

SOUTHERN

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



Mission Evangelism

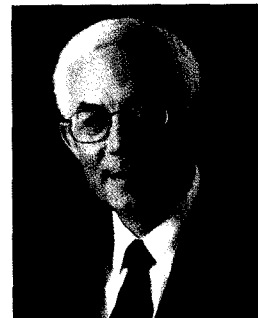
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Whole Person Health Care

Adventist Health System (AHS) is the largest not-for-profit Protestant health care organization in the United States. It includes 38 hospitals and 24 nursing homes in ten states, totaling 6,200 beds, and it takes more than 44,000 employees to care for four million patients annually. Many of these hospitals are in the Southern Union, and I praise the Lord for the positive influence derived by the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of our health ministry. Employees, patients, and family members come to know about God and the witness of the Seventh-day Adventist message through Adventist Health System.



Don Jernigan



Tom Werner

Recently, Terry Shaw, chief financial officer for AHS, was sharing with me that, when he meets each year with all the bankers who do business with AHS (some 80 bankers), he always shares the mission of AHS, "to extend the healing ministry of Christ," before getting into any business. He talks about the difference of having Jesus save us from our sins, and he shares that because he honors the seventh-day Sabbath, he has a 24-hour period each week to get closer to God and his family. He told me he has answered many questions about the Sabbath.

Since 1999 Tom Werner has been president of AHS, and has recently announced his retirement. The Lord has helped AHS to expand and to become financially strong under his leadership. Tom has taught a Sabbath school class for many years at the Florida Hospital church, and his wife, Sharon, was the church secretary. Tom has been intentional about making certain that all employees and physicians know the mission of AHS and agree to foster that mission. And, he has ensured that the health-care ministry of Adventist Health System is aligned with the mission of the Church.

Don Jernigan has been elected to serve as the new president of AHS. He currently serves as the chief executive officer of Florida Hospital and the Florida Division of AHS. He formerly served as chief executive officer of the Multistate Hospital Division of AHS, president of Tennessee Christian Medical Center in Nashville and president of Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, Texas. Don has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Baylor University and a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Texas.

While living in Texas, Don and his wife, Sharon, formerly faithful Baptists, joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church and are very involved in their local church. Don teaches a Sabbath school class at Winter Springs church in Orlando, and Sharon directs the choir and is worship/music leader for the church. Don is unequivocal about the need to make certain that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the sponsor of all Adventist hospitals, and he has an initiative to increase the number of Seventh-day Adventist employees in our hospitals. He will continue the leadership legacy that has maintained a strong Adventist Christian mission focus in Adventist Health System.

Much of Jesus' ministry focused on healing—on whole-person healing. That's what AHS is all about—not just excellent, cutting edge medicine, but caring for the soul and the heart and the mind. To learn more about the mission of Adventist Health System and to see mission stories, go to www.ahss.org, and you'll be inspired.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Cover: Jeremiah Weeks spends a Sabbath morning, just before preaching, sharing stories with village children and some Pathfinders.

Mission Evangelism

BY OLSON PERRY

During 2006, the Tidings cover stories is featuring a variety of individuals; especially lay men and women, who have demonstrated a love for God, members, and Church. These are individuals who emphasize service, a loving spirit, and a willingness to go where God leads.
— Editor

Cindy Frost recently returned from Ghana, West Africa, where she conducted a 16-day evangelistic series with meetings every night and two on each Sabbath in the village of Obogu. "It was something my husband and I talked about and planned for some time before his death."

Cindy, the wife of the late Jim Frost, former executive secretary of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference who perished in a plane crash December 2, 2004, thinks back on the months following that day. "Each evening I would stand on my deck and ask God what is ahead for me. 'What am I supposed to do now, Lord? I was looking for direction. Jim and I used to think of ways to evangelize. When the offer for this trip came, I knew what direction to take."

Cindy says her overwhelming motive is a need to fulfill her husband's wishes in doing more in mission evangelism. "It was our plan to share Jesus with others. Not only have I accomplished a goal we had in common, I've discovered much about myself. I now have direction in my life."

"Jim would be proud of me," she reflects quietly. "He wouldn't believe I was out here doing this by myself. It is so out of my character," said Cindy. "He knew better than to acknowledge me publicly. I wouldn't stand in front of my church congregation or lead out in an activity. I have learned I have more faith than I thought I did. I have grown so much since being here (Africa). I have learned to rely on God, rather than self. It's not me."

Cindy said her mission was made easy because of the people. "The attitudes in a country like Africa are so different. The people here are accepting. Despite the language



Cindy Frost, greeted each evening with cheers by the children, appreciated the opportunity to tell others about Jesus and His soon return.

barriers, people here are learning about Jesus. I am here to help them understand. And, they accept me." Each evening as Cindy arrived at her evangelistic site, the villagers, especially the children, would run alongside the car and cheer, wave, and shout, "Ama Cindy! Ama Cindy! Ama Cindy!" It acknowledges her Saturday birth, a special day on which to be born. They say her name out of love, and they realize she is trying to learn about them and their culture.

Cindy said she thought she would have held the people at arms' length emotionally, and vice versa. On the contrary, within a few days she felt as though she was a part of them. She was excited to conduct her meetings each night, where she took the opportunity to take the focus off herself and place it on Jesus.

"Some may attend my meetings for the wrong reasons." But, she points out, "what if it introduces them to Jesus? A person may respond and not become an active member; however, that person may be baptized and, over a period of time, get to know Jesus and be changed."

Cindy encourages others to consider evangelism in underdeveloped countries. However, it takes a person who is adaptable to change within the environment. They must learn to accept various customs, and work within that culture. They must be willing to take on new challenges. "It takes someone who can go with the flow," as Cindy puts it.

Jeremiah Weeks and his wife, Jill, recently moved to Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia to pursue working for missions fulltime with



Sandy Sawtell (left) assisted Kathleen Smith with the children's stories

ShareHim, formerly Global Evangelism. Jeremiah recently returned from Ghana, where he preached nightly, and studied for

the bar during the days. He was scheduled to take his exam the week following his return to the U.S.

"I've learned so much about myself," said the 28-year-old Southern Adventist University graduate and graduate of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville with a J.D. degree. "The power is truly in the message. It's not in the presentations, the nice songs, or the smooth programming. It's in the message," he said. "In the U.S., we tend to create moods. There's nothing wrong in creating a mood, but the meat of our faith is in the message. Jesus died so I could have eternal life, and it's a privilege for me to share that message."

Jeremiah notes that "since being here, I've seen the deepest faith.

When I make a call at the end of my sermons, people respond without question. There are no mental, political juxtapositions taking place. They simply respond. In the U.S. people feel there is no absolute truth, or at least it is not politically correct to claim that there are absolute truths. That certainly makes a difference in how they respond to calls."

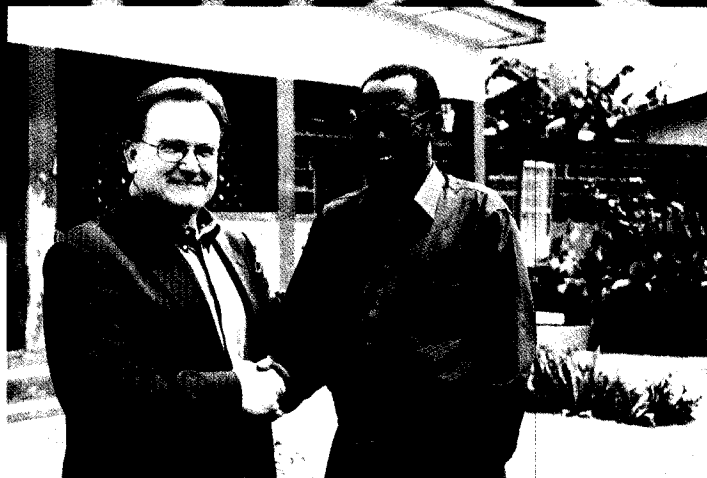


PHOTO OLSON PERRY

Leo Smith (left) was approached by a former Adventist who requested baptism, and is considering giving his school of 1200 students to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Responding to calls to accept and serve Jesus was not a major part of Jeremiah's career goals just a few months ago. He wanted to support various ministries through his anticipated wealth. He wanted to be valuable to his church due to his income potential. He planned to focus on a career in finance, and was well on his way towards a seven-figure income at Europe's largest bank, stationed on Wall Street, when a fellow employee asked him a question, which caused him to question his motives, his goals, his purpose in life. He asked God for guidance.

Without hesitation, opportunities began to open. While investigating his options, he found ShareHim, an outreach ministry of the Carolina Conference. He now views entrance into the bar and his CPA license as tools within his evangelism ministry, if God chooses to use them.

Jeremiah desires his friends and the youth of the Church to pry themselves from their lukewarm seats, think through their beliefs, question themselves, and then make informed decisions. "Does your lifestyle during the six days of the week support your claims on the seventh day?" he asks. "People are looking for a hard-hitting faith that will make a difference in their lives... a faith that will affect everything they do," says Jeremiah.

The village of Odumase, where



PHOTO OLSON PERRY

Katbleen and Leo Smith found the opportunity to experience preaching at two separate evangelistic sites.

Jeremiah was assigned, is like much of the territory between Accra, Ghana, and Kumasi—lots of flying dirt, untimely roadblocks, roller coaster type automobile trips, and street vendors with children by their sides bartering their wares for a day's wage.

Despite what many westerners may see as poverty, Jeremiah sees a country that may well be a success story. "The countries we send missionaries to, should send missionaries to America. They could teach us a lesson in how to be at peace with our situation and circumstances. Perhaps it's us who are lacking. We just don't realize our need."

Leo Smith, a project manager for an electrical contractor, and his wife Kathleen, associate executive secretary for the Carolina Conference, both wanted unique individual experiences. They got their wish, which allowed them to share the experiences and differences at each of their evangelistic sites.

The Smiths had previously heard of the challenges and hardships of mission evangelism through

friends and co-workers; they wanted to share in the experience of sharing Christ. Because of the strength and faithfulness of the local church members in Konongo and Domeabra who were assigned to them, they do not feel as though they had to face hardships. They have, however, experienced the devil at work, through alcoholism, malaria, stroke victims, demonic possession, and presentation challenges.

They have also seen the matchless

power of God work in the lives of individuals. The Smiths feel this experience has helped them build a closer relationship with God, daily dependence on Him, and the importance of leaving circumstances to God.

Erik Carter, pastor of the Middletown church in Louisville, Kentucky took five members from his church—Sam Asamoah, Deeana and Derick Logan, Scott Muhlenbeck, Marian Spanos—and one, Todd Quire, from the Shelbyville, Kentucky church. Their evangelistic sites were spread throughout the Kumasi area, the second largest city in the country of Ghana. "I believe the total baptisms for our group was approximately 700, said Erik. "This included those baptized from our sites as well as approximately 40 students from the Adventist Academy in Kumasi, for whom we conducted a week

of prayer the second week of our meetings.

The philosophy of the Carolina Conference in supporting ShareHim is to provide guest evangelists in an area where the church is already growing...already baptizing and evangelizing. It is intentionally set up in areas where people are hungry for the message. The evangelist will have the blessing of being able to present Jesus, and experience the thrill of seeing people make decisions for Christ, and witness the changes in hearts. The long-term effect is that lay evangelists will be so fired up, they will return home and allow God to use them in various neighborhoods through public evangelism. That's the half that is still being developed. The hope is that, in time, a ministry will be developed in the U.S.

"Mission evangelism helps to keep people, especially youth, in the Church. My children are a perfect example," says a Carolina Conference officer. "It gets people excited about evangelism. It recharges the batteries and propels into more evangelistic activities here in the U.S.," he says. There is nothing more exciting than "to see people who have never done evangelism anywhere get excited about soul winning."



PHOTO RON QUICK

ALMA BLACKMON'S *Farewell* Aeolian Concert

BY BRENDA WOOD

Several thousand people attended the most recent Aeolian Reunion Concert in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 19, at the Cathedral at Chapel Hill. It was billed as the final Reunion Concert under the direction of Alma Blackmon.

The Aeolians of Oakwood College have a long-standing reputation as one of the country's finest college touring choirs. Under the leadership of Alma Blackmon from 1973 to 1984, the choir performed across the country, as well as in the Caribbean, Canada, Romania, and Great Britain. The Aeolians toured in Europe as official "Friendship Ambassadors" for the United States. Wherever they performed they received rousing applause and standing ovations for their extraordinary musical sound.

This latest concert in Atlanta was no exception. Though the 110 singers who performed have since graduated from college and now live across the country, and though they sang in various years under Blackmon's direction, they still produced that trademark sound of "The Aeolians." Moreover, true to form, the audience was thrilled.

The concert also featured talented soprano Lori Bryan, noted baritone Wintley Phipps, and duo pianists The Altinos. They are brothers born in Haiti and extremely gifted musicians who wowed the audience with their virtuosity at the keyboard.

However, the night truly belonged to Alma Blackmon and the Aeolians who performed Randall Thompson's "Peaceable Kingdom." At the end of the concert, several



Alma Blackmon

tributes were presented to Blackmon for her musical leadership and her mentoring. Each singer who stood in the choir was a testament to her inspirational spirit and care she gives to her students, and a testament to their love for her. They came from all over the country, some from as far away as northern California and Canada. Alma says, with a smile, she can tell a story about each one of them as college students.

Her former students can also share stories of how she has helped shape their lives. A book of memories was presented to Blackmon, filled with more than 100 hand-

written tributes from her beloved Aeolians.

Few wanted to believe that Alma Blackmon was retiring from concert conducting, but she is 84 now and says she no longer has the mobility to perform on stage. She formally turned over the reigns of Aeolian leadership to Mervyn Warren and Luther Washington, two fine Aeolian alumni musicians in their own right. She says she feels confident that they can handle the job. They will have to fill the shoes of an extraordinary woman who has set a standard of musical excellence that is unmatched.

The concert is available on DVD.

Myrtle Beach Breaks Ground for New Church



BILLEVANS

A new church with classrooms and a fellowship hall is just the beginning of a vision that God has laid on the hearts of the Myrtle Beach, S.C., church. With God's leading the members have purchased five acres of land in what is quickly becoming a bustling hub of

activity, known as Carolina Forest. This planned community of 29 subdivisions and almost 50,000 residents is located approximately four miles from their present church location.

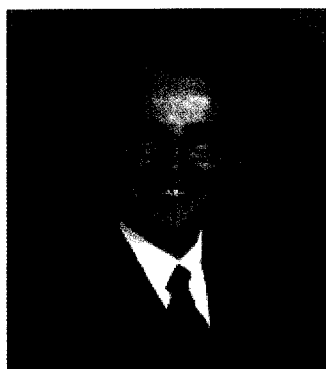
Church members of the Myrtle Beach church gathered and witnessed the

ground-breaking of their new location on January 8, 2006. Those participating included Ken Crawley, local pastor; Yvonne Wood, church treasurer; Nick Sherfesse, Wachovia Bank representative; Mike Stollenmaier, church elder; Jim Williams, building com-

mittee and stewardship co-chairman; Joe DePasquale, church elder and stewardship co-chairman; Joe Ewing-Chow, church head elder and building chairman; and Bill Evans, elder and building committee member.

—BY JIM WILLIAMS

Carolina Healthcare Seminar Planned for Hilton Head



Derek Morris

Carolina Healthcare announces its 26th annual health promotion seminar, July 12-15, 2006, in Hilton Head, S.C. The seminar,

hosted at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Resort, is designed for physicians, dentists, and all allied health personnel. The subject is "The Role of Nutrition and Physical Fitness in Achieving Optimal Health."

Topics include the following:

- Ending the Coronary Epidemic/Individualizing Patient Therapy—speaker: Caldwell Esselstyn, Jr., researchist and senior surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic
- Evaluating Nutritional Supplements/Popular Weight Loss Programs—

speaker: Roger G. Sargent, Professor at the Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

- Be an Original/Which is More Important: Diet or Exercise?—speaker: Gerard McLane, health consultant
- Silver Sneakers Provide All the Tools for Fitness Except the Shoes—speaker: Heath Ramsby, representative for the National Sneakers Program in North and South Carolina
- Evaluating Golf and Tennis Sports for their Role in Physical Fitness—speak-

ers: representatives from the Golf and Tennis professional organizations

The speaker for the weekend spiritual session at the Hilton Head church is Derek Morris, senior pastor at the Forest Lake church. In addition, there will be a musical concert by guest artist Paul Heflin.

A brochure will be available by April. For further information, call Harold Schutte, program director, at 828-768-5505, or Gloria Bareford, registrar, 804-740-0399.

Hendersonville Welcomes Pathfinder Composer



Henry T. Bergh (center), composer and lyricist of the well-known Pathfinder theme song, came to share his story with the juniors of the Hendersonville, N.C., church.

Henry T. Bergh shared his story with the juniors of the Hendersonville, N.C., church on November 12, 2005.

Who is Elder Bergh? You may not know his name, but you've surely heard his song. It starts, "Oh, we are the Pathfinders

strong . . ." Yes, he wrote the Pathfinder Club theme song, ingrained in the memories of current and former club members, and still used in Seventh-day Adventist churches around the world today.

When asked to write a song for the Pathfinders, he

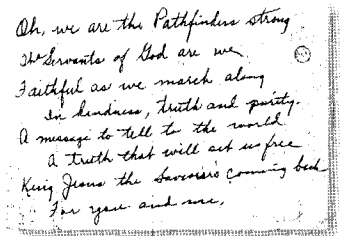
responded that he was not a song writer or musician, and dismissed the idea. But in 1949, while driving to a Sabbath appointment in California, he thought about the Pathfinders' need for a song. Soon words started coming to his mind. Pulling to the side of the road, he took a paper out of his Bible and wrote them down. He soon began humming a tune and added the words he had just written. When he got home that evening, his wife, Miriam, helped him get the notes written on a music staff.

He submitted the song to Wayne Hooper, asking him to critique it. Hooper sent it back unchanged

and said, "It's a good song; go ahead and publish it." Bergh emphasizes that God gave him the song—he has never written one, before or since.

Bergh co-authored the books, *How to Start a Pathfinder Club* and *The Pathfinder Drill Manual*. He and Miriam now reside in Oakhurst, Calif.

—BY BECKY WYNN



A copy of the original handwritten lyrics of the Pathfinder song

Union and Conference Train Lay Pastoral Assistants

Pastors aren't the only ones who can do ministry in the local congregation—many in their flocks have taken the call to support their pastor in a more direct way. Recently 18 members from the Carolina Conference were invited to spend the weekend at Nosoca Pines Ranch training to be lay pastoral assistants (LPAs).

Twice a year Ralph Ringer, the Southern Union church growth director, and John Sweigart, Carolina Conference ministerial secretary and personal ministries director, offer an

intensive weekend of lay pastoral assistant training seminars, equipping lay members to aid their pastors in the local church.

The LPA training program is a two-year curriculum. Elders and other members can enroll in these special classes only after they have received the recommendation of their pastor and approval of their church boards. LPAs are making an important contribution to the Carolina Conference and its effort to "prepare a people" to meet the Lord.



Pictured are Brian Halley (left), Southern Union; Ralph Ringer, Southern Union; Joel Klimkewicz, Jacksonville church; Carlos Ortega, Jacksonville church; Jeremy Pettit, Arden church; Chico Cotton, Charleston church; and John Sweigart, ministerial secretary for the Carolina Conference.

Debt-Free In Twenty-Six Months



PHOTOS: ERNEST STEED

The debt-free edifice and property, valued at nearly \$1.4 million, is situated in a prominent location on Highway 17/92, northeast of Orlando between DeBary and Orange City.

Members of central Florida's DeBary/Orange City church celebrated their debt-free status on January 7, only 26 months after they incurred a five-year, \$115,000 loan for their new sanctuary.

An Adventist friend of the church motivated the early payoff with an offer to provide the loan, interest-free, if paid back in five years. This proposal inspired DeBary/Orange City members to give sacrificially when two special offerings to eliminate the debt were received in December, 2005.

During the celebration,

praise and testimonies were heard as to how God honors sacrificial commitment. The day's high point came when David Graham, pastor, spoke on the importance of dedication for both church and people.

A processional led by the pastor followed as members sang *Marching to Zion* under the evening sky. Near the church bell tower and its neon-lit emblematic world with three angels, their singing faded with the sunset as the pastor rang the bell.

—BY ERNEST STEED



The fellowship hall is a place for special occasions such as the event that honored four women celebrating their 80th birthdays. Pictured from left: Roda Steed, head deaconess; Jane Beers, new member; Gerda Krause, treasurer; and Wendy Stultz, deaconess.

Before and After Christ, Big Dan Still Survives



RONALD DUPONT JR., HIGH SPRINGS HERALD EDITOR

"Each year, thousands of school children come to Camp Kulaqua on field trips, and one of their favorite sites is Big Dan," says Phil Younts, administrative camp director. "I wish Big Dan could tell all the stories of life that have passed him for more than 2,000 years. He has survived generations of hurricanes, lumber jacks, and environmental assaults, yet, stands tall as a glory to God."

Big Dan, a 2,689-year-old cypress tree, put down roots along Hornsby Springs in Camp Kulaqua more than six centuries before Jesus walked the earth. The bald cypress, whose name was chosen in a 1970s summer camp contest, has a girth 10 times that of neighboring trees and a height estimated at 80 feet.

Verified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry as the fourth-oldest tree in the state, Big Dan has 2,689 rings, one for each year of his life.

—INFORMATION CONDENSED BY PERMISSION FROM A SEPTEMBER 29, 2005, HIGH SPRINGS HERALD ARTICLE BY MORGAN C. MOELLER

Reading Achievements Bring Magic To OJA

Orlando Junior Academy (OJA) has participated in the *Read To Achieve* program, sponsored by the National Basketball Association (NBA), for the past two years. This program encourages young people to experience the joy of reading while developing and strengthening their literacy skills.

Personnel from Orlando's NBA hometown team, the Magic, met with OJA teachers at the beginning of both school years to distribute *Read To Achieve* record-keeping materials used to track the number of books each student reads. Depending on the grade level of the students, the teachers determine the minimum number of pages to be read in each book.

Each January, OJA students celebrate Magic Week and receive recognition for their reading

achievements. Award certificates are presented each year in a literacy pep rally that has featured Magic players, cheerleaders, and team mascot Stuff.

Last year, the event highlighted 6'10" forward Hidayet (Hedo) Turkoglu. After the top OJA readers received their certificates of accomplishment, the school's best basketball players took to the court and challenged the tall native of Turkey with shots from three-point range.

This year's rally welcomed player Grant Hill and was capped by the announcement that top readers would attend a Magic game and form a fan tunnel to high-five the players as they entered the basketball court, according to Bobby Jackson, OJA athletic director and physical education teacher.

—BY JANICE BANKS



Grant Hill, 6'8" Orlando Magic forward, encouraged students to keep reading, eat healthfully, and study hard.

LEE BENNETT

Sixty Years On a Journey of Memories



Thomas and Naomi Bullock

Thomas and Naomi Bullock were married, December 23, 1945, in a chapel wedding at Florida Hospital where the Orlando bride was born in 1924.

The former Naomi Wynn and Thomas, from Arcadia, Fla., met at Forest Lake Academy. At the close of their senior year, Thomas received a notice from the United States Army to report for duty.

Naomi started nurses' training at Florida Hospital, while Thomas received

instruction as a surgical technician aboard the USS Comfort. He participated in five World War II Pacific Theater invasions before being injured in an attack off Okinawa. Discharged with a purple heart, Thomas returned to the States and, two months later, married Naomi.

The couple headed for Southern Junior College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, Tenn., where Thomas studied science and math

while Naomi worked in the school's accounting office.

Later, Thomas enrolled in the Kansas City (Missouri) College of Osteopathy. After graduation, he interned at Holly Hill Hospital near Daytona Beach, Fla., then set up a general practice in South Daytona where he served the community for 35 years.

In retirement, the New Smyrna Beach church members enjoy their three children, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Senator Visits Cohutta Springs



Senator Johnny Isakson speaks at the Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

United States Senator from Georgia Johnny Isakson spent time at Cohutta Springs Conference Center on January 17. Senator Isakson gave the keynote address at the Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber

of Commerce 28th Annual Awards Banquet.

More than 200 people from the local business community attended the event. Among the dignitaries present were Georgia State Senator Don Thomas, Georgia State Representatives Tom Dickson and John Meadows, and Murray County Commissioner Jim Welch.

Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber of Commerce President Dinah Rowe says Cohutta is a wonderful facility to use for such events. "I never worry about things being like they should be with this staff. Danny is wonderful, Willis, of course Rodney,

Joan...everybody just pulls together to get it done," says Rowe.

Senator Isakson was also impressed. "It's a beautiful facility. I know how much this facility means to the members of the church and to the Seventh-day Adventists, and how much it means to this community to have a place like this that they can use. It's absolutely a beautiful place, and I'm just honored to be here," says Senator Isakson.

Cohutta Springs Conference Center Executive Director Rodney Leonard says he believes it's important to have events like the Chamber Awards

Banquet at Cohutta. "Part of our mission and ministry is to become friends with our community and to be involved. I think it's just a great witness and a great opportunity for people to really get to know us and the kind of quality Christian people we are," says Leonard.

This is the fourth year in a row that the awards banquet has been held at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Previous keynote speakers have been Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, and U.S. Senator from Georgia Saxby Chambliss.

—BY KEN WETMORE

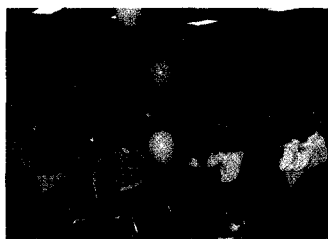
Statesboro Teens Commit to Waiting for True Love

A True Love Waits® youth rally brought more than 30 teens from central and south Georgia to Statesboro, Ga., on Saturday, February 18. Under the leadership of Statesboro church's youth leader Erica Robinson, the church hosted the event that was designed to build relationships between teens and parents from area churches, provide an opportunity for worship and learning, and culminate in a Valentine's banquet.

Throughout the day, the young people participated in activities and listened to speakers who challenged them to re-

main sexually pure and explained why that was the only choice that will guarantee future happiness. During the banquet, the teens and their parents participated in a commitment ceremony where the teens pledged to remain sexually pure.

Each teen received



During the banquet, teens pledged to remain sexually pure until marriage.

a red True Love Waits® bracelet, a sign of their decision to wait for their true love. Kamil Cák, pastor, challenged the students to see themselves as the greatest gift that their future spouse will receive one day and to give the bracelet to their spouse on their wedding night as a celebration of promises given and promises kept.

Both the teens and their parents were also asked to sign a commitment card. The participants left with a blessing, but also with newly-gained important life skills.

—BY KAMIL CAK

Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage

The children and grandchildren of Gerald and Iris Westcott held an open house in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary, December 18, 2005, at the home of Gerald and Iris Westcott. They are members at the Collegedale, Tenn., church.



Gerald and Iris Westcott

Atlanta Adventist Academy Steps Into the Future



AAA will be operated by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and service the entire Conference through distance learning.

Secondary education in Atlanta and around the Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) has taken an exciting step into the future. At a specially called Atlanta Adventist Academy constituency meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2006, the constituency voted to give governance of the school to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. The vote was 108 for the motion, five against.

In a number of town hall meetings held in the Atlanta metro area before the constituency meeting and at the constituency meeting, Cynthia Gettys, vice president for educa-

tion, and Kevin Costello, vice president for finance/treasurer, shared what the Conference's vision for AAA would be if the Conference were given governance.

"We had three prerequisites for the Conference adopting the school," says Gettys. "First, any plan must provide a unique educational

service for the entire GCC territory; second, the plan must be financially possible without major expense to the Conference; and third, the plan must maintain excellence in the spiritual, academic, physical, and social areas of development."

While the Conference's plan is still open to further discussion, refinement, and change, the current vision calls for three campuses around the Atlanta metro area, connected by state-of-the-art technology. Students from the three campuses would be bussed together twice a week for social and physical interaction such as band, choir, and intramu-

ration. The new program will begin in August of 2006.

The Conference hopes to expand the real-time virtual learning program at AAA to academies in 2007, and in 2008 to seventh grade, eighth grade, and home school students.

The move to give governance of AAA to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference comes following a steady decline in students, resulting in increasing financial and physical pressures on AAA. In December of 2005, AAA board members were informed that six of the 11 constituent churches would be withdrawing in June of 2006. Two more churches had not paid any of their subsidies for the current school year. As a result the AAA board voted to request the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to give study to adopting AAA as a constituent school.

During the next two months, the Conference devised a plan with input from AAA teachers, administrators, students, parents, pas-

sors, the Florida Conference department of education (which runs AE21, a distributed learning program), the Southern Union Conference department of education, and at least five GCC boards and committees.

Ed Wright, Conference president, sees the vote as God's leading for the future of, not just AAA, but, secondary students all over the Conference. "This decision was not lightly made by anyone. It is the result of a lot of hard work and much prayer. I believe we have moved through the crossroads into an exciting new road that will open up secondary Adventist education to many more students who previously did not have access."

Atlanta Adventist Academy joins Georgia-Cumberland Academy as a Conference-operated school. The third secondary school in the Conference, Collegedale Academy, will remain a constituent-operated school.

—BY KEN WETMORE

Former World Publishing Leader Celebrates 90th Birthday



Bruce Wickwire speaks at his 90th birthday party.

Bruce M. Wickwire, leader of the Church's publishing work of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for many years, was honored on his 90th birthday, December 2, 2005. One hundred friends, fellow workers, and family members were present for the occasion in the Col-

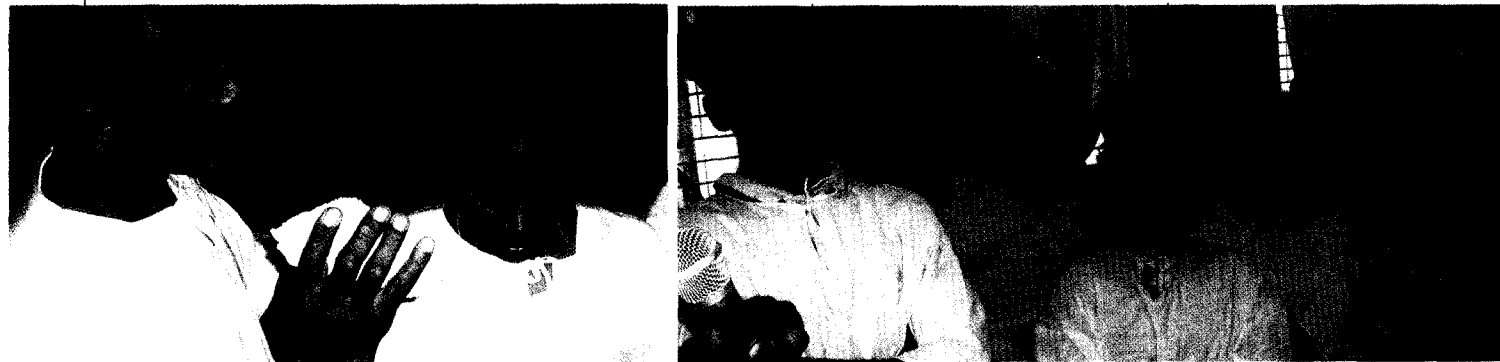
legedale, Tenn., church fellowship hall.

Wickwire was born in Inavale, Neb., and spent most of his life as a literature evangelist and publishing leader. He has served in two local conferences, four unions, and three divisions (North American Division, Far Eastern Division,

and Northern European Division). At his retirement in 1980, he was the director of the General Conference publishing department.

—BY W. J. CLEMONS

Ministry Team Continues in India



Elbert James baptizes one of the converts.

Baptism vows are read to some of the many baptism candidates.

A team of four lay people recently traveled to the shores of South India (Chennai), to continue a ministry that was started in 2000.

Elbert James, a member of the Crestview, Fla., church, is the team leader. While in India the team conducted an evangelistic series every night for two weeks. They also went out into other villages and preached. As a result, 53 Hindu believers were converted and baptized. More baptisms are expected as local Bible workers continue to give studies.

"In our ministry we like to follow the example

that Jesus used by mingling with the people, gaining their confidence, meeting their needs and then bidding them to follow him," explains James.

To accomplish this the team visits the towns and villages each day with the Bible workers. They also give away clothing for the many adults and children that will attend the meetings. Another part of the ministry is to teach the people to use natural remedies to help with the many illnesses that are prevalent.

The team has adopted several families. These families, who are very

poor, have received help in various ways: a bicycle to provide transportation for one family, paid tuition, and many basic needs have been supplied. The team members keep in touch with those they have ministered to through letters, phone calls, and by sending small gifts and tokens of love for special occasions such as birthdays.

"Since our first visit in 2000, God had blessed us to raise 13 churches, which include seven newly constructed buildings," explains James.

The team stands ready again this year to take up

the challenge and commission of Jesus. Their goal this year is to raise enough funding to build an orphanage for many of the small children who beg on the streets because they have no one to care for them. The orphanage will also house those whose bodies are broken, crippled, blind, and lame.

For information about this ministry, you may contact Elbert James at Access Unlimited Ministries, 137 West Walnut Ave., Crestview, FL 32536.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Students Participate in Education Fair Day

In February, church school students from across the Conference attended the annual education day fair, which was held at Camp Alamisco.

The students spent a lot of preparation time before the fair. Projects and activities for the event included a math masters contest, an art fair, a sci-

ence fair, a Bible quest contest, a geography bee, and a spelling bee. Winners received ribbons for their accomplishments. First place winner's school also received a trophy honoring the field in which the student excelled.

"The fair provides every school the oppor-

tunity to come together as one large school family, for fellowship, food, and fun," says Leslie Louis, Conference superintendent of education.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Caitlyn Blaney and Stephanie Barone from Country Place Adventist School pose with their "blow up" science fair exhibit.

Students Place First in Stock Investment Contest



Teacher Dave Haley with students Harrison Filler, Kendra Bowers, Brittany Jones, and Cason Reasner.

A team of ninth and tenth grade students from Hoover Christian School (HCS) in Birmingham, Ala., led by teacher Dave Haley, recently won the Fall 2005 Stock Market Game, a stock selection simulation for high school students across the country, sponsored by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and national and state chapters of the American Council on Economic Education, "a voice for financial and economic literacy in America."

Placing first among 113 high schools competing in Alabama and 273 high schools competing in the region, the HCS team turned a hypothetical initial investment of \$100,000 into \$120,794.14 in a mere ten weeks. The percentage return beat the S&P 500, a relevant and recognized financial industry benchmark, by 18.13 percent for the same period, and equates to an annualized return of approximately 167 percent. For perspective,

the total for the second place team was \$114,870.

Students Kendra Bowers, Harrison Filler, Brittany Jones, and Cason Reasner, advised by Haley, formed an investment committee, which used standard stock selection metrics coupled with macro-economic analysis to collectively make trades in the portfolio. These same students, minus Bowers who recently moved to Arizona, are excited about participating in the spring, 2006, game as well.

For their efforts the team won \$500, individual plaques, a trophy for the school, and T-shirts, and Haley won a trip to New York City to visit the NYSE and meet two native Alabamians: Stanley O'Neil, CEO of Merrill Lynch, and James Rogers, a best selling author and the financial genius behind much of George Soros' early success.

Haley, a former associate professor of business

and recognized stock selection expert, cautions that such a simulation encourages speculation over investment and rewards what he calls "Russian Roulette" risks that are likely to pay off in the short run, yet

may prove ruinous in the long run, and, furthermore, that human nature and financial models often blind short term traders to such risks.

Recognizing a need for enhanced financial stewardship among God's people as a result of, among other things, a lack of basic financial knowledge, the simulation is part of an integrated financial literacy curriculum. The curriculum includes formal courses in economics and Financial Peace for Young People (a registered trademark of the Lampo Group), a course designed for high school age youth, written and presented by the popular Dave Ramsey.

Recognizing that personal finance is more about the person than about sophisticated financial models, Haley attempts to incorporate Biblically based economic literacy across the curriculum, from areas as seemingly diverse as Bible and math, to lit-

erature and science. Haley states that most adults learned personal finance in the school of hard knocks, and that numerous studies of adults indicate that most wished they had been taught "these things" in school.

Haley was recently named to Who's Who among American Teachers for the second year in a row. He states that this honor is the one he treasures the most, as he was nominated by former students as the best and most influential teacher in their life.

—BY DAVE HALEY

Banner Year for Baptisms

The year 2005 was a record setting year for baptisms in the Gulf States Conference. With close to 575 baptisms, the Conference surpassed, by a wide margin, the previous banner year, set in 1999, of 514 baptisms. Evangelism has always been on the front burner for God's work in the Conference, and this year was no exception.

More than 50 public evangelism meetings were conducted by local church members, pastors, and fulltime evangelists.

More Pennies for Her Thoughts



Sabbath School Investment at Louisville (Ky.) First has generated considerable interest this year. The goal of \$1,500 was reached with enthusiasm. One project brought in 40 pounds of pennies—along with other change.

Shashi Nicholas started

on a personal investment undertaking of filling up her penny jar for the Church's Investment project, but the jar was only two-thirds full. She was wondering how she could fill up the jar with pennies before Thanksgiving.

Nicholas' employer, Choice Systems, Inc., had this team-building, morale-boosting departmental contest where the company would match the loose coins collected by the winning team, group, or department. A special lunch was to be the celebration of their victory. Nicholas approached a Hindu com-

puter programmer at work and explained how she could use some pennies to help her fill up her jar for Investment, which would be used by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to support needy causes around the world. He was so impressed that he donated all the coins he had accumulated for the company contest towards Nicholas' Investment collection. Other programmers in the area overheard the conversation and handed over their coin collections to Nicholas, forgoing their chances of winning the company contest.

As a result, Nicholas more than filled up her penny jar. If a Hindu non-believer can be touched to contribute towards our Investment mission, how much more should we as Adventists do to reach our Investment goals?

— BY CLIFTON KELLER AND OLIVER NICHOLAS



Former Student Returns as Administrator

On January 10, 2006, Janet Sharpe Pulley became the new administrator of Highland Manor Nursing Home in Portland, Tenn.

When Janet Sharpe went to Highland Academy as a student in 1992, she had already decided she wanted to be a nurse. Her parents wisely suggested that she look into the work study program that the school had with the Highland Manor Nursing Home adjacent to the cam-

pus. She went to Highland two weeks before classes started to take the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) classes at Highland Manor.

Sharpe worked at Highland Manor for two years as a CNA to help offset the cost of tuition, and graduated in 1994. She went on to Southern Adventist University the following year and graduated in May, 1999, with a B.S. in long term health care and an A.S. in accounting. Between her freshmen and sophomore years, she went to Taiwan as a student missionary.

Two weeks after graduation, she married Randy Pulley. Her previous work experience includes

working at Tennessee Christian Medical Center and as the administrator at Hillview Community Living Center in Dresden, Tenn., until November, 2005.

Hearing that Highland Manor was without an administrator, Janet Pulley applied for the job. A few weeks later the regional director of Adventist Care Centers called her for an interview.

The Pulleys have one son, Andrew, who is 2. Janet is the daughter of Pastor Ed and Chris Sharpe of the White House-Franklin district in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Couples Retreat



Barry and Sharryn Mahorney were the guest presenters at the annual couples retreat at Indian Creek Camp. Fifteen couples benefited from the experience and wisdom shared by the Mahorneys. Elder Mahorney is the pastor of the Montgomery, Ala., church, Al Matchim, pastor of the South Louisville church, and his wife, Donna, serve as the family life coordinators for the Conference and planned the weekend retreat.

Gift Establishes Ben Parrish Fund

The family of Bernard G. "Ben" Parrish has given Highland Academy a gift of \$25,000 to establish the Ben Parrish Fund to benefit the music department. The purpose of the Fund will be twofold: tell Ben's story as an inspiration for students, and support various music department activities.

"In looking at how we might best honor Ben, and what mattered most to him," says his wife, Merle Parrish, "we could not select a better investment than Highland Academy, and its music program—inspiring so many for years to come."

Beginning with his days at Highland Academy, Parrish did indeed use his musical talents to inspire others. His accomplishments included winning a state-wide singing contest; recording six albums and two

secular singles; performing countless concerts and specials in many different churches across the country and an evangelistic series in Hungary; recording numerous performances for the It Is Written TV ministry; performing for many dignitaries such as various U.S. leaders, concerts at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and for the famed Explorers Club at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City at the invitation of broadcaster and explorer Lowell Thomas; and, performing the U.S. and Canadian national anthems to open countless national conventions.

In all his success in life, Parrish never forgot to stay involved in his school and his church. As he began his religious concerts, his prayer would be, "Lord, empty the singer of self . . ."

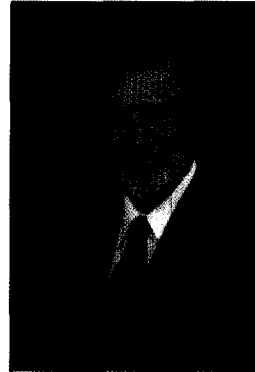
Parrish family roots run deep in the Highland community. Ben and Merle's parents came to work at Highland in the 1940's. All of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and now great-great-grandchildren have attended and/or worked as staff at Highland. The girls' dormitory at Highland, Johnson Hall, is named after Merle's mother, Vivian Johnson. Merle Parrish explains, "The major purpose for the Fund is to inspire future generations to use their talents in honoring Christ, as Ben did so well."

It is hoped the Ben Parrish Fund will grow through

the years to have an ever-greater impact on Highland's music program, the lives it touches, and the people it inspires.

Additional gifts are encouraged, and may be made—either specifically designated for the Ben Parrish Fund, or to HA in general, in memory of Ben Parrish.

— BY TODD PARRISH



Joseph Shafer Ordained

Pastor Joseph Shafer was ordained on Sabbath, January 14, 2006, in his home church at Taylor Mill, Kentucky. Richard Hallock, Conference president; Marvin Lowman, executive secretary; John van Zyl, ministerial director; and Oliver McKinney, Southern Union ministerial director, also participated in the ordination service. Fred Fuller, elder and brother-in-law of Shafer, gave the ordination address.

Pastor Shafer is a graduate of Highland Academy (1983) and Southern Adventist University (1988) with a degree in business. In 1996 he felt the Lord calling him to the gospel ministry. In January, 1999,

the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference invited Joe to pastor the Jackson, Tenn., church where he served until January, 2004, when he transferred to the Taylor Mill church, the same church that his father, Edwin Shafer, pastored many years ago.

Joe Shafer and his wife, Carrie, have three children: Jolene, Jeffrey, and Janae.



New Logo - New Sign



The Woodbury Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School is the first rural school in the Conference to use the new Adventist EDGE logo on their school sign. They celebrated completion of the new sign with a visit by Larry Boughman, school superintendent; Dennis Clark, Woodbury Church pastor; Nancy Piper, school board chairperson; Joan Zollinger, teacher; and Bryson and Ann Johnson, landscape artists and school board members.

South Atlantic Honors Retiring Pastors

The South Atlantic Conference held its bi-annual workers' meeting for its pastors in January, but this year, it was different than other times. The principals of the Conference's 23 schools joined the pastors at this session.

The three-day meeting was held at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, Ga. "Lord, Change Me!" was the theme for the meeting, and is also the theme for the Conference during 2006.

Each morning began with an inspirational devotion given by Gary D. James, Sr., a representative from Adventist Risk Management, and James Doggett, pastor, gave presentations to the attendees as well.

The highlight of the meeting was during the awards banquet when the Conference not only recognized pastoral baptisms, but honored pastors Kenneth Moore, Richard Long, Sr., and Ralph Peay, who retired.

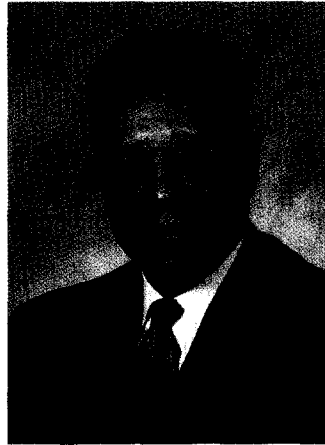
Kenneth Moore retired with 32 years of service. He and his wife, the former Mamie McBride, began their ministry in 1973 as the youth pastor of the Atlanta-Berean and Griffin, Ga., churches. After completing studies at the theological seminary at Andrews University, he went on to pastor four churches in the Charleston, S.C., district; four churches in the Columbia, S.C., district; two churches in the Raleigh,



Kenneth Moore, 32 years of service

N.C., district; two churches in the Charlotte-Northeast district; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and the Atlanta-Maranatha church. Just before he retired, he came full circle in his ministry when he returned to Atlanta-Berean church as the associate pastor.

Richard Long, Sr., retired with 33 years of service. He is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife, the former Mildred Sharp, grew up in the same church in Cleveland. His denominational service started in 1972 in Huntsville, Ala., at Oakwood College. He also served as assistant pastor of the Atlanta-Berean and Griffin, Ga., churches; as well as churches in Florida City and Key West, Fla.; Augusta and Wrens, Ga.; Johnston, Aiken, and Pageland, S.C. Long was the senior pastor of the Atlanta-Berean church, Atlanta-Maranatha church, and the East Market Street church in Greensboro, N.C.

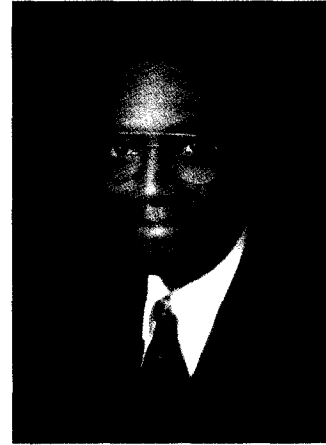


Richard H. Long, Sr., 33 years of service

During his ministry, he also was the Pathfinder, youth, health and temperance, and communication director for the Conference.

Ralph Peay retired with 52 years of distinguished service in the pastoral ministry. He and his wife, the former Juanita Jackson, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Peay began his ministry in 1954. His ministerial service has taken him to numerous cities: Dothan, Montgomery, and Gadsden, Ala.; Greenville, Hollandale, Greenwood, Leland, and Cleveland, Miss.; Lexington, Covington, Richmond, and Berea, Ky.; Chattanooga, Cleveland, Memphis, Jackson, Eads, and Brownsville, Tenn.; Atlanta and Griffin, Ga. Peay has just completed a doctor of ministry degree from Andrews University.

His administrative experience includes Pathfinder and youth director for the South Central Conference; education



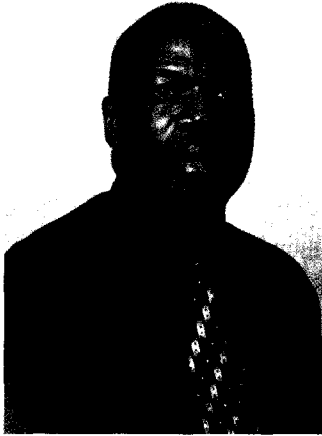
Ralph P. Peay, 52 years of service

superintendent for the South Central Conference; Pathfinder, youth, and temperance director for the Northeastern Conference; associate youth director and associate secretariat for the Southern Union Conference; and president of the South Atlantic Conference.

At the awards banquet, Vanard Mendinghall, president of the Conference, read from the plaques presented to the retirees with this inscription found in Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

—BY JAMES LAMB

South Atlantic Mourns the Passing of a Pastor



Pastor Sammie Benson

The South Atlantic Conference was saddened by the recent passing of one of its pastors on Friday, January 20, 2006, in

Sumter, S.C. Pastor Sammie Ray Benson was born in Newberry, S.C., on February 13, 1954. He was the 11th of 12 children born to the late Clarence Benson, Sr., and Annie Mae Bobb Benson.

Benson was a graduate of Newberry High School and went on to earn his bachelor of science degree in theology from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., in 1986 and his master of divinity degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., in 1990. He was ordained into the ministry in 1992 by the South Atlantic Conference.

Benson was employed by Tuomey Healthcare System for the past 15 years and previously served as a chaplain for hospice and later as director of chaplaincy. He was also the pastor of the Ephesus church in Darlington, S.C., and the Oakland Avenue church in Florence, S.C.

His church and community affiliations were numerous and included Adventist Chaplain Ministries, the College of Chaplains, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Sumter County Association of Concerned Clergy, South Carolina

Ministerial Association, president of the Sumter County Ministerial Association, chairman of Oakland Avenue School Board, and the Wateree Aids Task Force.

On November 26, 1976, Benson was united in holy matrimony to the former Sharon Louise Sligh of Newberry, S.C., and God blessed their union with four children: Keela Holliday, Kenneth Benson, Kevin Benson, and Ketreena Benson.

—BY JAMES LAMB

Emmanuel Church Remembers a Founding Member



Devon Vereen

The Emmanuel church in Loris, S.C., took time to remember one of its founding members—Devon Vereen. Vereen and his wife, Vemia, along with their seven children, joined the Mount Olive church in Marion, S.C.,

following a move from Connecticut, and became one of the founders and a dedicated member of the Emmanuel church in Loris. After several years of worshipping at a local high school, Emmanuel members began a church building project, and Elder Vereen was given the assignment of building project chairman.

He oversaw the daily operations, made final decisions, dug ditches, and built custom cabinets. Emmanuel celebrated its grand opening, April 13, 2002.

Vereen served as head deacon and assistant treasurer. As adult Sabbath school teacher, he was recognized for his knowledge

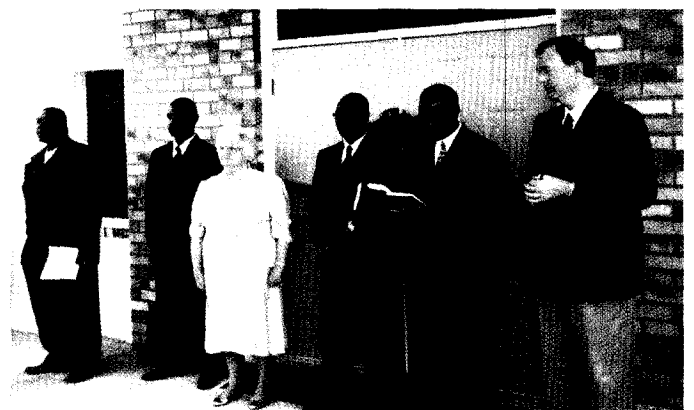
and teaching skills. He was ordained as a local elder by Bernard C. Williams, Jr., pastor.

Vereen retired after 30 years as a self-employed cross-country truck driver. Soon thereafter, he gained employment with Horry County Schools as a bus

driver and literature evangelist.

Vereen passed in March of 2005 after a bout with cancer. He was an encouragement to all and a faithful servant until his death.

—BY GERALINE DAVIS



Grand opening of the Emmanuel Church in Loris, SC

Florida, Southeastern Host Joint Workers' Meeting

On February 21, the Southeastern and the Florida Conferences held a second joint workers' meeting at the Forest Lake church in Orlando, Fla.

In the fall of 2004, administrators from both conferences held a series of meetings to plan a joint evangelistic effort that would result in a combined membership of more the 100,000.

Currently, the combined membership of both

conferences is 89,000 members (Florida 55,938 and Southeastern 33,828).

The keynote address was given by Gordon Retzer, president of the Southern Union. Retzer praised the unified efforts of both conferences to build God's kingdom.

Both conference presidents, Willie L. Taylor (SEC) and Michael F. Cauley (FC), challenged the pastors to work together.

Afterwards, the pas-



ROBERT HENLEY

Willie L. Taylor (left), president of the Southeastern Conference; and Michael F. Cauley, president of the Florida Conference

tors from both conferences were grouped together according to geographical regions. They discussed

evangelistic strategies to win souls.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

Commissioner Welcomes Young to Samford



ROBERT HENLEY

Willie Taylor (left), president; Elder Henry; Commissioner Woodruff; and Theus Young greet each other.

Theus Young was introduced to the Mars Hill church in Samford, Fla., in January, by Willie Taylor, president of the Conference.

Among those present to welcome Young as pastor was the city commissioner, Art Woodruff. Commissioner Woodruff is a supporter of the Mars Hill church.

Woodruff informed Young that he is looking forward to working with him to make Samford a better place.

Young has pastored the Northside, Mt. Calvary, Elim, and Ephesus churches. Prior to joining Southeastern, Young served as a missionary in Africa and a departmental director in the Central

States Conference.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



ROBERT HENLEY

Commissioner Woodruff welcomes the Mars Hill church's new pastor, Theus Young.

Salem Honors City Commissioner

The Salem church recently celebrated its Sabbath school community guest day. Members considered this a miracle since, two weeks before, south Florida had experienced the deadly wrath of Hurricane Wilma, a category two hurricane, which left south Florida devastated and many of Salem's members without electricity or water.

During the divine worship hour, Salem

honored Pat Larkins, city commissioner of District Four. He was presented with a plaque and a copy of the book *Desire of Ages*. The members of Salem expressed their gratitude to him, for his 30 years of service to the city of Pompano Beach and the Broward County communities.

Gordon L. Retzer, president of the Southern Union Conference, was the speaker. He presented

a timely message based on Revelation 7, titled, "Through Great Tribulation."

The Retzers later joined the members for a fellowship lunch, and afterwards met with the Sabbath school department to remind them of the mission of the Church. He left the members with much to think about.

—BY CHARLES CUNNINGHAM



Gordon L. Retzer (left), president, Southern Union Conference; Pat Larkins, commissioner; and Charles Cunningham, Sabbath school superintendent

Maranatha Sponsors Health and Wellness Weekend

The Maranatha church, in Tallahassee, Fla., recently held its health and wellness weekend. The theme was "Naaman's Journey to Health and Wellness."

The guest speaker was Paul A. Corbier, M.D., of

Internal Medicine of Montgomery, Ala.

Corbier stated that God has something to say about health, and that includes mental, social, financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual health. He said, "If

you have faith, then God can move you to wellness."

The health weekend ended with a health fair to promote the awareness of good health. Participants of all ages came to get a better understanding of

their health. Each participant was given a physical, as well as health literature on cancer, aids, diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease and other diseases. There were door prizes giveaways, free clothes, and food.

Westside Church Burns Mortgage

The Westside Community church of Tampa, Fla., held a mortgage burning ceremony on February 18. The 14-year-old church began as a small prayer band in 1980, under the direction of Ward Sumpter, who at that time was the pastor of the Mt. Calvary church.

The prayer band, which was composed of a few members of the Mt. Calvary church, would meet in the homes of members on the Westside

of Tampa.

In the spring of 1991, Theus Young, then pastor of the Mt. Calvary church, held a tent meeting. In May, 1991, with the souls won from the tent effort, a prayer band was organized into a company.

In June, 1991, the company became the Westside Community church.

Under the leadership of Barry Bonner, pastor, the church was able to pay off its mortgage with

the proceeds from the sale of property owned by the church. The property was acquired with the help of deacon Lucious Jones. To acquire the property, the church had to pay the taxes.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Pastors Young, Bonner, and Taylor, and Westside members burn the church mortgage.

ROBERT HENLEY

Perrine Student Wins Spelling Bee

The Conference's annual spelling bee was held at the Elim church school,

February 25.

Ten schools participated. Each school held a

spelling bee, and the winner from the local spelling bee went on to represent their school in the Conference spelling bee.

The spelling pronouncer was Patricia Allen, assistant treasurer of the Conference.

The judges were Carol Byrd, Tonya Henley, Carol Smith, and Joseph Okike. The dictionaries were Donell Powell and Norma Nelson.

The winners were Whitney Lloyd, 3rd place, Shiloh school, Ocala; Briana Lowe, 2nd place,

Ephesus-W., Palm Beach; and Duran Carter, 1st place, Perrine school.

The evening climaxed with Conference education officials Elisa Young, Carol Byrd, and Carol Smith presenting all the participants with trophies, ribbons, and monetary gifts.

—BY CAROL BYRD



The winners were Whitney Lloyd (3rd place), Duran Carter (1st place), and Briana Lowe (2nd place).

ROBERT HENLEY

Southern Breaks Ground for State-of-the-art Wellness Center

Southern Adventist University continued its commitment to a well-rounded educational atmosphere with the groundbreaking of its state-of-the-art wellness center on February 20.

The groundbreaking preceded phase I construction of the wellness

center's gymnasium, which will be used for classes and



The wellness center, shown in this artist's rendering, is scheduled to be completed by fall, 2007.

practice for the Gym-Masters, Southern's anti-drug acrobatic team.

Phase II will include a therapy pool, fitness laboratory (housing diagnostic and testing equipment), fitness and weight facilities, childcare room, classrooms (including a cooking classroom), li-

brary, offices, and a conference room. The completed wellness center will add 46,191 square feet to the current 45,113-square-foot Iles P.E. Center.

The total project cost is \$6.5 million, of which \$3,754,786 had been raised by groundbreaking.

—ANDY PAHN

Shower Trailer Built for Disaster Relief

When natural disasters strike, thousands of victims are often left without electricity or running water. A self-contained shower trailer built by Southern for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference will allow victims and relief workers to take hot showers, even when electricity and water services are disrupted.

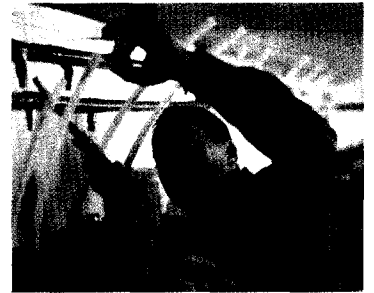
"This is needed so

much," said David Canther, a relief services director who helped coordinate the Seventh-day Adventist Church's response to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. "Thousands of people did not have showers for weeks [after the hurricane]."

The 48-foot trailer is outfitted with 13 showers, each with a private

dressing area. The trailer is also equipped with two water heaters and several large water tanks which give it a capacity of 1,200 gallons. A generator will enable the trailer to be self-sufficient in areas where the existing infrastructure has been destroyed.

—SEAN REED



Clair Kitson, plant services director, volunteered his time to install showers in a 48-foot trailer.

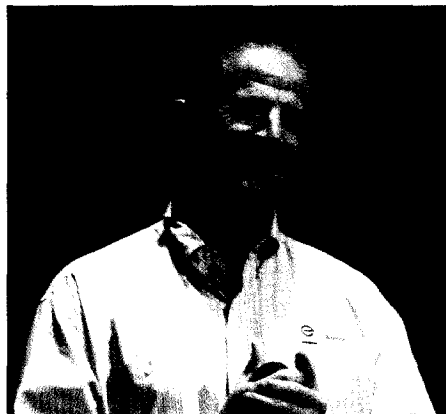
Navy Captain Shares Babylon Experience

The former commanding officer over the ancient cities of Babylon and Ur recently spoke to more than 200 students, faculty, and community members at Southern Adventist University.

Captain Thomas Merry was responsible for all military and civilian medical care in southern Iraq following the invasion by coalition forces, and he was given command over Babylon and Ur because of

his intense interest in archaeology.

"Captain Merry brought first-hand information on Babylon and Ur that hasn't been available for the last 25 years," says Michael Hasel, professor of archaeology. "It was a distinct privilege



Captain Thomas Merry's illustrated presentation included stories of his experiences protecting archeologically significant sites.

to sponsor a presentation by someone of his experience."

The presentation was sponsored by the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, which hosts several lectures each year to provide the University and community with biblical perspectives on archaeology.

For information on upcoming lectures, call 423.236.2030.

—SEAN REED

Gordon Hospital Offers "At-Home Comfort"

When most people think of staying in the hospital, they imagine a white-walled room, depressing environment, and minimal amenities. But, that perception is a thing of the past, thanks to Gordon Hospital's newly opened progressive care unit (PCU) and clinical decisions unit (CDU).

Reminiscent of a nice hotel, these new rooms offer an "at-home atmosphere" that promotes comfort and healing. Although the area hardly resembles the typical, sterile, white hospital environment, all the technology exists to care for extremely sick patients. The PCU is a

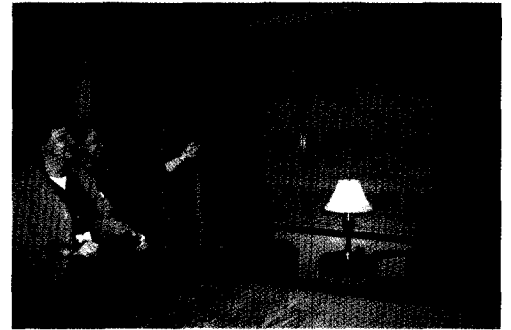
step-down unit for patients moving from the intensive care unit, but not quite ready for the general nursing unit. The CDU is for patients who are undergoing observation, and are closely monitored by an all-registered nurse (RN) staff so that the appropriate clinical decisions can be made.

"From the faux-wood floors, to the comfortable recliners, to the high speed internet connections in each room, we've tried to make coming to the hospital a good experience for the patient," says Ed Moyer, RN, vice president of clinical services at Gordon Hospital. "We're

in the new age of patient care, so we planned these units to help patients feel like they're at home, because that's where you want to be when you're sick."

In addition to being comfortable, the new units are highly functional. Behind the beautiful cherry-wood cabinets in each room is high-tech monitoring equipment to make sure patients are in good health at all times.

"The recent expansion



is a good investment in our community," says Amy Jordon, MSN, RN, CPHQ, director of PCU and CDU at Gordon Hospital. "We're very proud of what we can offer our patients because of this effort, and we expect the benefits to our community to be tremendous."

Hans the Dog Joins Therapy Team at Florida Hospital

One look at Hans and you can't help but feel sorry for this pooch. While most of his counterparts are walking around on all fours, he's getting around with the use of a doggie wheel chair. But this dog is not letting that minor detail stop him from being man's best friend—that's because Hans is also a therapy dog.

Twice a week, Hans' owner, who's also a case manager at Florida Hospital Memorial System in Ormond Beach, brings her therapy dog to the Peninsula Rehabilitation Center at Florida Hospital Oceanside. Medical studies have proven that therapy pets, like Hans, help patients improve their range of

motion, strength, endurance, balance, mobility, sensation, and more. But all it takes is one look at the smile on a patient's face once Hans enters the room, to see the positive effects of pet therapy. "Hans is an inspiration," said Mimi Wild, a patient at the Peninsula Rehab Center at Florida Hospital Oceanside. "If he can get around the hospital in his condition, it certainly gives me that extra push to get better," said Wild, who is recovering from a stroke.

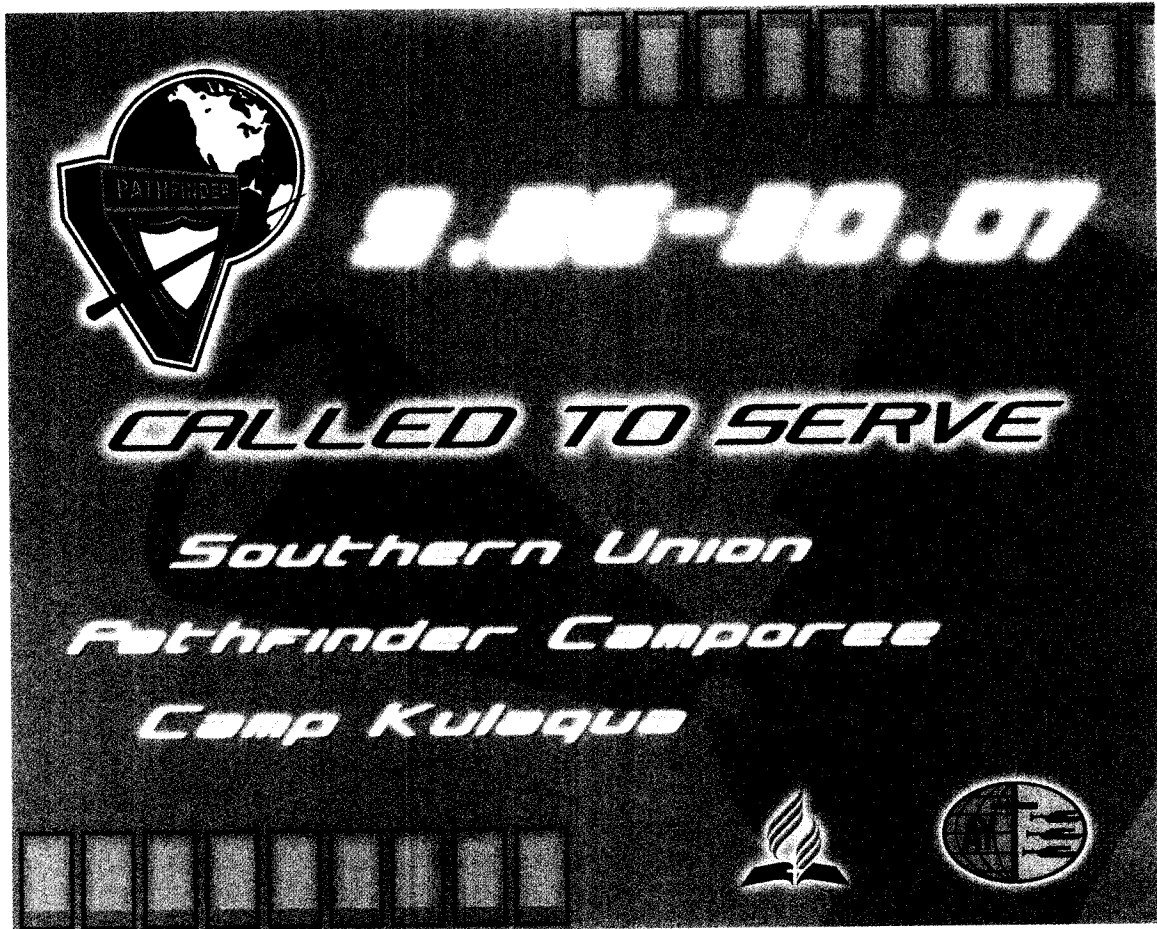
Here's an example of how pet therapy works: A woman recovering from a stroke has limited standing and walking tolerance. A physical therapist uses the presence of a dog to

motivate the client by placing the dog on a raised table and asking the client to stand while stroking or brushing the animal's back and head. To increase the patient's ambulation skills, the therapist has the client walk the dog for short distances around the facility grounds. (The handler uses a double lead and walks alongside the dog and client.)

And, that's not all. According to a recent study by the American Heart Association, researchers discovered that a 12-minute visit with man's best friend helped heart and lung function by lowering pressures, diminishing release of harmful hormones, and decreasing anxiety among



hospitalized heart failure patients. Benefits exceeded those that resulted from a visit with a human volunteer or from being left alone. Levels of epinephrine, a hormone the body makes when under stress, dropped about 17 percent in patients visited by a person and a dog, but just two percent in those visited just by a person. Levels rose about seven percent in the unvisited group.



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Evangelism Provides an X-Treme Makeover

BY JACKIE ROSS

It happened in the coastal town of Sarasota, Florida, on a corner where sin abounded.

The beauty of the ocean, large, pricey hotels, affluent shopping, and the jet setters' presence could not shallow up the evidence of an abounding presence of drugs, prostitution, alcoholism, and poverty. Young men and women, boys and girls with so much promise, were, everywhere and we had to let them know of a God who cared. The "inner city" life of Sarasota was disturbingly in need of an extreme makeover.

With the powerful tools of the Holy Spirit, that of unconditional love, Holy Ghost preaching, sweat of the brow in extreme heat, tears of compassion, and faithfulness in duty, we went to work.

The setting was a tent pitched across the street from the bootleg house. Drug dealers did their thing. People came and went freely from all parts of the city to get their stuff. This is where the extreme makeover took place.

To rewind just a little, we did a workshop with the church, outlining the different steps in successful soul winning. We met with the leadership on a Friday evening and with the church on Sabbath morning. We had a creative divine service. We actually huddled before going out into the field for the real "service." We also had a powerful, all-night, old-fashioned, prayer meeting.

There is so much to say about this meeting, from God's presence in the weather, the preaching of the gospel, and closing down the drug house, to the drug dealers on the

corners leaving the area. The gospel is a powerful tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Dennis Ross, evangelist, knew that the Holy Spirit did the work, did the protecting, did the preaching, did everything good that was done. We provided the Holy Spirit with willing vessels, and, praise God, He used us.

In this environment, there were fights around the tent, infrequent police presence, prostitutes, children galore, and teen parents. This was a perfect setting for the preaching of the gospel. This was a wonderful place to see God do what He does best—change lives.

Dion Henry, local pastor, his wife, church staff, and the marvelous church members, were so committed; we daily thanked God for them. Everything that needed to be done, they did.

Suffice it to say, Sarasota, Mt. Sinai, will never be the same again.

Pat, a live wire, a thankful heart, a worshipper who truly loves the Lord, had a positive impact on the meetings. Thank God that Pat gave all to Jesus. Then there was Emma, whose grandmother was a founding person of the church many years ago. Emma came home. Then there was Lynn, Althea, Cynthia, Ted, and Eric. They all found truth by walking to the tent from the community. Eugene became a supervisor on his job during the meeting, as he was learning the truth. Genika came, and her life was changed forever. Crystal, David, Jarick, Melissa, Maria, Imari, Leonard, Ambria, Terrell, Dvion, Malcolm, Crystal, and Jessica: young people who allowed Jesus to

come into their hearts.

As we continue to visit the people that came into the family of God, we cannot forget Mike Brown, who walked at least two miles roundtrip every night. How inspiring it was to see his determination to hear the "truth." Yes, in this day of fast moving cars, some people still travel by foot, and in Sarasota, many, many people travel by bicycle.

Michele Chargin came because of the kindness of a church family. She committed to Christ. Sage, Tiara, Jeremy, and Ismael came and received the gift of everlasting life through Jesus Christ.

Another great blessing was the presence of a Spirit-filled team of workers. Three young men and two young women came as part of a "field study" program, along with other experienced workers. The prayer sessions and the time of fasting was a taste of Heaven.

The extreme makeover happened in the lives of many from near and far, as we had dutiful help from our sister church in Bradenton, Florida. The makeover happened for the people in the community, but also for us, as you cannot come so close to the powerful Spirit of God without being changed.

Our challenge to you is that no matter where you are, be creative in your evangelism—at home, in your neighborhood, and in the marketplace. Ask God for your own customized brand of "soul winning." We found ours, and we are thankful 42 were baptized.

Music: A Universal Language

BY FRED A. PULLINS

In 1871, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a small travel-size ensemble of vocally talented students of Fisk University, departed their Nashville campus to tour the United States and Europe. Their college was in dire financial straits and needed immediate funding for salaries, fa-

cilities, and ultimately its survival. The Jubilee Singers were a tremendous success, utilizing a repertoire of ancestral slave songs, ballads, and patriotic anthems. Their audiences, in America and abroad, raved over their rich full-bodied

acappella singing. Even though the touring group was small, numbering 10 singers, it seemed that the fullness of their singing could only be explained by the voices of unseen visitors joining their ranks. It is chronicled that often their audiences were moved to tears by the pathos of their singing.

The success of Fisk Jubilee Singers influenced other contemporary Historically Black Colleges to establish singing tour groups to raise funds. They, too, owe their survival and growth to the groups of young brave singing ambassadors who traveled in racially uncomfortable times through out the world to garner resources to sustain the black

educational enterprise.

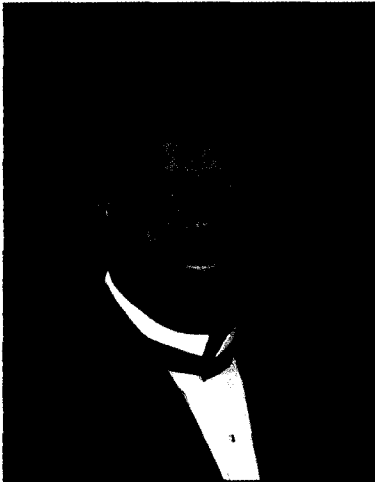
Oakwood College also adopted this sustaining fund-raising strategy to help quench its growing thirst for financial support. In 1923, Oakwood's own Jubilee singers made their debut. Also, male quartets toured the country during extended class breaks. Persons whose names are readily recognized by members of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church (Calvin E. Moseley, Walter Scales, Jr., Benjamin Reeves, Wayne Shepherd, Henry Wright, to name a few) kept the quartet era alive at Oakwood.

The founding of the Aeolians in 1946 by Dr. Eva B. Dykes (the first black woman in America to complete requirements for the Ph.D. degree) provided another musical resource to promote the college. Since its founding, the Aeolians have travel the United States and several countries to share its vibrant signature sound, recruiting students, making friends for the college, and creating financial support. This group of dynamic singers is world recognized and has earned a prestigious star in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

In celebration of the choral music tradition that still flourishes on the campus of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), Oakwood College hosts the Festival of Spirituals every two years. Choirs representing colleges that were founded on the heels of the abolition of slavery assemble at the Oakwood College church and present two acappella

spirituals each. As a finale, the combined choirs perform two numbers written by black composers, accompanied by instrument, under the baton of a renowned guest conductor. This year's conductor was Lloyd Mallory, conductor of the Oakwood College Aeolians. Mallory's selection by his musical peers is a great recognition and honor. This year's program was performed Sunday, February 26.

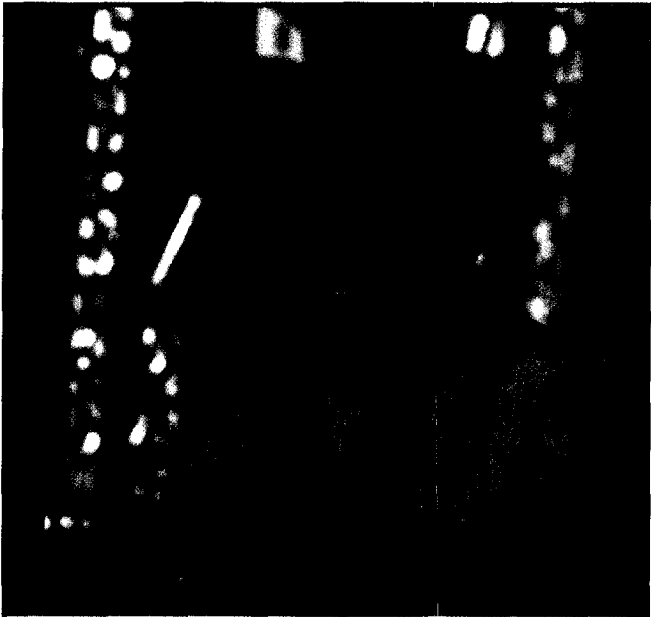
Choirs from Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Miles College, Talladega College, Tennessee State University, Troy State University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, First Seventh-day Adventist Inspirational Choir and Central Seventh-day Adventist Ensemble participated in the Festival of Spirituals. The Huntsville community, avid and dependable supporters of Oakwood College's music program, followed tradition and came to the campus in impressive numbers to enjoy this capstone program culminating Black History month events.



Lloyd Mallory, director of the Oakwood College Aeolians



The Aeolians who performed recently with Huntsville's Symphony Orchestra at Von Braun Center Concert Hall.



*Her soul is nourished
and her health improved
as an entire congregation
is taken under the wing
of a nurse who extends the
hospital's healing ministry.*

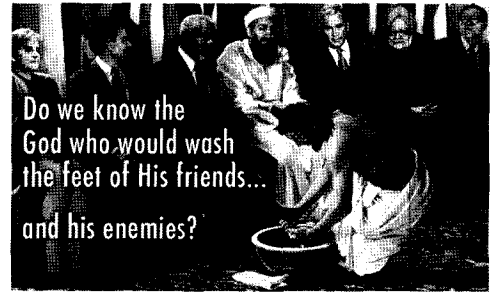
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Sharing the Importance of Marriage

BY VIVIAN RAITZ

From a young age Kathy McGhee-Schleier has been a prayer warrior. I know, because I was her kindergarten Sabbath school teacher from 1961-64.

I remember once when she said she was traveling with her mother and three sisters in California. They lost the luggage rack off the top of the car. Kathy promptly cried, "Let's call Mrs. Raitz, so she can pray about it." Providentially, they found the luggage rack, still intact, beside the road many miles back.

About eight years ago, Kathy started a weekly group that gathered to pray for the Holy Spirit's presence in our local church in Dalton, Georgia. Those meetings continue and are effective. Nearly every Sabbath morning, she leads out in the praise time singing before the worship hour, with her husband John, who is a dentist, playing the guitar. With her emphasis on relationships, you will always hear her say, "Let's pause and go across the aisle and greet someone you don't know."

Kathy has grown to care about making a difference in her community. She has led out in several very meaningful spiritual agape feasts. She and John have also joined groups twice in the past four years on mission trips to Mexico. Her caring attitude is still in her work to drive down the local divorce rate.

In 1978, Johnny Carson said to Ed McMahon on the *Tonight Show*, "Dalton, Georgia, is the divorce capital of the USA. There are four divorces for every three marriages."

Since then, faith-based organizations, and even the local and state governments, fought to change that. The efforts helped drop the divorce rate by as much as 17 percent, but soon the divorce rate was back to where it had been before.

In 2002, a new group was

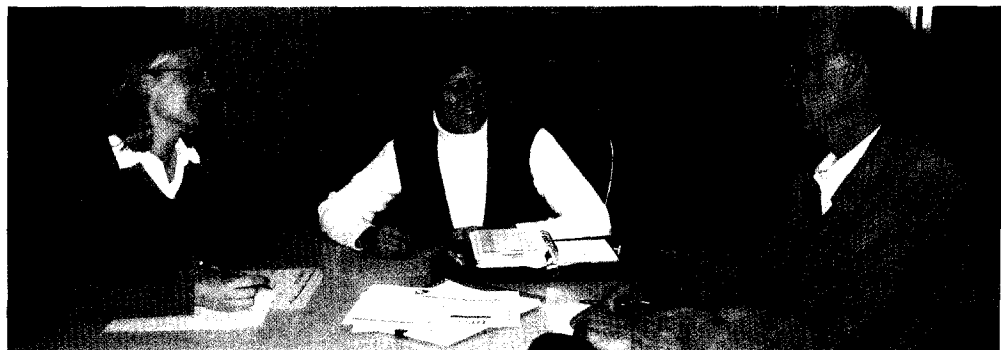
formed. This time it included the judges responsible for civil marriages. Kathy, who is an R.N., and general pediatric nurse practitioner, was one of the chief leaders of the effort, planning and coordinating educational and motivational seminars. After receiving a Compassion Fund Grant, the Whitfield/Murray Marriage Initiative (WMMI) was born, with Kathy as the executive director.

The purpose of this non-profit organization was to raise the awareness of the importance of marriage by providing tools, resources, and

various hotels in northwest Georgia and Chattanooga, Tennessee, helping many, many marriages.

Years ago, when my children were at the Adventist school in Dalton, she led out in the nationally-popular "Rainbow for God's Kids" program during after-school hours. This was for children in divorced families.

Kathy and John were co-leaders, along with Christy and Scott Magboo, of the popular "Ten Great Dates" series, which began in the Dalton church on February 11, 2006.



Kathy McGhee-Schleier (center) is working to strengthen families in Whitfield and Murray counties in Georgia.

education to churches, school systems, businesses, and government officials, thus decreasing the divorce rate and ultimately strengthening families. The goal was to decrease the two-county divorce rate by 75 percent within a 14-year period, largely for the sake of the children.

Kathy has met personally with many of the judges and pastors, and speaks at various churches.

Kathy and John have been happily married for 15 years. They have five children in their blended family. Partly due to their own failed first marriages, they have a deep burden for families involved in divorce. For four years, they successfully led out in Marriage Encounter weekends at

In response to recently-passed legislation that provides incentives for couples who complete pre-marital counseling, pastoral training classes are held periodically in the building where Kathy works. There is pre-marital education available monthly in both English and Spanish. The WMMI continues to work with the judicial system and local and state service organizations to gain support and awareness of the divorce problem.

Time nor space permit me to share all of the family-related community activities that my former kindergarten student and now my good friend, Kathy, has accomplished over the years.

Rebuilding Bass Memorial Academy

BY KIM TWOMEY

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: ...A time to plant...a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;"
Ecclesiastes 3:1-3, NKJ



The challenge of staying focused in classrooms that are not classrooms continues.

Faculty and students sleepily gathered pillows, looked for lost water bottles, and downed the remaining bites of granola bars. "Home" was recognizable by the familiar tilt and sway of the bus as it made its last turn onto the Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) campus. Air brakes locked and pneumatic doors opened. As students struggled down the steps, their only thoughts were to find their suitcases and the anticipation of sleeping in their own, comfy beds. As they turned toward their dorms, another concept began to sink in: the cafeteria looked different. The new walls were bricked.

Endless trips around taped-off construction areas and the constant struggle to stay out of the mud caused a kind of calloused blindness, but five days away at a Texas basketball tournament created a fresh

vision—progress is being made.

Craig Ziesmer, BMA principal explains, "The first few months were involved mostly with planning and demolition. Now, we're at the point of rebuilding Bass into the school God desires it to be."

Mysterious stacks of building materials and dinosaur looking machines have come together.

The two concrete pads for new classrooms are poured and finished, complete with plumbing and underground electrical service, computer cable, and telephone wiring. Maranatha volunteers, who are already starting to arrive, will build the actual structures. The entire west side of campus now has new septic system pipes and drains.

The cafeteria has taken on a different feel. In addition to the brick outside, the inside has new bathrooms, finished floors and—most important—running water.

The chapel is next. Its foyer is tiled, overhead lights installed, and the bathrooms are being fitted. The carpet is scheduled to be laid the week following spring break.

The music building is also coming together nicely. As drywall is hung,

practice rooms become recognizable. Risers climb in the choir room, and ceiling tiles and light fixtures stand ready in their boxes. Pianos from across the country make their way toward us in trucks.

Reassurance of a better day is all around. A new terrace outside the girl's dorm, a tiny tree planted to replace a toppled and mourned grandfather, a light pole moved, a ditch filled in: these combine with the daffodils and paper whites to soothe frayed nerves and give sight to faith. Spring is the season of renewal. The unexpected gift of a warm, sunny afternoon sends classes outdoors and puts a wonderful distance between the present moment and the long ago day Hurricane Katrina hit the campus with her fury.



Practice rooms in the music building have become recognizable as drywall is hung.

Step Up to Nutrition and Health

BY MARTA SOVYANHADI

The consumer and family consumer sciences department of Oakwood College is fully accredited by the Alabama State Department of Education and the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education. The department is also accredited for the didactic program in dietetics and for supervised dietetic practice by the American Dietetic Association. The aim of Oakwood College's specialized didactics program is to qualify students for graduate internship programs and to pursue careers in dietetics.



Marta Sovyanhadi (standing, far right) poses with the students enrolled in the introduction to dietetic class.

During the fall semester of 2005, students taking the introduction to dietetics class, instructed by Marta Sovyanhadi, Ph.D., chronicled personal statements to support the importance of good nutrition for National Nutrition Month. The students stress the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The motto selected for 2006 is "Step Up to Nutrition and Health."

The use of soy products is a healthy and beneficial source of plant protein, which is adequate to step up to nutrition and health.

Normally, you will hear people tell you to eat your vegetables because they are good for you. However, we rarely hear it expressed that we should eat our vegetables because a lack of them is detrimental to our health. Vegetables help maintain our health, stave off disease, and repair our bodies, providing vitality, good eyesight, healthy skin, protection against diseases, and overall wellness.

Recently there has been a growing concern about the calories and fat associated with whole dairy products. Fortunately, there are low-fat and even fat-free soy products readily available in our grocery markets. These products are often fortified with nutrients, a great way to step up to nutrition and health.

Getting enough sleep every night is key to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Most adults need seven to eight hours of sleep, while children and adolescents need even more. A dependable measure is enough sleep to allow you to wake up feeling refreshed.

Follow these tips to keep meal preparation from going sour. Be sure to keep hot foods hot—at least 140 degrees fahrenheit. Conversely, cold foods must be maintained at no higher a temperature than 40 degrees fahrenheit. Always keep hands and utensils clean to avoid cross-contamination. When finished cooking, leftovers should be immediately placed into the refrigerator.

By eating a variety of colorful fruits—green, yellow-orange, red, blue-purple, and white—you are giving your body a unique variety of essential nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, fiber, and disease-fighting phytochemicals. These nutrients

work together to protect your body from illnesses such as heart disease, type II diabetes, high blood pressure, and certain types of cancers.

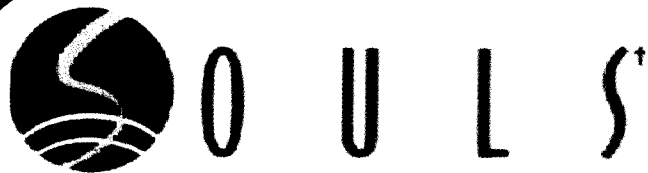
Whole grain foods provide the complex carbohydrates that can last for several hours, yielding long-lasting energy when eaten for breakfast or lunch. Some whole grain foods include potatoes, whole wheat bread, corn, brown rice, grain cereal, and oatmeal.

Drinking six to eight glasses of pure water per day allows you to properly hydrate and replace any fluids lost through breathing, perspiration, and waste production. The benefits of drinking six to eight glasses of water each day allows for better renal function, less risk of kidney stones, less concentrated blood, and improved elimination.

Maintaining a healthy weight is important for optimal health. You should not eat high fatty and sweet foods. Foods such as pastries, cookies, and cakes are full of calories that can contribute to obesity.

There is a fine balance between food and physical activity. Your choices each day affect your health—how you feel today, tomorrow, and in the future. Balance your food choices and do not eat too much of any one thing. Eat more vegetables, grains, and fruits. Choose a physical activity that you enjoy and do it habitually. Try to keep some comfortable clothes and a pair of walking or running shoes in the car or another easily accessible place to take advantage of exercise opportunities.

These are our students' personal messages. We hope what you have read will enhance your optimal nutrition and well-being.



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LEGAL NOTICE

The South Central Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 23rd regular session of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Oakwood College Church, in Huntsville, Alabama, Sunday, April 30, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet Saturday night, April 29, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting of the Conference Session is called for 10:00 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one representative for each full 500 members. The total number of representatives on the Organizing Committee is 156 and the quorum is 104. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

Benjamin P. Browne, President
D. C. Edmond, Secretary
P. G. Palmer, Treasurer

The South Central Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 23rd regular session of the South Central Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Oakwood College Church, in Huntsville, Alabama, Sunday, April 30, 2006. The Organizing Committee will meet Saturday night, April 29, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. The Association will meet after lunch on Sunday, April 30, 2006, at approximately 2:30 p.m. The delegates to the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Benjamin P. Browne, President
D. C. Edmond, Secretary
P. G. Palmer, Treasurer

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Medical Director, mrobinson@guamsda.com; Phone: 671-646-8881; Fax: 671-646-1292. (4,5)

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OKLAHOMA ACADEMY, a supportive ministry of the church, is accepting applications for an assistant in our cafeteria and health food store, a boy's dean, a bookkeeper/secretary, a landscaper, an elementary school teacher, and a maintenance man. Call 405-454-6211, email oa@oklahomaacademy.org, or go to www.OklahomaAcademy.org for more information. (4)

OAKWOOD COLLEGE seeks full-time faculty member for **Communication Department** to teach classes in the following areas: Electronic Media, Broadcasting, Communication Law, and Nonfiction Writing and Production. Doctorate or ABD preferred. Send CV to Human Resources, Oakwood College, 7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896. (4)

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to serve as a faculty member of the Theology Department, as well as plan and administer the office, staff, and curriculum of this new center. Qualifications include ministry, evangelism, and relevant discipleship experience. Doctoral degree preferred. Apply to crodriguez@atlanticuc.edu For details: www.atlanticuc.edu/humanresources/joblisting.php (4)

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for Dean of the School of Religion. Position available January 1, 2007. Successful higher education teaching experience and PhD or equivalent required. Prior administrative experience preferred. Send CVs to Steve Pawluk, Vice President for Academic Administration, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or via e-mail to spawluk@southern.edu (4)

PARKVIEW ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a Vice President of Clinical Services. Candidate will be responsible for directing clinical services, providing leadership to deliver nursing and clinical care. Current Maine RN license and BSN required. Minimum of five years in responsible nursing positions, including clinical and supervisory experience required. Please contact us at hr@parkviewamc.org or call 207-373-2176. (4-9)

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Carolina Calendar --- April '06
Adventurer Fun Day --- April 8,9. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Outdoor Education --- April 10-14. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Mt. Pisgah Academy Alumni Weekend --- April 14-16.
Pathfinder Council --- April 21,22. Charlotte.
Single's Retreat --- April 21-23. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Elder's Retreat --- April 28-30. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Hispanic Young Adult Retreat --- May 5-7. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
Hispanic Pre-teen Retreat --- May 19-21. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

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/>, melody.west@ahss.org, or 407-292-1421.
Estate Services Clinics and Seminars
 April 22. Ambassador.
 April 29. Okeechobee.
 May 6. Filipino-American.
 May 20. Ft. Pierce.
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
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
 April 22. Sunrise.
 April 23. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, Pompano Beach.
 May 6. Naples.
 May 7. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Lakeview in Haines City, Winter Haven.
 May 20. Maranatha in Miami.
Evangelism Series
 April 22-29. Hialeah Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Rios.
 May 13-20. Treasure Coast Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Rios.

The Journey--A Marriage Retreat with Ron and Nancy Rocky. Details: 407-644-5000 x136.
 April 29-30. Tampa First Church.
 May 6-7. Jacksonville Southpoint Church.
Spanish-language Hope for Hurting Hearts-- April 28-30. Details: 407-644-5000 x134.
Spanish-language Vacation Bible School/Sabbath School Workshop-- April 30. Hialeah Spanish Church. Details: 407-644-5000 x138.
Spanish-language Youth Retreat-- May 26-28. Camp Kulaqua. Details: 305-888-3907.
Community Bible Conference-- 112th Annual Florida Conference Camp Meeting. May 26-June 3. Theme: Known By Your Love (John 13:35). Forest Lake Academy.

Georgia-Cumberland

Health Emphasis Day --- April 8. Jellico, Tenn., church.
Health/Lay Evangelism Workshop --- April 15. Moultrie, Ga.
Communication Workshop --- April 15. Gattlinburg, Tenn.
United Youth Congress --- April 19-23. Atlanta, Ga.
Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinder Camporee --- April 20-23. Cohutta Springs.
Lay Evangelism Training --- April 21-23.
CSDA Retreat --- April 21-23. Cohutta Springs.
Communicating Christ Workshop --- May 28. Collegedale, Tenn.
Evangelistic Meetings
Discover Prophecy Seminar --- April 22-May 20. Alpharetta, Ga. BJ Boles. www.discoverprophecyseminars.com
Mark Finley Meetings --- May 19-June 24. Chattanooga, Tenn.

Bookmobile Schedule

April 8. Cohutta Springs. Southern Union ASI Convention.
 April 29. Greenville.
 April 30. Greenville.
 April 30. Johnson City.
 April 30. Kingsport.
 April 30. Knoxville.

Gulf States

Pathfinders Take a City - April 13-16. Panama City, Fla.

Adventurer Fun Weekend - April 21-23. Camp Alamisco.
Gulf States Conference Constituency Meeting - April 23, 30. Montgomery First Church.
Conference Executive Committee - May 9. Conference Office.
Bass Memorial Academy Graduation Weekend - May 19, 20.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board
 May 16. July 18. Sept. 19. Nov. 7.
Conference Executive Committee
 March 15. May 16. July 18. Sept. 19. Nov. 7.
Highland Academy Board
 March 16. May 11.
Madison Academy Board
 March 16. May 11.
Elders' Retreat --- April 21-23.

Southern Adventist University

Complete calendar online: www.southern.edu
Adventist Intercollegiate Convention --- April 4-8.
Adventist Robotics League Southern Challenge --- April 9.
Preview Southern --- April 13, 14.
SonRise Resurrection Pageant --- April 15.
Origins Weekend --- April 20-23.

Announcements

"Twenty-five Years: Tradition and Change" 26th Annual ASDAL Conference, June 18-24, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN, USA. Sunday

- School librarians pre-session. Monday - Adventist Resources pre-session. Info: www.asdal.org or Ruth Swan, President Elect/ Program Chair (ruth.swan@famuedu.org or 850.599.3370)

Granger, Washington SDA Church Celebrating 100th Anniversary -- July 28, 29. Yakima Valley Academy and Granger Jr. Academy reunion held in conjunction. Details: www.grangersda.com; Email: pat@grangersda.com; Address: Granger SDA Church, P.O. Box 460, Granger, WA 98932; Phone: 509-854-1132 or 509-837-4092.

Seventh-day Adventist Korean Language Institute Alumni Missionaries where are you? If you served in South Korea as a student or regular Missionary, please send us your contact information in preparation for a reunion during summer/fall 2006. E-mail: marilynlarazarus@hotmail.com or sali@puconline.org.

Spokane Junior Academy Class of 1957 --- Anticipating a 50-year class reunion at SJA Homecoming in 2007, I would like to get in touch with the students who moved through the grades at SJA with us, whether they graduated in 1957 or not. If you have contact information for any of our classmates, please get it to Nadine Platner Dower at dickandnadine@comcast.net or call: 360-828-7146; or 13000 NW 47th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685.

1956 Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates: We are trying to locate all of the Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates of 1956 for our 50th reunion meeting. Please write to: Eugene Wahlman, 12223 N. 39th Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032; or call 602-867-0264; or email: genenan@mailstation.com

Sunset						
	Mar. 31	Apr. 7	Apr. 14	Apr. 21	Apr. 28	May 5
Atlanta, GA	6:59	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:21	8:26
Charleston, SC	6:41	7:46	7:51	7:56	8:01	8:06
Charlotte, NC	6:46	7:52	7:57	8:03	8:09	8:14
Collegedale, TN	7:03	8:08	8:14	8:20	8:25	8:31
Huntsville, AL	6:59	7:14	7:20	7:25	7:30	7:36
Jackson, MS	6:22	7:27	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
Louisville, KY	7:07	8:14	8:21	8:27	8:34	8:40
Memphis, TN	6:22	7:28	7:34	7:39	7:45	7:51
Miami, FL	6:38	7:42	7:45	7:48	7:52	7:55
Montgomery, AL	6:06	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:26	7:31
Nashville, TN	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:40
Orlando, FL	6:44	7:48	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:05
Wilmington, NC	6:34	7:39	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01

Camp Meeting 2006 Schedule

CAROLINA

May 28-June 3 Lake Junaluska, NC
Theme:
Speakers:
Hispanic Camp Meeting I
 April 14-16 Nosoca Pines Ranch
Hispanic Camp Meeting II
 Aug. 11-13 Nosoca Pines Ranch
Korean Camp Meeting
 Sept. 22-24 Nosoca Pines Ranch

FLORIDA

May 26-June 3 Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL
Theme: Known By Your Love, John 13:35. Portions broadcast live via satellite by Adventist Communication Network (ACN). Details: www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting
Speakers: Mike Caulley, Des Cummings, Ron Halvorsen, Jr., Dan Matthews, Tony Moore, David Osborne, Henry Wright

Florida Keys Camp Meeting

Details: FL Web site Knight's Key Campground, Marathon, FL

Hispanic Camp Meetings

Details: FL Web site Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL
 Details: FL Web site Miami Fair Expo Center, Miami, FL

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

May 25-27 Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN
Theme: Alive in Christ.
Speaker: Mark Finley

Korean Camp Meeting

May 12,13 Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA

Ole Time Camp Meeting

June 28-July 2 Deer Lodge, TN

Hispanic Camp Meeting

August 25-27 Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA

GULF STATES

May 26,27 Montgomery First Church, Montgomery, AL
Theme:
Speaker- First Weekend: Lonnie Melashenko
 June 2,3 Country Place Church, Pearl, MS
Speaker - Second Weekend: Ted Wilson

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

May 26-June 3 Highland Academy, Portland, TN
Theme:
Speakers: Kurt Johnson, Tom & Gail Kapusta, Marvin Moore, Terry Moreland, Michael Ryan, Richard O'Fill, G. Edward Reid, and Steve Wallace
Seminar Presenters: Kurt Johnson, Don Morgan, Beth Nelson, G. Edward Reid, and Steve Wallace

Hispanic Camp Meeting

June 9-11 Highland Academy, Portland, TN

SOUTH ATLANTIC

June 8-17 River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC
Theme:
Speaker- First Weekend: C. D. Brooks
Speaker- Second Weekend: C. E. Bradford
Youth Speaker:
Women's Ministries Speaker:

SOUTH CENTRAL

June 9-17 Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL
Theme: In Partnership With God
Speaker: Craig Newborn
Youth Speaker:
Women's Ministries Speaker: Barbara E. Taylor

Hispanic Camp Meeting

May 25-28 Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL

AJY Camp Meeting Camporee

June 9-11 Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL

SOUTHEASTERN

June 15-24 Hawthorne, FL
Theme: Remembering and Continuing Deeds of Faith and Love
Speaker: First Weekend: Richard Barron
Speaker: Second Weekend: Barry Blake
Youth Speaker: First Weekend: Bron Jacobs
Youth Speaker: Second Weekend: Alex Royes
Women's Ministries Speaker: Charlotte Thoms

Hispanic Camp Meeting

Details: SEC Web site Hawthorne, FL

Summer Camp 2006 Schedule

CAROLINA

Nosoca Pines Ranch Liberty Hill, SC

Traditional Camps

Junior Camp I (ages 10-12)
 Junior Camp II (ages 10-12)
 Adventurer Camp (ages 7-10)
 Tween Camp (ages 12-14)
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)

Specialty Camps

SIT (Staff in Training) (ages 16-17)
 Horsemanship I (ages 11-16)
 Sports (ages 13-16)
 Horsemanship II (ages 11-16)
 Basketball Camp (ages 11-16)
 Water Sports (ages 13-16)
 Teen Extreme Adventurer Horse Pack Trip (ages 14-17)

GULF STATES

Camp Alamisco Dadeville, AL
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-10)
 Junior Camp I (ages 10-13)
 Teen Extreme Camp (ages 14-17)
 Junior Camp II
 Hispanic Youth Camp
 Family Camp (all ages)

SOUTH ATLANTIC

River Oaks Campground Orangeburg, SC
 Staff Orientation
 Junior Camp (ages 8-17)

FLORIDA

Camp Kulaqua High Springs, FL
 For Camp Dates: <http://registration.campkulaqua.com/sessions.aspx>
 Junior Camp I (ages 10-12)
 Horsemanship Camp I (ages 11-16)
 Junior Camp II (ages 10-12)
 Cub Camp (ages 8-10)
 Horsemanship Camp II (ages 11-16)
 Basketball Camp (ages 11-16)
 Horsemanship Camp III (ages 11-16)
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)
 Horsemanship Camp IV (ages 11-16)
 Extreme Teen Road Challenge (ages 13-16)
 Blind Camp (Pine Lake Retreat Center)
 Family Camp

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Indian Creek Camp Liberty, TN
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9) June 11-18
 Junior Camp I (ages 10-12) June 25-July 2
 Junior Camp II (ages 10-12) July 2-9
 Teen Camp I (ages 13-17) July 9-16
 Teen Camp II (ages 13-17) July 16-23
 Family Camp (all ages) July 25-30
 50+ Camp Aug. 9-14

SOUTH CENTRAL

Booker T. Washington State Park Chattanooga, TN
 Orientation
 Adventurer Sports Camp (ages 6-12)
 Friendship Camp
 Super Teen Camp (ages 13-17)
 Sports Camp (ages 7-17)

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center Crandall, GA

Regular Camps

Junior Camp I (ages 10-12) June 4-11
 Junior Camp II (ages 10-12) June 11-18
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-9) June 18-23
 Tween Camp (ages 12-13) June 25-July 2
 Teen Camp I (ages 13-17) July 2-9
 Teen Camp II (ages 13-17) July 9-16
 Family Camp (all ages) July 18-23

RAD Camps (Ages 13-17)

Golf Camp I (ages 13-17) June 4-11
 Mountain Bike Trip (ages 13-17) June 4-11
 Whitewater/Kayak Camp I (ages 13-17) June 11-18
 Cycle Tour (ages 13-17) June 11-18
 S.I.T. (Staff in Training) (ages 15) June 11-18
 Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17) June 18-25
 C.I.T. (Ages 15+) June 18-25
 Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17) June 25-July 2
 Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17) June 25-July 2
 Basketball Camp (ages 13-17) July 2-9
 Whitewater/Kayak Camp II (ages 13-17) July 2-9
 Golf Camp II (ages 13-17) July 9-16
 Wakeboard Camp III (ages 13-17) July 9-16
 Surf Camp (ages 13-17) July 16-23
 Ultimate RAD Camp West (ages 13-17) July 23-Aug. 2
 W.I.T. (Wrangler in Training) (ages 15+) Every week

SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern Conference Campground.. Hawthorne, FL
 Pee Wee Camp (ages 5-8) July 2-9
 Summer Camp (ages 8-18) July 11-30

From this day forward

A one-day celebration of marriage commitment

March 11, 2006
Oklahoma City, OK

April 22, 2006
Phoenix, AZ

May 20, 2006
Boston, MA

September 30, 2006
Orlando, FL

All seminars are from 9 am to 5 pm



Elaine & Willie Oliver



Allan & Deirdre Martin



Brenda & Mike Aufderhar



Don & Sue Murray



Claudio & Pamela Consuegra



Januwoina & John Nixon



Carolann & Cesar De León



Gayle & Mike Tucker



FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

A one-day Celebration of Marriage Commitment

It Is Written

50th Anniversary



Commemorating Fifty Years of Impacting Our World for God. Do not miss this thrilling event!

Commemorating Fifty Years of Impacting Our World for God. Do not miss this thrilling event!

You are invited to join It Is Written in commemorating the ministry's 50th Anniversary. Experience powerful preaching by Pastor Shawn Boonstra, a special video message from Pastor Mark Finley, dynamic multimedia, and soul-stirring music by renowned It Is Written musicians. From its humble beginnings in 1956, this dynamic television ministry continues to be a premier Adventist evangelistic outreach, influencing millions of lives worldwide every year. And for 50 years, thousands of Adventists have claimed It Is Written as "their" program, participating as viewers and supporters. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Join us for a special convocation as we pause to reflect on how God has led this television ministry for five decades, and discover the bold dreams of a glorious future that will culminate with His appearing. For additional details please visit our website: itiswritten.com

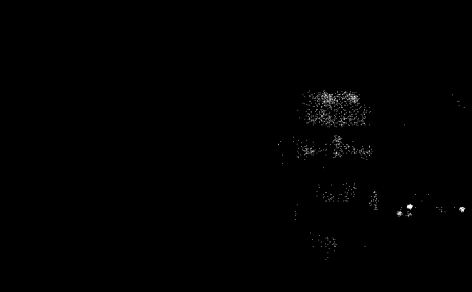
50 Years of Impacting Our World for God



George Vandeman
 Founder/Spoken
 1956-1992



Mark Finley
 Spoken/Video
 1992-2007



Shawn Boonstra
 Speaker/Director
 2007-

Plan now to attend: Sabbath, May 13, 2:45 - 5:15 p.m.

TIDINGS

Southern Union Conference
 P.O. Box 849
 Decatur, GA 30031
 Address Services Requested

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