oversaw tremendous growth and expansion of the college and is responsible for the present design of the campus.

Fleming's astute business acumen led to the financial well-being of the institution during times of change and growth. His creation of a strong

industrial program enabled hundreds of students to work their way through



college without incurring debt, and he built solid relationships between the college and community business leaders.

Fleming first joined the faculty of Southern in 1941 as an instructor and assistant business manager. Later that same year, Fleming became treasurer of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He returned to Southern in 1946 as business manager and remained at Southern until

his retirement in 1975.

Fleming is remembered by friends and colleagues as a warm, friendly man who had an entertaining sense of humor and a compassionate heart. He is survived by two daughters: Karen Mallernee and Sandra Howell; two sons-in-law: Rollin Mallernee and Ralph Howell; two grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

—SEAN REED

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There is Power in the Word

BY D. WAYNE DAVIDSON

It was a chilly reception that greeted the Bible Bowl players of the North American Division as they converged on Cleveland, Ohio, for the 23rd national Bible Bowl games. Although the city's ordinance restricts the heating of buildings until October 31 each year, it did not inhibit the camaraderie that bubbled between players and officials as they crowded into the Westside church to register their teams and receive updates for the starting of the games.

Later that evening, at the start of the Sabbath, Westside was bustling with activities, which dispelled the icy chill that had laid siege to the building. It was the commencement of National Bible Bowl XXIII. From across the North American Divi-

sion, 34 teams composed of six players each, along with coaches, coordinators, moderators, judges, and QuizMaster operators, were ready to bring life to this event.

Handling the ministry, administration, and logistics of this event are the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) and the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association (NBBCA). These two organizations, composed of youth directors and lay people, work tirelessly to ensure that in these games are realized a level of spirituality that enables a growing relationship between each participant and our crucified Lord.

Each year the deliberate hand of God can be seen in the growth of this ministry, and this year was no exception. On hand for the first time in a planned ongoing relationship was ChurchPond. This grassroots ministry started right here in the South Atlantic Conference by one of our own young adults, and is fast becoming a reliable source in the Adventist community for current events, information, and powerful sermons, all streamed across the Internet to your computer. Our partnered debut



New Hope's junior team claimed the championship spot for the fifth consecutive year.

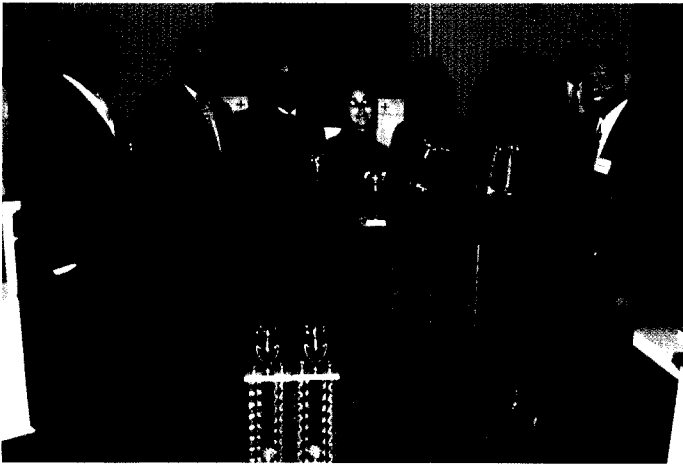
can be found at www.churchpond.com. Here you will be able to catch a glimpse of the dynamics of these games as they climaxed into the championship rounds in the different divisions.

Another technological upgrade for this ministry was evident with the piloting of the QuizMaster Console software. Each year, approximately 1,200 questions are needed for each division. These questions must be sorted, shuffled, and stacked—a tremendous, time-consuming undertaking. With the advent of this software, developed primarily for Bible Bowl, it takes just a few clicks of the mouse and it's done. More information on the software can be found at www.Bible-Bowl.org.



South Atlantic's young adult team from Atlanta Berean church was the second runner-up in their division.

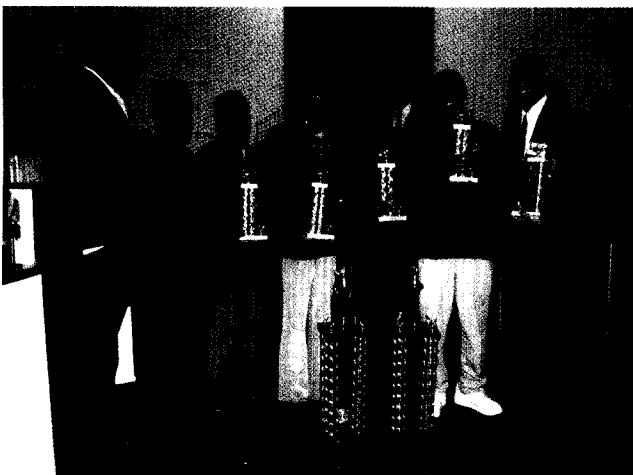
*There are no losers in Bible Bowl.
Each individual connected with Christ
through His Word is a winner.*



South Atlantic's adult team from New Hope was the second runner-up in their division.

After Sabbath lunch, the teams were again ready to press on. It was a grueling six hours of continuous games, with sometimes only a 15-minute pause between each game; yet, there were no complaints from these battle-worn soldiers, as their eyes were focused on the prize of the higher calling in Jesus.

The Southern Union was well



South Atlantic's senior youth champs from New Life church in Warner Robins, Georgia, in their debut appearance.

represented at this year's games, with teams from the South Central and Southeastern conferences. There were four teams from South Atlantic. The junior team from the New Hope church in Ellenwood, Georgia (Kasimier Haynes, captain, Valens Plummer,

Shante McKinley, Shantel Chapman, Merriah Haynes, Joshua Haynes, and coach Nidia Haynes), laid claim to the championship spot for the fifth consecutive year.

The senior youth team from the New Life church in Warner Robins, Georgia (Victor Wongk, Andrew Ashley, Nicole Wongk, Jonathan Mythil, Titus Wongk, and coaches Karen and Dale Wongk), while making their national debut, also achieved their first championship.

The young adult team from the Atlanta Berean church (Joseph Chin King, captain, Mark Williams, Jerome Harris, II, Laila Davis, Mishea Beckford, and coach Jerome Harris) was the second runner-up in their division.

The adult

team, also from New Hope (Barbara Edwards, captain, Fay Smart, Nidia Haynes, Donna Plummer, Hazel Sinclair, and coach Richard Haynes), was the second runner-up in their division.

There are no losers in Bible Bowl. Each individual connected with Christ through His Word is a winner. These games are designed to encourage in-depth Bible study and quick recall, a real requirement for spiritual combat in these last days. This ministry empowers our youth and young adults in the Word of God so that His Spirit can enable them to finish His work. Ask anyone truly connected to this ministry, and they will tell you that there is power in the Word. Are you connected?

Missing a Close Family Member?

If an immediate family member is missing spiritually, we are able to help coordinate efforts to help them choose to come back to Jesus. By using intercessory prayers and possible contacts by former acquaintances from their days in church, Pathfinders, or school, we will tap into a huge resource. Together we can make an eternal difference! For more, contact us at: 911soul.org, 911Soul@bledsoe.net or 423-315-3700.



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HOUSE FOR SALE. Two-story, 3 bedrooms, 2

baths, garage in basement, unfinished room and bath in basement. Spring water, five acres, orchard, berries, grapes, and garden spot. \$139,000. 423-725-4711, Roan Mountain, TN. (2)

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

LOOKING FOR MISSION-MINDED PHYSICIANS to work at the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic. Openings for long-term or short-term relief-call for: physical therapist, pharmacist, pediatrician, internist, rheumatologist, dermatologist, OB/GYN, urgent care, general surgeon, family physician, urologist, ophthalmologist, and others. Please contact one of the following: Frances Taitague-Mantanona, Administrator, fmantanona@guamsda.com; Dr. Bevan Geslani, Associate Administrator, bgeslani@guamsda.com; or Dr. Michael Robinson, Medical Director, mrobinson@guamsda.com; Phone: 671-646-8881; Fax: 671-646-1292. (2-5)

LAURELBROOK SCHOOL seeks staff needed for long-term care facility in beautiful mountain location, quiet, secluded. Housing and stipend provided. Grades 1-12 provided. LPN/RNs, CNAs, dietary,

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS, beginning July 1, 2006. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in Information Systems from an accredited university. Evidence of successful teaching, scholarly activity and research is essential. Rank will be determined on academic qualifications. Seventh-day Adventists please submit resume to: Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. Call 269-471-6859. Email: schwab@andrews.edu (2)

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARKETING, beginning July 1, 2006. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in AACSB-accredited program required. Evidence of successful teaching, scholarly activity, and research is essential. Rank will be determined on academic qualifications. Adventists please submit resume to: Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. Call 269-471-6859. Email: schwab@andrews.edu (2)

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teaching interests will be honored. Preference given to applicants with history background. Qualified persons apply to Jane Sabes PhD, Chair, Search Committee, History & Political Science Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0010. Send electronic submissions to sabesja@andrews.edu (2)

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS PROFESSOR OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/CHAIR of Mathematics Department beginning July 1, 2006. Duties include teaching undergraduate mathematics/statistics courses, chairing Department, supporting faculty scholarship and various interdisciplinary initiatives with the sciences, Engineering and Computer Science, and Economics and operating a program for gifted high school students. Successful candidates will have earned doctorate in Mathematics or a doctorate in Mathematics Education with equivalency of a Master's degree in Mathematics, with a good record of scholarship. Adventists apply online at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs (2)

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION for its Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Master's degree (doctorate preferred), PT license, and 2 years of clinical experience required. Responsibilities include planning, coordinating and monitoring student clinical activities on behalf of the PT program. Adventist apply online at http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs.html or apply to: Dr. Wayne Perry, Chair, Andrews University, Physical Therapy Department, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0420. Call 269-471-6033. Email: perryw@andrews.edu (2)

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS COMMUNICATION TEACHER beginning January 1, 2006. Duties include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in communication and related area, directing and advising internships, scholarly activity and research, and student advising. Professional, departmental, and university committee responsibilities. Doctorate in communication preferred. Research and teaching in persuasion, interpersonal, group dynamics, effective presentations and conflict resolution. Adventists apply to: Delyse Steyn, Search Committee Communication Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0050. Email: dsteyn@andrews.edu Call 269-471-6161. (2)

WHITE MEMORIAL MISSIONARY COLLEGE. Distance education, not-for-profit, liberal arts college emphasizing health professions. Seeking faculty in all disciplines for health, non-health, and technical school majors/certifications. All faculty work from home. Visit www.wmmc.info for more details. (2-4)

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OAKWOOD COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC seeks full-time theory/piano instructor, to begin July 1, 2006. Minimum, Masters Degree in music with theory/piano combination specialization from an accredited university required. Must be able to teach freshman and sophomore music theory classes including sight singing and ear training, form and analysis, as well as keep a vibrant piano studio and participate on departmental and college committees. For more information on the application process contact Dr. Eurydice Osterman, Chair, Music Theory/Piano Search Committee, Peters Hall, Department of Music, Oakwood College, Peters hall, Huntsville, Alabama, 35896: phone: 256 726-7281 or e-mail: eosterman@oakwood.edu (2)

MAINTENANCE PERSON/RANGER NEEDED at Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. MACRC is owned and operated by Chesapeake Conference. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits. For a job description or more information, contact Glen Milam at 301-824-6045 or glenmilam@myactv.net (2)

THE SAMARITAN CENTER is seeking an Executive Director. The Samaritan Center is a community service organization with a busy thrift operation, located near Chattanooga, Tennessee, to begin orientation in mid 2006. Expectations include: a Seventh-day Adventist with a commitment to the SDA mission, a bachelor's degree in business, public administration or comparable area of community service, demonstrated ability in marketing and management, an understanding of client-based service environments, and exceptional skills in communication and working with a diverse population. Submit résumés to Charlene Robertson via e-mail: crobertson@comcast.net (2)

MISSION-MINDED ACCOUNTANT WANTED. Outpost Centers International is looking for an accountant who can comfortably balance strict accounting procedure with solving mission challenges for a modest compensation package. A "mission spirit" lifestyle is a must. Send resumes to accounts@outpostcenters.org or OCI, 5340 Layton Lane, Apison, TN 37302, Attn: Edie. (2)

SEEKING In-Home Female Assisted Caregiver for elderly Adventist woman in northeast Alabama. Normal household duties are a part of the duties expected. Must own vehicle and assume all costs of such. Room and board provided in lieu of salary. Call 407-884-7138. (2)



SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER (SMMC), a Seventh-day Adventist community service, has a variety of openings for health care professionals interested in immediate placement. SMMC is a 383-bed acute-care facility located in beautiful Johnson County. This family-friendly community offers a safe and relaxed atmosphere, high quality schools, and easy access to museums, cultural arts, and professional sports teams. Please contact the job line at 800-845-6216, or click on Employment at www.shawneemission.org for a listing of open positions. Contact Brad Hoffman, Administrative Director of Human Resources at 913-676-2020 for more information. Resumes may be faxed to 913-676-2019. (2-1)

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES has openings for missionary-minded representatives to present free services to blind/visually impaired, fundraising, and public speaking. Denominational benefits available. Contact the Field Department, 402-488-0981, prhr@christianrecord.org or fax resumes to 402-488-7582. (2,3)

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks chair of the Nursing Department beginning July 1, 2006. Further information available at www.nadeducation.org/employment/higher_education (2,3)

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE of HEALTH SCIENCES seeks a full-time Chemistry instructor beginning August 1, 2006. Applicants must have a minimum of a Master's degree in Chemistry (Doctorate preferred) and have college-level teaching experience. Send resumes to: Dr. Len Archer, Chair Pre-Professional Department, Florida Hospital College, 800 Lake Estelle Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. Email: len.archer@fhchs.edu Application deadline: April 1, 2006. (2)

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The Southern Union Home Health Education Services (HHES) is looking for individuals or businesses that are willing to donate cars or vans to its **YOUTH SUMMIT** student missionary program. These much needed vehicles will be used by student literature evangelists and Bible workers to do evangelistic work in various church locations throughout the Southern Union. Financial contributions are also accepted. For more information, please contact: Rocky Davis or Jim Wilson at: 404-299-1621

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VOICE OF PROPHECY GROUP CRUISE. Alaska Inside Passage 7-days cruise sailing from Seattle 8-13-06, hosted by Lonnie & Jeannie Melashenko. Come and enjoy Christian fellowship and breathtaking scenery. Vegetarian meals available. Invite your friends to join you. Mert Allen, Mt. Tabor Cruise: 800-950-9234, 503-256-7919; Email: mert@mttabortravel (2)

Alaskan Inside Passage

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Gulf States Conference Legal Notice of Constituency Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 30th regular session of the Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Montgomery Seventh-day Adventist Church Auditorium, 4233 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, Alabama. The session will convene on April 23, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. (central time) with the exception of the Organizing Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. (central time). This session is called for the purpose of electing an executive committee, as well as officers and departmental directors for the ensuing quinquennium: for receiving aentitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

M. K. Eisele, President
F. A. Rimer, Secretary

Gulf States Conference Association Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given for the regular session of the Gulf States Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists to be held at the Montgomery Seventh-day Adventist Church Auditorium, 4233 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting is called for 10:00 a.m. (central time), April 23, 2006. The fully elected delegates to the Gulf States Conference session comprise the membership of this corporation meeting.

M. K. Eisele, President
F. A. Rimer, Secretary

Events Calendar

Carolina

Lay Evangelism Training --- Feb. 3-5. Nosoca
Romance at the Ranch --- Feb. 10-12. Nosoca.
MPA Spring Break --- March 2-12.
Men's Retreats
 March 10-12. Nosoca. Hispanic.
 March 24-26. Nosoca. English.
Pathfinder Work Bee --- March 17-19. Nosoca.
MPA Academy Days --- March 24-26.

Florida

Complete calendar online--
<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>
Florida Pathfinder Events--
<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/>
 or call 407-644-5000 x127.
Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information.
 Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more.
<http://www.asamcf.org/>, [melodywest@ahss.org](http://www.melodywest@ahss.org), or 407-292-1421.
Florida Adventist Book Center. Winter Park: 800-765-6955. Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
Estate Services Clinics and Seminars
 Feb. 25-26. Daytona Beach.
 April 15. Ambassador.
Evangelism Series
 Feb. 26-Apr. 15. New Port Richey. Bill and Sunshine Waters.
 March 2-Apr. 8. Palmetto. Lester and Zula Pratt.
Men's Ministries Convention--March 3-5. Camp Kulaqua. Details: 407-618-0265.
Vacation Bible School Workshops--3-8 p.m. Details: 407-644-5000 x136.
 March 4. Forest Lake.
 March 25. Miami Temple.
North Florida Camp Meeting--March 17-19. Camp Kulaqua. Details: 386-454-1351.
Apopka Church 50th Anniversary Homecoming--March 17,18. Apopka (Highland) Church. Commemorating God's blessings with former members and pastors in the new worship center at 340 East Votaw Road. Details: 407-889-2812.

Walker Memorial Academy Alumni Weekend--March 25-26. Speakers: Rey Descalso and Mark Reams. Tribute program for William Farmer for 20 years of service. Details: kmaquera@wmja.org or 863-453-3131.

Georgia-Cumberland

High School Retreat—Feb. 10-12. Cohutta Springs.
Regional Health Rally
 Feb. 11. Center Grove.
 March 25. Cleveland.
Boot Camp Training for Family Ministries Leaders—Feb. 11-12. Cohutta Springs.
Pathfinder Bible Bowl—Feb. 18. Carman Adventist School.
GCC Children's Ministries Convention—Feb. 24-26. Cohutta Springs.
Regional Prison Ministries Rally—Feb. 25. Cookeville, Tenn.
Communication Workshop
 Feb. 25. Atlanta North.
 March 18. Macon.
Lay Evangelism Rally—March 4. Dawsonville, Ga.
Adventurer Family Fun Day—March 19. Cohutta Springs.
Kids in Discipleship Training—March 19-22. Collegedale, Tenn. Details: Cheryl Martin at kidcenter@southern.edu, or www.KidsInDiscipleship.org
Evangelistic Meetings
 Feb. 25-March 25— Valdosta, Ga. John Earnhardt.

Gulf States

NADEI Public Evangelism
 Feb. 10-12. Camp Alamisco.
 March 3-5. Camp Alamisco.
Honors Weekend -- Feb. 17-19. Camp Alamisco.
Elders' Training -- Feb. 17-19. Camp Alamisco.
Extreme Cross Examination
 -- March 3-5. Huntsville.
Education Mission Adventure
 -- March 2-10. Mexico.
Women's Ministries Leadership, Certification Level II -- March 10, 11. Camp Alamisco.
Teen Invitational Backpacking
 -- March 10, 11.
Youth Festival -- March 17-19. Bass Memorial.
Bass Memorial Academy Days
 -- March 19, 20.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association and Executive Committee
 March 15. May 16. July 18.
Highland and Madison Academy Boards
 March 16. May 11.
Couples' Retreat - Feb. 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.
Prayer Conference - March 31-April 2. Indian Creek Camp.

South Atlantic


SAC/ED Principals' Council
 - Feb. 5-7.
Hispanic Couples' Retreat
 - Feb. 9-11.
Men's Retreat - Feb. 10-12. Jekyll Island, Ga.
Conference-wide Accessible Congregations Campaign - Feb. 11.
Vacation Bible School Training
 - Feb. 12. Atlanta.
Married Lovers' Retreat Cruise
 - Feb. 18-23.
SAC Disaster Awareness Week
 - Feb. 20-24.
Hispanic Youth Federation
 - Feb. 24-25.
K-12 Board Meeting - Feb. 26. Atlanta.
SAC Technology Summit - March 3-5. Orangeburg, S.C.
Georgia Religious Liberty Day
 - March 4.
Education Rally Day - March 11.

Southern Adventist University

Mother/Daughter Weekend—Feb. 17-19.
Pops Concert—Feb. 18.
Meet the Firms—Feb. 23.
Midterm Exams—Feb. 27-March 2.

South Central

Adventist Community Services Federations
 Feb. 18. Gulf Coast.
 Feb. 25. South Mississippi.
 March 4. Jackson. Central Mississippi.
 March 11. Nashville. Middle Tenn.
 March 25. Memphis. West Tenn.
Religious Liberty Emphasis Month
 Feb. 1-28. March 1-31.
Conference-wide Lay Federation Organizational and Training Meeting -- Feb. 3-5. Birmingham.
Latino Youth Evangelism -- Feb. 10-18.
Writing Your Church History Workshops
 Feb. 5. Birmingham.
 Feb. 19. Memphis.
Usher and Greeters Workshop
 -- March 19. Greenwood. North Mississippi.
Youth Federations
 Feb. 18. Central Alabama.
 Feb. 18. Middle Tennessee.
 Speaker: Kanika McIntyre.
 Location: Louisville.



Gulf States/South Central Prayer Conference
 March 31-April 2, 2006
 (new location)

Twin Lakes Conference Center
 155 Miner Road
 Florence, MS 39073
 601.845.6858

Speakers: Ruthie Jacobson, Peter Neri, Leslie Pollard, and Fredrick Russell
 Prayer Objective: To experience the presence of God, and to inspire participants to make prayer the priority in their churches.

Theme: Upper Room Revival
 Housing:
 GSC—Call Cindi DeWild at 601.845.4078
 SCC—Call Laurene Williams at 615.226.6500, x125

	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 3	Mar. 10
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

WORLD MISSION TOUR: YOUNG PEOPLE CRAZY FOR CHRIST

BY KELLY ALLEN



Jarod Busl (left), Ryan Kloosterhuis, Lorelei Winters, Jessica and Andrew Rahm, Joy Grabiner, and Adam Black have quit their jobs to spend the next year traveling the world to help people.

Seven young people are taking mission work to a whole new level by driving from Collegedale, Tennessee, to the tip of South America and working on approximately 10 mission projects. In a Land Cruiser and a Toyota truck, these young Seventh-day Adventists are going to work on projects at schools, mission airports, churches, and orphanages in more than seven countries.

These young missionaries are calling their project World Mission Tour. To make the trip a reality, they are quitting jobs, moving out of apartments and houses, and cashing in their last paychecks. They will spend the next 12 months working for God across South America on a unique trip.

The group is led by Jared Busl, an automotive mechanic major at Southern Adventist University. Growing up in Africa, Busl is no stranger to roughing it, and previously spent five months driving across North Africa and the Sahara Desert, building schools in Sudan and Chad. "I know we're going to face challenges, but we're trusting in God to get the job done," Busl said.

So far, the projects include building a rainwater collection system at

a school in Brazil, working at an orphanage in Honduras, building student housing at a school in Venezuela, and building a runway for a missionary pilot in Bolivia. The group also decided to stop in Mississippi to help hurricane victims, and plans to stop along the way as other projects arise.

Andrew Rahm and his wife, Jessica Rahm, graduated in May from Southern, and are excited about spending their first year together working for God. Jessica, who has her bachelor of science in nursing, said, "I know people think we're crazy to try to drive to Chile, but I just tell them we're crazy for Christ. We talked about the trip like it would never happen, and there were always reasons not to go. Then, we realized we were all graduating and there was nothing stopping us except, well, us. Just think what could be accomplished if every young person spent a year after graduation just working for God," she said.

"I know it's going to be hard at some point," said Andrew Rahm, a business administration graduate. "When we keep our focus on God, we'll be able to work together to accomplish all the mission goals we've set."

"This is going to hit the fast forward button on my religious experience," said Ryan Kloosterhuis, a Collegedale resident with his industrial electricity diploma and a background in house framing. "If I can inspire some other young people to do more for God, or show the people we encounter what Adventists are

willing to do for their faith, the trip will be a success," Kloosterhuis said.

This trip is unique because it was put together by recent graduates and students, without official sponsorship or conference funding. They hope to do a lot of building, medical work, and spreading Christ's message. They also believe that their project will inspire others to start their own projects for God.

Joy Grabiner, a recent graduate from Southern Adventist University with a bachelor of arts in public relations, plans to document the trip. "Don't let fear of the unknown hold you back from doing God's work," she said. "I won't have a full life and reach my potential unless I step out in faith."

The group has already seen prayer after prayer answered. "Every time we turn around, God is answering prayers for us, even the ones we haven't got around to praying yet," Jessica Rahm said. "I especially want to thank Worthington Foods, Outpost Centers International, and all our friends and family who have supported us financially, in prayer, and with encouragement. Without them, we wouldn't be able to do this trip."



With only a Toyota truck and a Land Cruiser, the group prepares for the trip to South America.

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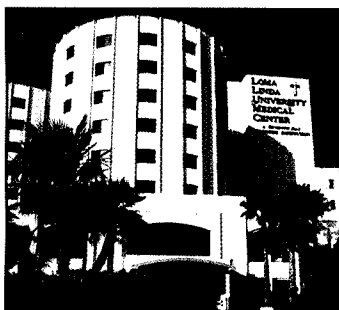


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