

January 2008

SOUTHERN



# TIDINGS

*Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family*

*Liberty*



**DENIED**

# Small Investment—Big Dividends

During the winter of 1972, Cheryl and I, and our eight-month-old baby, Carisa, moved from Port Charlotte, Fla., to Berrien Springs, Mich., to attend the Seminary at Andrews University. What a contrast! Seminary for us was a great experience, and I'm thankful for the resources members in the Southern Union provide. Through your faithfulness in tithing, a small portion of each tithe dollar is used to operate the Theological Seminary. In the bitter cold I'd walk from Beechwood apartment D-47 to my 7:30 a.m. class in Daniel, taught by one of my favorite teachers, Gerhard Hasel, Ph.D., whose son, Michael Hasel, Ph.D., is currently a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University.

After we'd been there several months, we were surprised on a Sabbath afternoon to have Richard A. Hammill, Ph.D., president of Andrews University from 1963-1976, stop by our apartment to visit and have prayer with us. It was a simple gesture and no big deal really, except that it was unusual; and, it had an impact—the president of the University out visiting students on Sabbath afternoon. I could tell he had a special place in his heart for students and their families.

I found out later that in the late 1930s while Richard Hammill and his wife, Dena, were missionaries in Vietnam, they found themselves in the middle of the turmoil of World War II. As the war escalated, the Hammills ended up being Japanese prisoners of war in the Philippines, and in 1950 the Hammill family received between \$10,000-\$12,000 from the Japanese government as compensation for time spent as POWs. Seeing the unexpected money as a special gift from God, Dr. Hammill chose not to use it for daily family expenses, but invested it in a special fund.

Due to astute investing, the money Dr. and Mrs. Hammill had received from the Japanese continued to steadily grow. In the 1980s, the Hammills made the decision to give the bulk of their estate to Andrews, setting up an Endowed Leadership Development Scholarship. With the passing of Dr. Hammill in 1997, and his wife, Dena, in 2006, \$800,000 was given to Andrews University to be used to help students.

The forces of evil had tried to discourage the young Hammill family, but even something as awful as war, by the providence of God, can be turned into a power for good. Because we're in the middle of a great controversy between Christ and Satan, there will be times in 2008 when it will be tempting to give in and give up. Remember, God **ALWAYS** turns a curse into a blessing. Someone said, "God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage."

It was a small investment, I suppose, but through the blessing of God, that small investment became \$800,000 to be invested in building effective Church leaders. It was a small gesture, I suppose, for the president of the University to visit the Retzers in apartment D-47, but it was encouraging, enriching, and enduring.



Gordon Retzer  
*Southern Union  
President*

# SOUTHERN TIDINGS

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Cover Caption: *Religious Liberty is threatened when politics and religion mix.*

# When World Views Collide

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

A few years ago I was attending a friend's Christmas open house when I found myself engaged in a very nice, neutral religious conversation with a Jewish neighbor. Suddenly sensing that we were speaking about Judaism, another party guest came over and waited patiently for a break in the conversation before she intervened with her much awaited opening line, "The only reason God is blessing the United States is because we support Israel." She said it with such gusto and authority in her voice, it implied she dare anyone to deny that statement.

Suddenly I, felt like the proverbial deer caught in the headlights. If you haven't already guessed from my name, I'm an Arab-American. Being an Arab-American engaged in pleasant small talk with a Jew, in some circles of my extended family, would cause eyebrows to raise. Talk about that awkward moment of silence that sometimes happens in a conversation. I'm sure it was only seconds, but it felt like years. If there was one thing my Mamma told me, it was politics and religion do not make good party mixers. Did this women really want to start that conversation between an Arab and a Jew? Luckily, I'll never know how that conversation went because the hostess of the party, from across the room, hurried over for an intervention.

I'm sure stranger things have been said at Christmas parties, but this Christian woman thought she was in good company. The majority of Christian evangelical writers, preachers, and adherents in general share an eschatological misunderstanding of the book of Revelation. Their end goal is reflective of an interpretation of Revelation 20:3-6, which they believe will take place on Earth with Jesus' 1,000-year reign. Seventh-day Adventists interpret Revelation 20 differently. We believe that at the Second Coming, both the dead in Christ and those still living will be taken to Heaven. In this millennium of peace, the saints will reign in Heaven with Christ as they gain complete understanding of the great controversy and the final judgement.

If you understand the deception that books like *Left Behind* perpetrate, you understand the danger of Christians who deceive themselves just as blindly as Judas himself did. This misinterpretation is reflected not only in their religion, but also in their politics. Politically, they are supportive of policies that support and preserve the nation-state of Israel. They do this because their prophetic interpretation of Revelation is based on an understanding that Christ's return to Earth will not happen until Jerusalem has been fully restored. These evangelicals believe that only the nations who align themselves with this task will receive a blessing from God, and that nations

who do not set this as a priority or who oppose this world view will be cursed by God.

Since my father is Muslim, some may be tempted to say I am biased against Israel from my upbringing. But, I see the issue much differently. A few years ago when Cliff Goldstein was editor of *Liberty Magazine*, we traveled together for the religious liberty offering campaign. In the first church we went to, Cliff stood up and pointed out that we were quite the odd pair to be on the platform together, a Jew from Miami and an Arab with ties to Baghdad. Cliff went further in his introduction, as he pointed out that only in the Seventh-day Adventist faith could you find such camaraderie between people connected to nations torn apart by an age-old conflict. It is true. As Adventists we must recognize that both the Jews and the Muslims share one thing in common. Besides all being sons of Abraham, they all fail to recognize Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior. How can we take sides with those who ignore this all important truth? Just as important, how can we take sides with people who are so wrong in their biblical interpretation that they will eventually accept a counterfeit Jesus (the Anti-Christ).

Additionally, how can we as Adventists stand by and ignore what is slowly, but surely, happening in America today? Today, prophecy is being fulfilled as Protestants (evangelicals) unite with Catholics for the good of society. Protestants are now willing to lay aside the doctrinal differences—those biblical issues that used to distinguish each denomination from the other—in favor of the social and moral agendas they have established today.

Most evangelicals have the same goal that Adventists have—to work towards the day when all will worship Christ. Evangelical interpretation of Revelation 20 reveals that they believe the 1,000 years of prophetic time occur here on Earth instead of in Heaven. If

what they believe is true, then they must also be practical in realizing that in order for Christ's Kingdom to be established (not only on Earth, but in Jerusalem) the use of force, by any means, must be applied. So in preparing for Christ to reign supreme, they must implement political and legislative initiatives in order to fulfill those prophesies found in Revelation. How different their world view is from that of Adventists who work hard to keep the garden of the Church separate from the wilderness of the state/political realm. Adventists take it to heart when Christ answers Pilate by saying,



“My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place,” John 18:36. Increasingly, leaders of the evangelical community are preaching “right by might” in an effort to establish that kingdom here on Earth. Increasingly, the evangelical community is engaged in bending Washington's might for their own purposes.

Claims by evangelicals after the 2004 election, that it was their influence that won the presidency for the Republicans, have been noticed—not only by the news media, but even by the Democrats. Starting as early as 2006, Democratic hopefuls started releasing stories about their own faith experiences. In September, 2007, dur-

ing the New Hampshire Democratic debate, Tim Russert's final question was one directed at challenging the candidates to share their faith by asking each to share their favorite Bible verse. Presidential hopefuls like Mitt Romney, John McCain, and even Rudy Guilani have made strong statements in the last few weeks on their own religious views, in an attempt to persuade voters that they are the right man for the job. There is more news on their religion than their politics. Now, here we are in January, 2008, the first primary race in South Carolina is only days away. History is in the making this campaign year. Candidates from all sides, not just the Republicans, are preparing to appeal not only to your politics, but to your religion as well.

Religious liberty advocates are concerned when that line between politics and religion become so blurred you cannot distinguish between the two. Are these candidates preparing to fight for your vote, or your soul? I meet more and more Christians—even Adventist Christians—who cannot

*Besides all being sons of Abraham, they all fail to recognize Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior. How can we take sides with those who ignore this all important truth?*

make that distinction today. And, while the political party you personally vote for may be as sacred to you as your faith, I would remind Adventists that God is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. In a year when the election issues are going to permeate all aspects of society, my best advice is to leave politics at home. Adventists, in general, have no problem leaving politics on the church step. Can we say the same of evangelicals, whose ties are so close to their religious beliefs and this misunderstanding that Christians must take back America for God (in preparation for Jesus' earthly reign), even if it means doing so by force?

I pray that Adventists recognize that we claim not only a different world view, but a work for Christ that lies not with earthly powers, but with spiritual truths found in the Bible.

Now, a few years later, I'm still debating whether I'm glad my friend intervened at that Christmas party, or if I missed an opportunity to set the woman straight on the prophecies of Revelation. What I came away from that party certain of, is that even a seemingly innocent statement like this forces us to understand how serious the correct application of prophecy and interpretation of Revelation is in these critical times. As Adventists we cannot ignore religious liberty, because it is too closely tied to our defense of spiritual and constitutional truths. It behooves us all to defend and support such a cause.

*Amireh Al-Haddad is the public affairs and religious liberty director at the Southern Union Conference.*

## Election Year Prohibition on Political Campaigns within Churches

In a campaign year that looks to be as heavily religious as it does political, it is every member's duty to be cautious and protect the Church's tax exempt status.

- Under IRS code all 501(c)(3) organizations (churches) are prohibited in a very strict manner from participating either directly or indirectly with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for elective public officials. This includes any official running in local, state, or federal elections.
- Prohibition goes beyond candidate endorsement. Prohibition includes contributions to campaign funds, as well as public statements of position, either written or verbal.
- Allowing a candidate to use the Church's assets or property (facilities) is also prohibited.
- Church leaders cannot make partisan statements in publications (including websites) or at functions.
- In an election year, always check the IRS rules for specific issues involving candidate appearances in your church. The IRS rules detail what is permissible and prohibited.
- Voter guides gained popularity in the mid and late 90s. New rules have been issued on voter guides. The best advice is to refrain from passing out voter guides in church or on church property. When in doubt, check the IRS rules and be sure to be in compliance. Voter guides are the trickiest campaign issues to deal with, especially when well meaning church members distribute them at church.

This is not an exhaustive list of prohibition. It is important to remember that when you violate any one of these rules, you risk jeopardizing the Church's tax exempt status. If you have questions, you can always contact the public affairs department or check the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### **The Best Advice:**

Concentrate on the spiritual realm rather than the political realm when at church.

# Standing Ground for Religious Freedom

In December, 2003, the Jonesboro, Georgia, Hispanic church, a small but growing group, purchased a beautiful wooded seven-acre lot on which to build their long-awaited new church sanctuary just south of Atlanta. They were grateful,



*Efrain Poloche*



*Joel Mayen*

and felt the Lord leading them to this property with its thick span of pine trees along the front that would shield the church from road noise. With their architectural plans in place, the church went to the county for the permits. In Clayton County, Georgia, all congregations building a new facility must obtain a conditional-use permit. There were already several other churches and an elementary school in the immediate vicinity, so the church thought their appearance before the zoning board would be a simple formality.

Unfortunately, nothing could have been further from the truth. When the congregation went before the zoning board in 2004 to request the permit, they were met with opposition from several neighbors. In the hearing, neighbors presented outlandish objections to building a church on the property. One neighbor claimed that a church would invite criminal activity such as theft, vandalism, and sexual activity into the neighborhood. The closest neighbor to the property complained to the commission that the church children make his German Shepherd nervous. When the church members were leaving the hearing, other neighbors approached the pastors, Efrain Poloche and Joel Mayen, and announced to them, "You Hispanics: anytime you arrive anywhere you bring snakes and rats." Another told them, "You are dirty, filthy peo-

ple; we don't want Hispanics here." This resident went on to express a desire that instead of building a church, they should build a Mexican restaurant. Amazingly enough, while the neighborhood is racially mixed with both black and white neighbors, they all seem to agree that they do not like or want brown neighbors.

When the issue was brought up before the commission as to whether there were already existing churches in the neighborhood, one witness responded that those churches in the neighborhood were selected, and were successful because they worked to fulfill their spiritual goal of promoting harmony within the community. The Jonesboro Hispanic church members were shocked and confused. How could discrimination like this be permitted? Working together, the Southern Union's public affairs and religious liberty department, the local South Atlantic Conference and the office of general counsel at the Gen-

eral Conference formulated a plan—not only to obtain the proper permits, but to restore the dignity of this group of Adventists members. It has been two long years of filing briefs, gathering evi-

dence, interviewing witnesses, taking depositions, and appearing at more hearings, but the Church's diligence and commitment to religious freedom have paid off. In the last few months, the county commission has settled the lawsuit and granted the permit.

It wasn't fast or easy, and it certainly wasn't cheap, but the religious liberty department is proud to have been able to assist the church members in realizing their dream of a new church home. The religious liberty department remains committed to protecting not only your right to believe and your right to worship, but we also protect your church's right to exist. Your annual religious liberty offering helps to ensure that churches—and individuals—are free to practice their faith. Please remember to give generously this month in support of these sacred freedoms.

—BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD



## Myrtle Beach is “Miracle Church”



Kenneth Crawley, pastor, stands proudly in front of the new Myrtle Beach church.

The members of the Myrtle Beach, S.C., church were excited to hold their grand opening on Sabbath, November 17, in their new sanctuary, which holds 225 people. It was a time for giving thanks, as this truly is a “miracle church.”

The new building is located in Carolina Forest, a massive development project that, when completed, will be home to 29 subdivisions, including apartments, condos, and single family homes ranging from \$180,000 to \$1 million. The area population is expected to be 55,000.

The church is on the main road that runs through the area, and is on the outside of the curve. In fact, the Presbyterian church across the street, built four years ago, gives directions to their property by saying, “Look for the church that fills the whole road, and we’re right across the street.”

So why is this called the “miracle church?”

There were seven lots set aside for churches by Burroughs and Chapin,

the developer of Carolina Forest. The head elder went to them in 1999 and asked if they would sell the church a five-acre parcel of land. They agreed, and sold the five acres for \$90,000. The first part of this year the church was offered \$500,000 for the same five acres.

The old church—which they originally felt was valued at \$250,000-\$300,000—was appraised at \$500,000. They ended up selling the church and the 1.19 acres of land for \$700,000. In the early 1960s, when Burroughs and Chapin was developing the original church property, there was no Adventist church, only a few members renting a Mormon sanctuary. An elderly woman, May Ella Hardee, asked them for land. Anxious to have a church built, they sold the land for \$1.

When the new buyer’s lawyer was told the

property had originally been sold to the Adventist church for \$1, he told the buyer there was no way the sale would go through. Burroughs and Chapin always put a provision in the contract that the property could not be sold, but must



be returned to them. It turned out that the Adventist property was the only one that did NOT contain that clause.

A few years ago, the members learned that the new church property was on the site of an old WWII bombing range. The government has a fund for searching for and removing old bombs and rockets, but they were at least 15 years behind in getting to the sites already on the list. Checking locally, a land

sweep and removal came in between \$145,000 and \$240,000. The unexpected expense could have derailed the project, but after much prayer they found a company in Tennessee that would do the work for \$50,000. By going in

together with another church, they were able to keep the costs to approximately \$35,000.

The Lord has always had His hand upon the Myrtle Beach church. Remember that original

\$1 property? After a few years with no construction, Burroughs and Chapin asked for the land back so they could give it to another church. May Ella Hardee went to camp meeting that year and raised \$43,000 in checks and commitments, and the first Myrtle Beach church became a reality.

It is easy to see God’s hand on this congregation from the beginning.

—BY KEN CRAWLEY



## 3ABN Broadcasts ShareHim TV Newsmagazine



Robert Folkenberg, Jr., and his wife, Audrey, host this new 30-minute program that is broadcast on 3ABN. [Right] Video editors Tom Mills and Becky Jo Burishkin. The Carolina Conference communication department produces the 30-minute Television program.

ShareHim, a ministry of the Carolina Conference, has launched a new television program called "ShareHim TV Newsmagazine." Robert Folkenberg, Jr., associate director for ShareHim, and his wife,

Audrey, host this new 30-minute program that is broadcast over the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). The energetic, fast-paced program features interviews and reports from some of Share-



Him's enthusiastic evangelists. Each week viewers are invited to visit global locations where volunteer evangelists share their thrilling experiences.

The Conference communication department produces the program. All of the pre-production and editing takes place at the Conference. The portion of the program featuring the Folkenbergs is shot at Life-Talk Studios in Collegedale, Tenn., on the campus of

Southern Adventist University.

You can tune in to the program on Fridays at 11 p.m. Central time, or 12 a.m. Eastern, or on Sundays at 8:30

a.m. Eastern. The program will soon be airing over the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network (broadcast times to be announced). If you don't have satellite, simply log onto the 3ABN website and view the program. You can view past episodes at any time by going to the ShareHim website, click the link under "Video Reports" on the home page at [www.sharehim.org](http://www.sharehim.org).

—BY RON QUICK

## Carolina Pastors Emphasize Evangelism

Nine pastors, two members, and one evangelist from Carolina Conference were among more than 100 people who attended the recent Southern Union Evangelism Council. At the Tuesday evening appreciation banquet, Moises Sauza and Ellie Green received plaques recognizing their evangelistic endeavors and achievements in the Carolinas. One other noteworthy item about this group: Each of these pastors has committed to hold at least one evangelistic outreach/decision series in his church in 2008.

A recent action of the North American Division designated 2009 as the year of pastoral evangelism, encouraging each pastor to hold at least one evangelistic campaign in 2009. They set a goal of baptizing 100,000 new members.

At the recently concluded Southern Union departmental meetings, it was also voted to make 2009 the year of pastor/lay team evangelism, setting a goal of holding at least one campaign in each church in the Southern Union that year.



RON QUICK

Those attending Evangelism Council: David Graham (back, left), John Earnhardt, Julio Flores, Eli Rojas, Minner Labrador, Jonathan Edwards, Carlos Molina, Dale Pollett, Moises Sauza, and Thom Hean; Paula Edwards (front, left) and Ellie Green. Not pictured: Ken Lee and John Sweigart.

## New Mission Group Meets in Cape Coral



AL PIKE

*The Cape Coral congregation is led by lay pastor Roger Lucas, Ph.D., and supported by his wife, Teresa, and son, Michael. Lucas, an ordained minister and Andrews University graduate, is organizing the church into small groups for prayer and outreach.*

*The Cape Coral mission group is the sixth congregation planted by the Fort Myers, Fla., congregation. Others include Naples, Bonita Springs, Lehigh Acres, Fort Myers Shores, and Port Charlotte. The Fort Myers congregation and George Whitsett, pastor, give leadership support to the new group.*

Residents in the Cape Coral, Fla., area will be invited to attend a prophecy seminar in 2008, planned by the newly formed Cape Coral mission group. With a population of 160,000 in this southwest Florida city, Adventists in the area have said for many years, "There ought to be a church in Cape Coral."

Seventy-eight individuals became the nucleus of the Cape Coral mission group on May 19, 2007, when they met in a rented church. After only 15 weeks, they had to find another facility because of increased programming at the rented church.

Following an exhaustive search for a new

facility, the group united in prayer and fasting to seek God's intervention. Only one week before they had to leave the rented church, space became available at the Gulf Middle School. Attendance has grown steadily with 85-100 people meeting every week, including community guests and several new believers.

"Through our experience, we had an opportunity to bond together in Bible study, prayer, and worship," says lay pastor Roger Lucas, Ph.D. "Now we need to focus on what our unique outreach to the community can be, as we strive to become the kind of church God can use."

—BY TERESA LUCAS

## Reaping Campaign Nets 104 New Believers

When Lauderhill and Royal Palm, Fla., church members joined forces last fall in evangelism, hurdles became stepping stones that led to 104 baptisms. Studies continue for 120 more individuals.

Heavy rain, a revoked tent permit, and surgery for crusade manager Oswald Ramsay could not dampen the spirits of a capacity crowd that met in the Lauderhill church for the 20-sermon reaping campaign.

Claudius Morgan, a former calypso musician

from St. Vincent Island, preached powerful, Bible-backed messages. Hearts prepared by the Holy Spirit through Lauderhill pastor, Burnett Robinson, and Royal Palm pastor, Noel Rose, responded to the mix of word and song.

The new members in Lauderhill are part of a mission-minded congregation that has grown 20 percent in three years. A task force is studying whether to start holding two services or plant a new congregation.

—BY BURNETT ROBINSON



SHELLY PINNOCK

*New believers lined the center aisle of the Lauderhill church as the congregation welcomed them into fellowship. Exponential growth has created a challenge to house the church family.*

## Churches Report From Around the Conference

### Umatilla—

The Umatilla church increased its membership by seven when Jim Shearman was accepted by profession of faith and six others were baptized by pastors James Appel and Robert Collar.

Front row: Kenneth Langga, Marissa Chang, and Quinlan Leach. Back row: Jim Shearman, James Appel, Robert Collar, Kimberly Falk, Samantha Chang, and Heather Markham.



BILL BOWER

**Naples—**Four children have been awarded lifetime sponsorship under the auspices of International Children's Care by the Naples church. These children in Nicaragua, the Philippines, Romania, and Taiwan live in a children's village that is hosted by a foster mother and father. The children also attend an Adventist school and church.

**Plantation—**Member Kinga Bartha met Glenn West at a computer class at Florida Atlantic University where they worked on a class project together as part of a team. Glenn had no religious background and had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists until Bartha invited him to church. Glenn, who is paralyzed from the waist down from an accident caused by someone who ran a red light, is now a member of the Plantation church. He looks forward to being able to run through the restored garden of Eden, to experience the unimaginable fields of green and the flowers of heaven and, most of all, to see the face of Jesus.

### Avon Park—

Cynthia Chu and her staff helped the Avon Park Ambassador Adventurer Club raise \$1,010 for Christian Record Services Blind Camp. The four top fund raisers, pictured

from left, were Jeffrey Reinhardt and Nathaniel Chu, tied with \$110; Caroline Cox, \$80; and Anthony Gomez, \$410. These Adventurers' gift helped blind campers "see" a little more of Jesus.



DEBRA GOMEZ

**Brandon—**Every Saturday and Sunday, church members host a booth at the East Fowler Avenue Flea Market and distribute books representing Adventist beliefs. Volunteers receive prayer requests,

pray with people, and share Christ's love with a smile to 20-40 persons who visit the booth each day. Since its inception in June, 2007, the Flea Market ministry has given away 5,000 books and 400 DVDs.



RAFAEL FERNANDEZ

## Bulletin

There will be a **High School Retreat**, February 8-10, at Cohutta Springs Camp in Crandall, Ga. For more information, email [alyse@gccsda.com](mailto:alyse@gccsda.com) or call Alyse at 800-567-1844, x 346.

**Mario Cruz**, Duluth, Ga., church pastor, was honored October, 2007, by U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Joseph Neely, Lawrenceville Army National Guard, for dedicated military service in Vietnam and continued military support.

**Knoxville Adventist School** students in grades 7-10 helped sort clothes at the Zuma Fun Center for 20 families who were displaced by a recent apartment fire.

**Two new companies formed** in Georgia during October: the North Gwinnett Hispanic and Lawrenceville Central Hispanic. Also celebrated were eight baptisms at the Lawrenceville organization.

Fifty people attended the **Southern Deaf Fellowship camp meeting** in August, 2007, at Cohutta Springs with speaker Paul Kelly, a pastor from Rochester, N.Y. The theme was "Let us be Perfect in Him."

Visit [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com) for more news and resources from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

## 165 Attend Choral Festival

Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, Ga., was the site for the Invitational Elementary Chorale Festival for Conference students, November 8,9, 2007. More than 160 students in grades 5-11 attended with their sponsors.

"I am always amazed at the energy and enthusiasm of kids. To harness it is truly an art form," says Kenneth Scribner, GCA director of enrollment. "Chaperones and sponsors should also be commended, for they did an outstanding job. On behalf of GCA, we welcome the Choral Festival's return. It was truly an honor for us to host it. The only way to top this is to have more schools and more students participate. See y'all next year!"

The schools featured

at the Festival were Augusta Seventh-day Adventist School, Augusta, Ga.; Coble Elementary, Calhoun, Ga.; Learning Tree Elementary, Dalton, Ga.; Spalding Elementary, Collegedale, Tenn.; Duluth Adventist Christian School, Duluth, Ga.; and Greenville Adventist Academy, Greenville, Tenn. The Invitational Elementary Cho-

rale Festival is coordinated by Scribner and Debbie Anderson, Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Jeff Lauritzen of Collegedale Academy was Festival music director. This Festival has been an annual event since 1978, excluding 2004 and 2005.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



Coble Elementary students share their talents at the evening performance.

## School Play Stresses Thankfulness



Students portray a blind child telling an American boy about his life.

Young actors from Murphy Adventist Christian School performed the play "Would You Trade?," in which a series of visitors teach an American family of children that they have so much to be thankful for. Visiting their home was a girl from India, a grandma from a nursing home, a blind boy, Pilgrims

from the year 1620, and country children from the year 1887. The modern day American children did not want to trade places with any of these visitors. The actors, the school choir, the girls' chorus, and the school chime ringers combined to make an enjoyable program.

Senior citizens from Andrews and Murphy enjoyed the first performance the morning of November 14; parents, relatives, and friends attended the second performance in the evening on November 15.

—BY JOAN BILBO

## Lakeland Treasurer Honored for Service

Edna Thornton, a founding member of the Lakeland, Ga., church was honored for service on her 88th birthday, November 10, 2007.

She has served in the treasury department of the church for 40 years, 27 of which she has been treasurer. In addition, she was treasurer for Lakeland Adventist School for many years. It was only earlier this year that she requested to serve as assistant treasurer—still continuing to serve despite having a heart ailment. She is very involved in prison ministries and goes with Ar-



MARK PIOTROWSKI

*Edna Thornton received a plaque in honor of the many ways she has volunteered her service to the church and community.*

lene Boettcher each Friday evening to the Robert L. Patton Detention Center, where they share the love of Jesus and conduct Bible studies.

The children of Lakeland Adventist School have also been greatly blessed, as she has been a teacher's aide.

Her love for Christian service has extended to the communities of Lakeland and Lanier County. She continues to be involved in a special community club for seniors called The R.E.A.L. Club, where she served as club treasurer for

a number of years, and she has also blessed the community musically through playing the violin at Fifth Sunday Community Sings, a gathering of churches for a musical program in different congregations.

Thornton was presented with a plaque in honor of her distinguished service. In true Christian humility, she expressed her thanks to the Lord and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the opportunities that she had to play a "small part" in furthering the work of the Gospel. She remains a true witness.

—BY MARK PIOTROWSKI

## Ooltewah Students Lead Church Service

Christian education is a priority at the Ooltewah, Tenn., church. Ooltewah Adventist School is located just across the parking lot from the church, and Kim Thompson, school principal, wants to be sure they stay connected.

On November 10, 2007, the entire church service was conducted by the school. Students led out in a number of special music presentations, scripture readings, and skits displaying the value of Christian education. Eighth graders also served as deacons to collect the offering.

Thompson shared that more than half of the Ooltewah church budget goes toward Christian education, and that the school wanted to share the blessings it has experienced with the rest of

the church family.

The topic, "Christian Education – PRICELESS," was stressed in the sermon given by Connie Reynolds, first and second grade teacher at the school.

Thompson also addressed the price of attending a Christian school. She explained that when you break it down to the cost per hour, many of the ways families spend their money—such as a Braves game or a trip to Disney World—are more expensive than the tuition at Ooltewah Adventist School, which totaled only \$2.18 per hour.

"We think of Christian education as being a great sacrifice for many families, but when you look at the other ways we spend our money, \$2.18 an hour is not very much money at all,"



REBECCA BROOKS

*First and second graders from the Ooltewah Adventist School share the creation story with pictures and a song.*

said Thompson.

Ooltewah Adventist School also recently opened an expansion adding 6,000 square feet to the facility. The expansion creates enough space for a music room, a computer lab with

25 new computers, and a media center. Before moving in, a special prayer of consecration was held where students, parents, and teachers prayed in each of the rooms.

—BY REBECCA BROOKS

## God Calls 80-year-old to do Bible Work

The tiny Eufaula, Ala., church of 24 members wanted to participate in the ShareHim evangelism program. Members spent ten days in September of 2006 praying for the Holy Spirit. Each night the people gathered to pray for themselves, one another, and the people in the community. Then the members asked the Lord how to go about “sowing” in preparation for the “reaping” of the ShareHim meetings. They felt led to contact the Steps to Christ Project and have *Path To Peace* sent to every address in Eufaula and Georgetown. Members cheerfully sacrificed to pay the cost of \$4,500 to send 9,000 booklets.

The members continued to pray for the Lord to bring the little books to the attention of the people when they needed them. By the middle of December, responses started coming in. Each week the head elder reported on the increasing number of Bible study requests, and each week the members prayed earnestly for those who were searching for truth. They also prayed for a Bible worker who could follow up the interests.

By June, there were more than 100 responses, but still no Bible worker. Different members took response cards and attempted to contact the people. For one reason or another, most of the members who took cards found they were not having great success



*“I was scared to death, so I asked for just four names,” explains Margaret Magarity. Now she, with her husband, Robert, who goes with her, is giving more than 70 Bible studies.*

in getting to know their contacts. But, for Margaret Magarity, it was a different story. Each time she came to church, she was bubbling over with reports on the blessings she was experiencing as she contacted the respondents.

The other members began to turn their “hard-to-reach” contact cards over to Magarity. After a while it became apparent the Lord had answered the church members’ prayers for a Bible worker in an unexpected way. At 80 years of age, Magarity had, by the grace of God, been transformed into the “new” Bible worker. As of this writing she is personally working 70 contacts. She has organized these contacts so that she visits with each one at least once a month. Nineteen of the contacts are doing Bible studies by mail.

Besides the mail-in

studies, Magarity is personally delivering and correcting lessons for 23 people each week. Some people are taking four lessons at a time, and one woman has finished four new lessons in one day, and called for a “refill” the next day. Eight of Magarity’s studies are with people who were referred to her by family members or friends who are so excited about what they are learning from their studies.

Six people have already discovered the truth about the Sabbath, and have expressed a desire to be baptized. Lee Whitman, pastor, plans to start a baptismal class this month, and the church is planning a series of reaping meetings for the spring.

Magarity found it difficult to connect with one woman named Sue. First, there were health problems. She was in the

hospital for several weeks. Then there was rehabilitation. Then there were other reasons (or excuses) why it just wouldn’t work to get together. But Magarity sensed the Lord didn’t want her to give up, so she kept calling Sue week after week.

In November, 2007, Magarity held a garage sale to benefit the church budget. She told Sue about the sale, but had little hope that anything would come of it. Imagine her joy when a stranger at the garage sale came up and gave her a hug, saying, “You must be Margaret. My name is Sue. Now that I know who you are, I am ready to start taking those Bible studies.”

“The important thing about all this,” exclaims Magarity, “is that the latter rain is falling. I pray over the names first, and then when I call they are ready for me—God has prepared their hearts. They allow me to come and make friends with them. They study the lessons. People are hungry for the Word. The Lord is working. People are telling their friends.”

The Eufaula members request that you keep the Steps to Christ Project contacts in your prayers.

—BY HELEN THOMAS

## Couples Attend Retreat at Shocco Springs



*Couples from throughout the Conference enhanced their marriages at the first marriage enrichment retreat held in several years.*

A dozen couples from the Conference assembled at Shocco Springs in Talladega, Ala., for a seminar planned for enrichment of family life and relationships, on October 26-28, 2007. Adolphus Pember-ton, the presenter, selected

as the theme "Love in Action," and underscored it with the text "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain," Psalm 127:1. He insisted that successful marriages are triangles, with God at the top and husband

and wife at the base corners—all in intimate communication and interaction.

Couples present represented marriages as recent as March, 2007, and as early as July, 1967, and spouses ranged in age from 28 to 76. The retreat was the first for 11 of the 12 couples present, but for all it was a "fantastic learning experience."

Representing the views of all present, one couple explained, "It was good to be in a place where God is at the center of things, not at the fringes."

"I have a perfect husband, so the idea that the retreat is for couples

in trouble does not fit us and is not really true. This retreat was perfect for us," said one. Another said, "I came to this retreat to find a way to improve myself, not for my spouse's benefit."

One couple came to the retreat to celebrate their wedding anniversary, and, speaking for all, a participant declared, "This has really been a mountain top experience for me." The seminar ended with a solemn ceremony during which 10 couples renewed their marriage vows.

Couples will have another opportunity to attend a Conference couples' retreat in the fall of 2008.

—BY NATHAN MOORE

## Athens Diabetic Seminar a Success

"Living Healthfully with Diabetes" was the theme of the seminar conducted by the Athens, Ala., church in August and September, 2007. Charles D. Arnett, M.D., directed the intensive DVD-based educational intervention program from Wellspring Healthy Living—a division of Lifestyle Center of America, which assisted participants in making real, lasting life-style changes designed to revolutionize their physical, mental, and spiritual lives.

If anyone had doubts about the program initially, they quickly changed their minds as week by week impressive results

on weight loss, lower blood sugar, and lower blood pressures were reported. The plant-based diet and daily exercise program captured everyone's attention, especially as they sampled tasty dishes prepared by volunteers—Judy Phillips, Janet Arnett, Gloria Fogg, Patsy Thurber, and Sandra Price.

The program was so successful, Athens church plans to offer the program to the public in the spring of 2008.

—BY SANDRA PRICE



*Charles D. Arnett (left), director; Janet Arnett, assistant; Alice Whitt; Barbara Taylor; Patsy Thurber; Davy Harris; Gloria Fogg; and John Thurber were participants in the diabetic seminar.*

## Edwin Shafer 1924 - 2007



Edwin Shafer was born October 2, 1924, in Siloam Springs, Ark. He attended church school in Siloam Springs through the eighth grade.

The Shafer family moved to Lincoln, Neb., so the children could attend Union College. There he met and married LaVon Cotte. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on September 10, 2006. Seven children were born to the Shafers.

Edwin graduated from Union in 1947 and later in his ministry completed an M.A. at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

The Shafer's 60 years of ministry took them

to New Jersey, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Michigan, but the largest part of their work was in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference—a total of nearly 40 years. The Shafers served in Kentucky—Lexington, Covington, PeeWee Valley, and Frankfort; and in Tennessee—Lawrenceburg, Savannah, and Raleigh. Shafer was instrumental in the building of the Lexington, Covington, Savannah, and

PeeWee Valley churches.

Following official retirement, they spent three-and-a-half years pastoring the Dublin, Ireland, congregation, and another three years pastoring the Hilo and Ha'aulu churches in Hawaii.

The Shafers enjoyed traveling, and participated in numerous Maranatha mission projects. Shafer loved music and especially liked accompanying his wife or children for special music. He could always be counted on to play the organ for the early morning meetings at camp meeting.

Shafer was a member of the Lions Club and participated in many community programs in each place they lived. His community involvement led to him being named a *Kentucky Colonel*, an honor of which

he was quite proud.

After a two-year battle with cancer, he passed away at his home in Crestwood, Ky., on May 19, 2007. An Edwin Shafer Memorial Fund has been set up with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference to benefit worthy students at both Heritage and Highland Academy.

Shafer is survived by wife, LaVon; seven children and their spouses: Edwin and Connie Shafer, David and Jeannine Shafer, Rose and Fred Fuller, Samuel and Marina Shafer, Ruthi Shafer, Joseph and Carrie Shafer, and Rebekah and David Manley; 23 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

—BY ROSE SHAFER FULLER

## Louisville Junior Academy Builds for the Future

Since the construction of Louisville, Ky., Junior Academy on Newburg Road, the enrollment has averaged about 35 students per year. This year, however, enrollment has doubled.

Because many parents prefer keeping their children closer to home when they reach the ninth grade, Chris Juhl, principal, and the school board decided to take advantage of AE21—an acronym for Adventist Education in the 21st Century. AE21 provides structured



Students and staff of Louisville Junior Academy

distance education classes, using Internet technology, for Seventh-day Adventist

students through grade 12.

This year there are four full-time faculty, three full-

time support staff, two part-time faculty, and a support group of local volunteers who donate services.

Plans are also underway for the construction of a new addition, which will be ready for occupancy for the 2008-2009 school year. The new addition will include two large classrooms, restrooms, and storage areas. Long-range goals include increasing enrollment to 125 and the addition of a gymnasium.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER



## Trailblazers March in Veteran's Day Parade

Two years ago Tom Hardin became the director of the Madison Campus Trailblazers Pathfinder Club. His goal for the club was to focus on Conference, Church, community, and Christ—the four Cs.

With the help of the church and Adventist community, the club has been able to implement a drum line. The leaders felt that it would be important for the club to use this special gift to the glory of God in the



*Nashville Mayor Karl Dean (left) stands with the Madison Campus Trailblazers on Veteran's Day.*

community as well as in the church.

What better way to do this than to march in Nashville's annual Veteran's Day Parade? This would

mean taking the children out of school for the morning, but the school's staff was extremely understanding and supportive.

At 10 a.m., on Monday, November 12, 2007, the Trailblazers lined up for the first time ever in a parade on Broadway Street in Nashville, Tenn. The corps consisted of two banner carriers, four color guards, 18 drum corps members, three flag spinners, and 13 other marchers. Sandy Levoy,

Conference Pathfinder coordinator, also joined the group. The Trailblazers led the youth division of the parade, which included area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts units.

It was an amazing experience for the children and staff alike. They were able to meet Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper. Most of all, they were able to show their support for those who have served this country and to show the city of Nashville that they serve the Lord. What an opportunity.

—BY TOM HARDIN

## Hendersonville Holds Vegetarian Tasting Program

A vegetarian tasting program at the Hendersonville, Tenn., church was "a big success," according to Barbara Morris, event coordinator.

A news writer was present who sampled dishes, took pictures, and gathered recipes.



*Barbara Morris*

Her editor instructed her to go do a story and get the recipes to feature in the newspaper.

"For Seventh-day Adventists, the decision to become vegetarian goes hand in hand with the other

fundamental beliefs held by the church. We believe in

healthful living, and part of healthful living for us is to eat a vegetarian diet," notes Morris.

"Through this event we can share recipes with community members who might otherwise not know where to begin. There are so many alternatives to meat today, you really don't have to give up any of your favorite dishes."

Don and Joan Bruce had been an inter-dietary couple until two years ago. Joan had been a vegetarian for years. When Don was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, he joined his wife and never looked back. "I feel much healthier overall," says Bruce.

—BY CLARA HANSEN

## Casey's Needle and Thread Rests

Eveline Casey of Portland, Tenn., knew she didn't have long to live. She heard about the Portland



church working on "Bags of Love" and decided to spend time making small comfort quilts to bring joy to little children.

In a short time, she and her cousin, Yvonne Starlin, made more than 100 quilts for this outreach. Friday afternoon, October 19, 2007, she brought 20 more quilts she had finished, and was so pleased that someone had given her material to make

more. The next day she didn't feel well. Sunday morning she had to be taken to the hospital and died shortly afterwards. Eveline Casey was an inspiration, helping others until the end.

—BY JEAN MILLER

## Conference Workers Travel into Africa with Love



The Southern Union delegates who participated were Willie and Elaine Taylor (left), William and Eula Winston, Alex Bryant, Shelly LeBlanc, Steve Poenitz, Ruth and Vanard Mendinghall, Cynthia Gettys, and Ed Wright.

The representatives from the South Atlantic Conference joining Hope for Humanity's mission trip to South Africa, August 26 through September 12, 2007, were Vanard Mendinghall, Conference president, and his wife, Ruth; and William Winston, Conference executive secretary, and his wife, Eula; Willie Taylor, Southeastern Conference president, and his wife, Elaine;



Vanard Mendinghall, president of South Atlantic, prepares to take a photograph of students posing with Ed Wright, president of Georgia-Cumberland.

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president; Cynthia Gettys, Georgia-Cumberland Conference vice president for education; and pastors Alex Bryant, Shelly LeBlanc, and Steve Poenitz.

The 18-hour flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg extended

to 23 hours after departure was delayed for three hours and a two-hour refueling in Dakar, Senegal. The group from the Southern Union was greeted at the airport by Maitland DePinto of Hope for Humanity, and joined with nine other individuals from various conferences in the North American Division, making a total of 17 missionaries.

From Johannesburg, the

group took a six-hour bus trip north to the village of the Nhlengelo Community-base Care Mission. The directors of this operation are the Mawalas, an African couple

who retired from the pastoral ministry and moved to this village to conduct a traditional evangelistic tent effort. However, they soon discovered that the real needs were in the homes where people were living and dying from AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses. Mawala gives the glory to God for directing him to join with other Christian denominations to start the home-based care center.

The Mendinghalls and Winstons accepted the mission to minister to the care-givers of Nhlengelo by joining them on their home visits. The "care-givers" are home-care nursing aides who

have been trained by the local public health nurses to deliver nursing care in the homes. The patients' faces light up when the care-giver enters, even though she is accompanied by visitors from as far away as Atlanta, Ga., USA. The care-givers bathe the patients and clean the houses. They also encourage them to take their medication, drink water, and to get sunlight and fresh air. The South Atlantic Conference missionaries offered prayer for the sick and for

those who are dedicated to assisting the infirmed. Most of the care-givers are Seventh-day Adventists, and they receive a stipend from Nhlengelo. Monies given to Hope for Humanity from the Ingathering offering of the North American Division, help support Nhlengelo.

In the country of Lesotho, the group visited Maluti Adventist Hospital, and prayers were offered and



William L. Winston, executive secretary for South Atlantic, delivers the Sabbath message at Buyi-Sesalani church in Lesotho.

encouragement given to the Seventh-day Adventists who minister there. On the first Sabbath, worship was at the Buyi-Sesalani church, where a tent was erected to hold the large number of visitors; William Winston was the speaker. This congregation has already outgrown its church building which is less than five years old. On the last Sabbath, the missionaries raised their hands and sang praises to God with a congregation in Johannesburg.

—BY EULA WINSTON

## West End Church Holds Disabilities Emphasis Day



Jeff Jordan (left), Rukiya Isoke, and Calvin Preston, pastor of West End church

"Awesome," was the words from members of the West End church and the Southern Deaf Fellowship church as they left church service.

Rukiya Isoke, disabilities

ministries leader for West End, extended an invitation to Jeff Jordan, pastor, and the Southern Deaf Fellowship to worship together for West End Deaf Awareness Day. Jordan happily accepted.

The Southern Deaf Fellowship was formed and officially installed in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in 2005. At present the church has 40 members that attend each week, and that

number is growing.

Fifteen members of Southern Deaf Fellowship were in attendance. There were other deaf individuals that attended from the community. The visual and auditory communication was made possible for the deaf and hearing by the use of three American Sign Language interpreters: Donna Davis, Lynn Davis, and Jay Cee Robinson. Lynn Davis and Donna Davis voiced as Jordan preached with power about walking by faith as he gave his personal testimony.

Calvin B. Preston, pastor of West End, commented at the end of the service

that initially he didn't know what to expect, but he was definitely affected by the message and encouraged his members to examine their faith walk.

Prior to the date, Isoke taught members of West End basic signs and distributed basic sign language sheets in order to enhance communication with members from Southern Deaf Fellowship. Dinner was served following service.

Isoke has been working with the deaf/hard of hearing for 17 years. Currently, she is a teacher of the deaf for Atlanta Public Schools.

—BY ROSEMARY GRAHAM

## Maranatha's Women's Ministries Renovates Women's Shelter



Members of Maranatha's women's ministries team

In an effort to expand their ministries, South Atlantic's women's ministries team for the state of Georgia sponsored a benefit concert for the renovation project of the Maranatha Women's Shelter. The theme for the evening was "A Shelter in the Time of Storm," which was befitting

existence since 1990, assisting women and children in need of housing. It is currently under the direction of Ann Thompson.

Janice Carter, the director of the Georgia branch of women's ministries, was impressed to raise money to renovate the shelter shortly

for the occasion.

The shelter is the only one of its kind within the Conference, and is in desperate need of repairs. It was the brainchild of Aretha Kepler and has been in

after taking office in 2005.

Through her continued tenacity, the vision became a reality. The concert was held at Maranatha church in Atlanta, Ga., and its pastor, Alvin E. Freeman, served as master of ceremonies. Grace Landy, Georgia branch music coordinator, organized more than 10 groups from various churches within Georgia to perform for the congregation.

Attendees gave a free will offering, and all churches were asked to give for the cause. The Lord blessed the efforts, and as a result, \$7,500 was raised to renovate the shelter.

—BY PAULA FARRINGTON

## Sparks Elected City Councilman

Ronald W. Sparks, former engineer for the city of Wilmington, N.C., and member of the Ephesus church in Wilmington, was elected to serve a four-year term on the City Council.

Sparks' election theme was "Housing, Infrastructure, and Public Safety." During his campaign, he never compromised his beliefs just to win the election.

He said, "I was born and raised in this city. When I saw the need of my expertise, I didn't hesitate to offer my help to address many of the needs of this city."

—BY JOHN DAVIS



# A LIGHT SHINES

BY SYLISTER J. JACKSON

The invitation had gone out. Prayers had gone up. The place had been prepared. Now, all they could do was wait to see how God would work.

They knew He could, and they believed He would, but they were not quite prepared for what He did. On opening night of the Revelation Seminar in Evergreen, Alabama, all wondered if there would be enough seats and supplies for the people as they came and kept coming. It was a beautiful sight to behold. The group rejoiced as they prayed, praised, and thanked God for what He had done and was going to do.

Against many odds, Sylister J. Jackson, senior pastor of the Bethany church in Montgomery, Alabama, and a team of workers accepted the challenge of establishing a lighthouse in Evergreen, a city where there were no Seventh-day Adventists. Evergreen is 80 miles south of Montgomery off Interstate 65. After all doors seemed closed for securing a place for an evangelistic meeting, including the city of Evergreen refusing to issue a



Sylister Jackson (left, with raised hand), watches as pastors Ron-sard Broussard (left, in the pool) and Sargent Sims baptize two candidates.

permit for a tent in the city, and all other places were denied, Jackson and his team were led to what was formerly the ACE Hardware store. After much negotiation, the city gave a permit for a three-week meeting providing they meet some rigid and costly requirements for the building.

In faith, Jackson ordered hand-bills and had them mailed to each home in the city of Evergreen. After they were mailed, he found out that the owner of the building had not

even begun getting the building ready to meet the state fire marshal's requirements. With only five days before the opening night, the owner was urged to meet the deadline. With much prayer and continuous nudging, he promised to have it ready. The Friday evening before the meeting, the keys to the building were finally released. That meant on Saturday night and Sunday morning, the building had to be cleaned, a commode installed, and everything set up and made ready for the meeting on Sunday night.

After much laborious effort, the doors were opened, Sunday, July 15, 2007, and the music began. To everyone's amazement the people started coming and packed the building until more seats and tables were needed. The most exciting occurrence was that the guests were all non-church members from the community. They enjoyed a night of fun and games at the social on the first Saturday night of the Seminar on July 21.

Night after night the people con-



CASSANDRA CLAIKON



CASSANDRA CLAIKON



CASSANDRA CLAIKON

*Sylister Jackson (left), Joe Brantley, former Church of Christ bishop, and William Bussey*

*Sylister Jackson (left), Lealer Brantley, the former bishop's wife, and William Bussey*

*Night after night the people continued to come to the seminar with their materials in hand and a thirst in their hearts for the pure Word of God.*

tinued to come to the seminar with their materials in hand and a thirst in their hearts for the pure word of God. Jackson taught and explained the Word with clarity and power. His team members were Jean Norris, Bible worker, and pastors Donnell Morgan, Sargent Sims, Mark Hyde, Gary Jones, and Ronsard Brussard. The pastors did their part in the homes and participated nightly during the meeting. Robyn Powell was the sound operator, and Ivory Jackson, the evangelist's wife, gave the attendees a special greeting each night as she registered them. Novella Sims, Sargent Sims'

wife, assisted wherever needed.

Jean Norris, Vansie Morgan, Donnell Morgan's wife, and Joann Brussard, Ronsard Brussard's wife, had a marvelous time with the children, and so did the children as they had their special time singing, learning the books of the Bible, studying the children's Bible lessons, eating popcorn, and enjoying juice. During the first Sabbath celebration, July 28, 2007, the children performed beautifully, and again at the banquet that night.

The people received the Word with gladness and joy. As a result, after three weeks of preaching and

teaching the Word, on Sabbath, August 4, 2007, Jackson made an appeal, and the Holy Spirit led 34 people for baptism to join God's remnant Church. They crowded onto the bus and in cars, singing, "Take me to the water to be baptized." That day, 19 were baptized, and the others are preparing for baptism.

There is no secret what God can do, and as we near the end of time, we will see Him do more and more. Praise the Lord for adding to the Church daily those who shall be saved.

## New Congregation, New Pastor

Ronsard and Joann Broussard were introduced and installed as the new pastoral team for the new congregation in Evergreen. Benjamin P. Browne, president of the South Central Conference, preached a powerful sermon to this new congregation, and then presented the Broussards as the new leaders of the church.

Sylister Jackson, who conducted the crusade, will continue working with the new pastor as this transition is made, and the new babes in Christ become well-acquainted with the new leader.

Jackson and his wife started working in Evergreen in 2006 and baptized nine new members. Included in the number are a former Church of Christ Pentecostal bishop, Joe Brantley, and his wife, Lealer. William Bussey, associate pastor at Bethany, assisted with their baptism. To date, the church has grown to more than 34 members, and they are meeting each Sabbath in the same place the meeting was held, ACE Hardware Building, 102 Rural Street, Evergreen, Alabama.

To God be the glory. A church has been established, and the light is shining brightly in that once dark city of Evergreen.



CASSANDRA CLAIKON

*Benjamin P. Browne, Conference president, installs Ronsard and Joann Broussard to the new Evergreen church.*

## Two Ribbon Cuttings Inspire Praise

The Elim church and Junior Academy located in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently held grand opening services for its new facility during Community Guest Day Sabbath.

Speakers for the weekend included former pastors of Elim, William Byrd, Theus Young, and Oliver McKinney, Southern Union stewardship director.

Individuals honored during the Community Guest Day portion included Heidi Horak, Elim church's attorney, who was instrumental in the acquisition of the facility; and Darrell Rouson, attorney and civil rights activist.

Earl J. Lewis, former pastor of Elim, and his wife Carrie, were presented with a victory medal.

McKinney delivered an inspiring sermon which focused on the theme for the weekend, "We've Come This Far by Faith" to hundreds of members, guests, and well-wishers. Many recommitted their lives to Christ during the appeal.

Later, hundreds gathered for the second ribbon cutting ceremony at Elim Junior Academy where Renee White is principal.

A tour of the school



*The \$3.7 million, 60,000-square-foot, multipurpose facility includes a school and gymnasium.*

took place after the ceremony. The facility features a full-size regulation gymnasium, which includes an electronic score board, stage, kitchen, and dressing rooms with showers.

Immediately follow-

ing the tour, a concert was held in the sanctuary featuring various local artists from Elim and the Tampa Bay area.

—BY CHARMAINE PURCHASE,  
BETTY HAYWARD,  
AND RENEE WHITE

## Pathfinders Called to Serve

During the weekend of November 9-11, 2007, the Southeastern Conference conducted its annual Pathfinder Federation.

A few weeks prior the Southern Union held its annual Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Kulaqua, which caused concern that attendance may be low.

Slowly, but surely, the clubs came, and by Sabbath morning the attendance totaled 400.

"This event is a tradition, so no matter what, we had to support it," said Walter Reddick, district 3 coordinator/club director for Mt. Calvary Ambassadors.

This seemed to be the general feeling of all the campers who attended the

program that was planned for them.

David Woodard, longtime Pathfinder supporter, brought several of his horses as a treat for the Pathfinders.

After riding the horses, the young people were taught the Horse Husbandry honor.

Several other honors were offered throughout the weekend: First Aid, Camping Skills, Felt Craft, and Fire Building and Camp Cookery.

The speaker for the weekend was Leo Ranzolin, former vice president of the General Conference and former world youth/Pathfinder director.

Ranzolin's love-filled message for the Pathfinders



*The Patmos Chapel drum corps performs during the drill competition.*

centered on the weekend's theme, "Pathfinders, Called to Serve."

After AYS and Vespers, the next event was one that has been a long running favorite at the Federation. Pathfinders piled into the Youth Pavilion to see the drum corps and drill team exhibitions.

The Conference is blessed with talented and skilled Pathfinders.

Sunday's activities included morning worship and an awards ceremony, which highlighted the achievements of the top clubs, coordinators, directors, Pathfinders, and counselors.

—BY SHERRIE BARTON

# NFL Star's Funeral Brings Witness

By John Devine



More than 4,000 family members, teammates, fans, and on-lookers poured into Pharmed Arena at Florida International University on December 3, 2007, to pay their respects to Washington Redskins All-Pro safety. The 24-year-old south Florida native was home recovering from a knee injury when four intruders entered his home the morning of November 26, 2007. Taylor heard a commotion and left his bedroom to protect his family. His presence surprised the intruders, and two shots were fired. One bullet hit Taylor in the femoral artery, causing a loss of blood that was too much to overcome.

Despite the tragic circumstances, David L. Peay, Sr., pastor of the Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist church, focused his attention on the bigger picture.

"Why did it take the death of Sean? Peay said in his eulogy. "Shouldn't the death of Jesus be more than enough to bring God's children to



Jesse Jackson (third from right) sits beside Pedro Taylor, father of Sean Taylor.

church? We all loved Sean, but it only says something about us when we put more hope and trust in a mortal man than we will a God that can do any and everything for us."

As Taylor was growing up in Perrine, Peay served as his pastor, and they remained close until Taylor's death.



Sports agent Drew Rosenhaus speaks during funeral services for Sean Taylor. Seated to the left is David Peay, pastor.

Most people did not realize that Taylor had a connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but in a crowd that included civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, the dais was shared by Adventist dignitaries such as Peay; Hubert Morel, executive secretary of the Southeast-

ern Conference and former pastor of Perrine; Antowyn Mells, pastor of the Perrine church; and Lucious Hall, pastor of the Florida City/Bethel church.

Said Peay, "The four young men that were involved, or allegedly involved, in taking the life of Sean—as much as some of us would like to handle matters ourselves, the fact is Jesus is looking to save them, too."

The eulogy shared Taylor's spiritual journey from his days at the University of Miami to the NFL. There was one encounter at Perrine church where Pastor Peay and Taylor met in July, 2007. As Peay gave the appeal, Taylor heeded the altar call. As they embraced, Taylor told him, "I know what it looks like, but I'm not far."

In the aftermath of the shooting, many Redskins such as running back Clinton Portis and coach Joe Gibbs spoke of Taylor's growing maturity and spirituality—especially since the birth of his daughter, Jackie, 18 months ago.

Peay said, "He laid down his life for his family. Sean was doing what he was supposed to. He wasn't in the street. He was home."

Peay said the task is now to help Sean Taylor's family heal.

"We want Sean's memory to be a positive one," he said, and he hopes that young people will take this to heart.

## Oakwood University—It's Official

A special meeting of Oakwood's constituency delegates representing the school's core groups changed the name of the 112-year-old institution on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Appreciating the rich history of the name *Oakwood*, the delegates' vote for "Oakwood University" brought closure to extensive discussions engaging administrators, faculty, staff, and students during the past several months in efforts to facilitate diversity of input.

The final vote followed two hours of careful deliberation that began 10 years ago in response to questions surrounding strategic planning for the institution's future direction. Such discussions provided a springboard for the issue of incorporating graduate program offerings as a part of the institution's academic goals.

Last June, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved the institution's request to offer its first graduate degree, the master of arts in pastoral studies. That SACS approval advanced Oakwood to its current Level III status.

As a result, the college considered changing its historic name to more accurately represent its academic programs to prospective students.

For the past 10 consecutive years, Oakwood has been one of the few Historically Black Colleges



*Delbert Baker (left), Oakwood president, and Don Schneider, president of the North American Division and Oakwood Board of Trustees Chair, field questions from delegates at a special constituency meeting held on Oakwood's campus, Sunday, December 2, 2007.*

and Universities (HBCUs) to enjoy inclusion in top tier rankings among *America's Best Colleges and Universities* in the southern region of the United States (*U.S. News & World Report*). Recently, Oakwood was listed #22 among the 110 HBCUs in a special ranking published by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In stark contrast, the institution's first graduating class numbered five in 1909—a far cry from the anticipated number of graduates who will comprise the Class of 2008 and are expected to receive the first diplomas granted by Oakwood University this coming May. That alone was reason enough to join in a pre-holiday, campus-wide celebration that took place last month just before the students left campus on

winter break.

The invitation was extended by Delbert Baker, Oakwood president, and his administrative staff a couple of days after the renaming decision. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students took turns at the microphone, expressing excitement and an overall spirit of thankfulness in between bites of old-fashioned cookies and ice cream. Blue and gold balloons flanked the celebrants as they pressed into the Blake Center cafeteria to share nostalgic stories and testimonials about God's rich blessings on the institution for many years.

And while others may make New Year's resolutions, you can be assured that fellow "Oakwoodites" around the nation and the world will celebrate January 1, 2008, as the birthday of Oakwood University. This

blessed event in Oakwood history comes 50 years after its original accreditation in 1958, and 112 years after opening its doors as Oakwood Industrial School in 1896.

Oakwood, named for the abundance of oak trees that populated the original 380 acres purchased in 1895 for the establishment of the school, has been known by three additional names since that time. It became Oakwood Manual Training School in 1904, Oakwood Junior College in 1917, and eventually Oakwood College in 1943. The assumption of each new label marked its progression through the various levels of regional accreditation.

Baker noted that "this historic decision speaks to the quality of Oakwood faculty, staff, and students. We have a rich legacy and a bright future as Oakwood University."

—BY MICHELE SOLOMON



*A student hands the microphone to Delbert Baker after expressing positive comments on Oakwood's name change during a campus-wide celebration held for administration, faculty, staff, and students in the week following the official name-change announcement.*



# Honoring a Veteran

BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Michael Vest was recognized at the recent Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Kulaqua in Florida. Mike received a Purple Heart for wounds received during active service in Vietnam, where he served as a conscientious objector and combat medic. Mike was interviewed at the closing ceremonies on Saturday night.

Mike Vest was raised in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He remembers a book on Desmond Doss' life and service to this country. Mike read the book many times while growing up, thinking, "If I ever have to serve in the military, I want to serve as he had."

Mike's last two years of high school were at Andrews Academy where he took Medical Cadet Corps training; he graduated in 1968.

"I was tired of school, and Vietnam was at its peak," Mike remembers. Shortly after, he received a notice from Uncle Sam and was scheduled for induction on December 3, 1968.

At the induction center, a sergeant started singling out inductees who were to become Marines. "I guess to test my faith I was tapped and told I would be a Marine," Mike says. He tried to explain to the sergeant that he couldn't be a Marine because he was a conscientious objector (CO) and the Marines had no place for COs. The sergeant growled that Mike would be a Marine and the Marines would change his mind.

"I was praying for the Lord to give me the right words to say. Well, He answered my prayers," says Mike. A corpsman working at the center overheard the exchange and got the commanding officer of the center. He asked Mike if there was a problem. He explained that the sergeant

wanted him to be a Marine, but he couldn't because he was a CO. He was asked what he based his belief on, and Mike explained that he was raised to believe in the Bible and the Ten Commandments and that he could not kill. He also explained that he was raised to love his country and serve his fellow man, and as a medic he could do both. "Only God could have given me the right words to say," he says. "When I finished, the commanding officer turned to the sergeant and told him to pick someone else, since I couldn't be a Marine."

Mike arrived in Vietnam, May 16, 1969, and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Lia Khe as a front line combat medic. While escorting a D-9 dozer into a firebase, the dozer hit a land mine. It was only after checking to see if any of the engineers on the dozer or the other men in his unit had been injured that he noticed blood running down his arm, and his leg started to burn.

"As I was going through my gear



Mike Vest, on patrol in Vietnam



Mike Vest (center) flanked by Representative Mike McDonald and Congressman Bart Gorden

later, I found a piece of shrapnel the size of my thumb in a battle dressing I carried in a bandolier across my chest. The battle dressing had stopped the shrapnel from going into my upper chest and shoulder," Mike recalls. "Again, God proved to me He was watching over me."

The paperwork for a Purple Heart didn't catch up with Mike until much later, and he never received the medal.

In 2003, Mike's oldest granddaughter asked him to come and talk to her fifth grade class in Portland, Tennessee, about Vietnam. That occasion prompted his daughter, Lisa, to realize he had never received the Purple Heart medal. It took her more than two years, but in October, 2006, the medal was presented to him at the fire station where he works as a volunteer by Tennessee Congressman Bart Gorden and State Representative Mike McDonald, surrounded by friends, family, and fellow workers assembled for the occasion.

"Today I try to still serve my fellow man and my community," says Mike, who is a volunteer firefighter and EMT.

## National Nursing Shortage Attacked with Jackhammers

With our nation facing a nursing shortage that is only expected to get worse as the Baby Boomer population ages, many nursing schools have been turning away qualified applicants for various reasons, including lack of classroom space.

Southern Adventist University is tackling this challenge through the construction of Florida Hospital Hall on Southern's campus. Florida Hospital Hall will be the new home for Southern's School of Nursing and will be more than twice the size of the current nursing building.

With this expanded space, the School of Nursing estimates that it will be able to accept up to 40 percent more nursing students over the next several years.

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, as community members and alumni broke ground the traditional way, Southern's president, Gordon Bietz, and Florida Hospital's president, Lars Houmann, used jackhammers to break ground in the Jones Hall parking lot, where Florida Hospital Hall will be located. This marked the beginning of an alliance in which the two institutions will work together to provide nursing students with educational opportunities that will help smooth the transition between the classroom and the workplace for the more than 500 students pursuing nursing degrees at Southern.

"This building," says Barbara James, School of

Nursing dean, "will provide an unprecedented opportunity to positively impact nursing education and health care."

Construction on Florida Hospital Hall is expected to reach completion in the summer of 2009.

—BY LORI FUTCHER



Gordon Bietz (right), Southern president, was joined by Lars Houmann, Florida Hospital president, in jackhammering the site of the future Florida Hospital Hall.

## Children Not Invisible at Southern

Southern Adventist University was host to a model of a Ugandan internally displaced persons (IDP) camp constructed by students to raise awareness about Invisible Children, Inc., and problems facing the war-torn Uganda.

"I saw the [Invisible Children] movie, and it hit me so hard—to see the lives of people in Uganda, to see their suffering and what they must endure every single day," says Adam Litchfield, junior business administration major and event organizer. "It was

something that God would not let me forget."

Each structure in the camp addressed a sepa-

rate issue facing residents of IDP camps in Uganda. Huts dealt with the lack of food and medical care, as

well as the high number of orphans and the stress that living in an IDP camp puts on the family. In addition, a model school was built to raise awareness of the limited educational opportunities that children in IDP camps have, and a hut was dedicated to the history of the war in Uganda.

Invisible Children is an international non-profit organization that seeks to alleviate suffering and provide educational and economic opportunities to the people of Uganda.

—BY JAIME MYERS



Visitors to the IDP camp were able to see the drastic difference between a typical American meal and a typical Ugandan meal.

# Young and Experienced

BY NATALIA LÓPEZ-THISMÓN

In one year, attendance has more than doubled at the church where Pierre Monice pastors, and he's only getting started. At 21, Pierre is one of the youngest Adventist pastors in North America.

A recent graduate of Southern Adventist University, he was assigned to a church in Oklahoma with

a recorded membership of more than 400. However, those attending church regularly averaged around 70 members.

Pierre asked the church to pray about the matter, stuck to biblical preaching, and took time visiting and getting to know his members and what kinds of ministries they were passionate about. So far, the church has increased its regular attendance to 150. Members are fired up about new ministries they are developing, such as youth and young adult ministries.

This isn't Pierre's first experience in growing attendance, however. In fact, the reason he became a minister is because of an experience he had as a teenager.

## A Calling

Pierre had been unimpressed with the small youth group at his new church. He found the services boring, and he didn't want to be there. His mother gave him some important advice: get involved.

The youth group leaders came up with a new theme and programs they would feel comfortable participating in and inviting their church and school friends to. The youth



group grew to 40 members while Pierre was there.

## Hands-on Learning

Before finishing high school, Pierre learned that Southern's School of Religion required a two-year internship with a local church.

Pierre attended Southern, and as he had hoped, he re-

ceived a lot of hands-on experience as an intern in Orchard Park church under Samuel Thomas, Jr., pastor.

When Pierre first attended Orchard Park as an intern, Thomas told Pierre to pay attention to the service. Pierre sat in the pews with all the other church members that Sabbath morning. After church, Thomas asked Pierre if he had paid attention. Pierre confirmed that he had.

"Good," Thomas responded, because next Sabbath I'll be out of town, so you'll need to put the whole program together and preach."

Though Pierre felt extremely nervous, he was able to complete the job and learned a great deal from the experience.

"After that, I wasn't nervous anymore," Pierre says. "Everything went really well."

## Lessons in Leadership

During his freshman year, the experience as a student senator also taught him a valuable lesson in leadership.

As a senator, Pierre had to go to his constituents, fellow Talge Hall students, and listen to their ideas. As

he fostered relationships with his peers, he also learned the important lesson that to be a good leader, a person needs to be willing to listen to people.

"It's not always easy," Pierre comments. "It takes time; it takes you out of your comfort zone to listen to the good, bad, and the ugly to improve yourself and the University for the students. To lead, you have to listen."

His sophomore year, Pierre became Black Christian Union (BCU) president. He had a dream to encourage diversity on campus, and in order to accomplish that, Pierre and the presidents from Latin American Club and Asian Club organized a worship service that incorporated all three groups and invited the whole University to come. The full chapel revealed that his vision had led to a successful uniting of students.

Pierre says that at Southern, mingling with many different cultures prepared him for his pastoring experience in a predominantly white congregation.

## A Purpose

Today he is grateful for the experiences he's had that have allowed him to jump right into successful ministry leadership.

"I feel that one reason the Lord has put me in the position of being a full-time pastor while I'm only 21, is to help motivate other young people to become involved in the Church," Pierre says. "I hope it will be a source of inspiration and encouragement to them."

*Natalia López-Thismón is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University.*

# Listening With Love

BY DAWN POKORNEY



*Dawn Pokorney answers a call at The Connection Helpline office where she, Kevin, her husband, and a host of volunteers provide answers from a Christian perspective to those in need. When the Mt. Dora church couple considers the path into this ministry, they testify, "Our God is awesome and works in amazing and miraculous ways."*

Ten years ago, I could barely whisper. Thinking it was a case of laryngitis, I went to see my doctor in Orlando, Florida, and was given a prescription. I took the medication faithfully for a week; yet, there was no sign of improvement.

Each passing day became a frustrating struggle because, as a nurse, a big part of my job involved communicating with patients on the telephone. A throat specialist discovered a paralyzed vocal chord, saying it would take six months of speech therapy to regenerate the nerves and regain my voice.

Turning to God, I poured out my heart, claiming Bible promises for healing. I placed my trust in the Divine Healer and began thanking God in advance for restoring my ability to speak. Before the first speech therapy session was scheduled, something amazing happened.

One evening, while trying to unwind from another frustrating day of whispering, I suddenly felt as though I'd put my finger in a light socket. A jolt of electricity coursed through me several times and, afterward, I could speak in a normal voice.

The next day, my doctor exclaimed, "It's a miracle. You were healed!" There was no doubt in my mind, God had answered my prayer, and I vowed to use my voice for Him in a greater way than ever before.

Before long, I received a letter from a Christian hotline in Orange County inviting potential volunteers to attend a training seminar. I responded, as this seemed like the perfect opportunity to use my voice to help and encourage people.

I served the organization for four years and, in 2002, married my husband, Kevin. We moved to neighboring Lake County and discovered there were no Christian telephone services to help people struggling with grief, loneliness, divorce, financial difficulties, depression, and addictions. Within weeks, The Connection Helpline was born and staffed with several individuals of like compassion in their hearts for others and faith that God would use them to make a difference.

Four years later, cheerful volunteers at The Helpline continue answering phones or e-mail messages 365 days a year, identifying problems and exploring options. They often consult a 450-page resource list to organizations that provide programs and services for ongoing needs.

When hurricanes of recent years slammed the southern states, The Connection Helpline assisted Acts of Compassion Team Services (ACTS) in disaster relief by taking calls to

facilitate help for victims in addition to coordinating volunteers wanting to assist in devastated areas.

Recently, I received a call from the director of the helpline where I originally volunteered. With a decline in volunteer staff, incoming calls were impossible to handle for this 20-year-old organization that now faced the risk of closing. Today, we take more than 60 percent of their calls.

Among The Helpline's goals is to give people hope. As an extension of what is done to encourage others, I wrote the book, *The Miracle of the Lighthouse Cove*, which is the true story of a nurse whose hope wavered after experiencing a number of losses. All profits from sales at [lighthousecovemiracles.com](http://lighthousecovemiracles.com) help to further The Helpline ministry.

Our interactive web site at [connectionhelpline.org](http://connectionhelpline.org) is a popular way for people to present their problems and prayer requests. This site provides links to helpful information and e-booklets to read such as "Dealing With Stress" and "Emotional CPR."

The prayer of our volunteers is that each person who calls 352-483-2800 or 800-351-8082 may receive the peace that passes all understanding. Whether offering unconditional love in a crisis situation, saying a heart-felt prayer, or simply providing a listening ear, volunteers embrace the words of 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

## E. Earl Cleveland Donates Papers

The Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University received a priceless collection of original materials from Adventist pioneer evangelist E. Earl Cleveland on November 8, 2007. Cleveland and his family went to the campus to present his personal papers to the Center during a luncheon in his honor. Faculty and friends of Andrews attended the luncheon, hosted by Heather Knight, provost, to express



*Elder E. Earl Cleveland presents the Deed of Gift for his collection of historical records to Merlin Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research, as Heather Knight, provost of Andrews University, and R. Steven Norman, III looks on.*

their appreciation. Merlin Burt, director of the Center, was on hand to accept the formal deed of the gift. That evening, Cleveland inspired a capacity crowd with his preaching in the Seminary Chapel.

The collection contains nearly 2,000 sermon manuscripts, hundreds of pictures, personal books, audio-visual materials, and other records of his ministry, as well as his wedding Bible signed by Cleveland's father, with an inscription on how he and his late wife, Celia met, got engaged, and married in 1943.

At the luncheon the dean and associate dean of the Adventist Theological Seminary described the collection and expressed appreciation to Cleveland for making this material available to future genera-

tions of evangelists. Clifford Jones, associate dean, expressed his appreciation in the following words, "Elder Cleveland did not just redefine public evangelism. He did not just rewrite the book on public evangelism, for there was none to rewrite when he came along. Cleveland wrote the book on evangelism, doing so with skill and aplomb, and the thousands of pages of his personal papers which he is turning over to the Center for Adventist Research is a treasure trove beckoning to be plumbed by some astute doctoral students."

According to R. Steven Norman, III, director of

communication for the Southern Union Conference, who helped facilitate this donation, "when Cleveland lost his wife of 60 years in 2003, he faced



*This display shows just some of the thousands of records contained in the priceless collection of evangelistic and ministry materials presented to the Center for Adventist Research by Elder E. Earl Cleveland on November 8, 2007.*

his own mortality and was determined to prepare a ministry with continuity. The plan was to give his ministry the ability to

speak a message of hope even after his death and instill ministers with a passion for evangelism. A fundamental part of that plan was to preserve his records. Cleveland chose to use the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, because it was under the auspices of the General Conference and Andrews that he became the first African-American Seventh-day Ad-

ventist minister to teach pastors around the globe, regardless of race. Cleveland loves ministers and wants his records to be available to graduate-level students around the world for their research, professional development, and spiritual growth."

Cleveland said during the luncheon, "I have seen God for so long do so much with so little, I now believe He can do anything with nothing, meaning me."

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution

of higher education for the Seventh-day Adventist church, located in Berrien Springs, Mich.

—BY REBECCA MAY



Marked by the **disease** destroying their skin, **victims**  
of leprosy were cast out by family and friends. **One** sufferer  
knelt before the **Great Physician**, knowing **He** could heal  
him. And with the **touch** of a hand, the man was  
**made whole** and sent on his way.

— MARK 8:2-3 —

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▼ **Sabbath, January 12**

8:30 am\* Randy Roberts, *Senior Pastor*  
Loma Linda University Church  
"The Purpose Which Drives Him"

11:15 am Repeat of 8:30 a.m. program

6:00 pm Hyveth Williams, *Senior Pastor*  
Loma Linda University  
Campus Hill Church  
"Tough and Tender"



8:30/11:15 a.m.  
Sanctuary Choir  
and Orchestra

6:00 p.m.  
Wintley Phipps



Wintley Phipps

▼ **Monday, January 14**

11:00 am Dwight Nelson, *Senior Pastor*  
Andrews University  
Pioneer Memorial Church  
"When Mercy Grew on Trees"

7:00 pm Craig Newborn, *Senior Pastor*  
Oakwood College Church  
"Don't Wash Your Hands"



Denver &  
the Mile High Orchestra

▼ **Tuesday, January 15**

11:00 am Gordon Bietz, *President*  
Southern Adventist University  
"The Danger of Being Right"

7:00 pm Andy McDonald, *Senior Pastor*  
Florida Hospital College Church  
"Life Outside the Bubble"



Steve Green

▼ **Wednesday, January 16**

11:00 am John McVay, *President*  
Walla Walla University  
"Alabaster Disaster"

7:00 pm Mic Thurber, *Senior Pastor*  
Southwestern Adventist University Church  
"When Jesus Enters Your Story"



The King's Heralds Quartet

▼ **Thursday, January 17**

11:00 am Tim Mitchell, *Senior Pastor*  
Pacific Union College Church  
"The Heavenly Host"

7:00 pm Pat Morrison, *Senior Pastor*  
Atlantic Union College Church  
"Oh, To Be Young Again"



Selah

▼ **Friday, January 18**

11:00 am Dan Smith, *Senior Pastor*  
La Sierra University Church  
"The All-Star"

7:00 pm Ron Halvorsen, *Senior Pastor*  
Union College, College View Church  
"The Painful Paradox"



Chiz Rider, Trumpet  
and Michelle Tumes, Vocalist

▼ **Sabbath, January 19**

8:30 am Karl Haffner, *Senior Pastor*  
Kettering College of Medical Arts  
Kettering Church  
"The Gospel of Getting Stoned"

11:15 am Repeat of 8:30 a.m. program



The Sanctuary Brass

\*Times are PST

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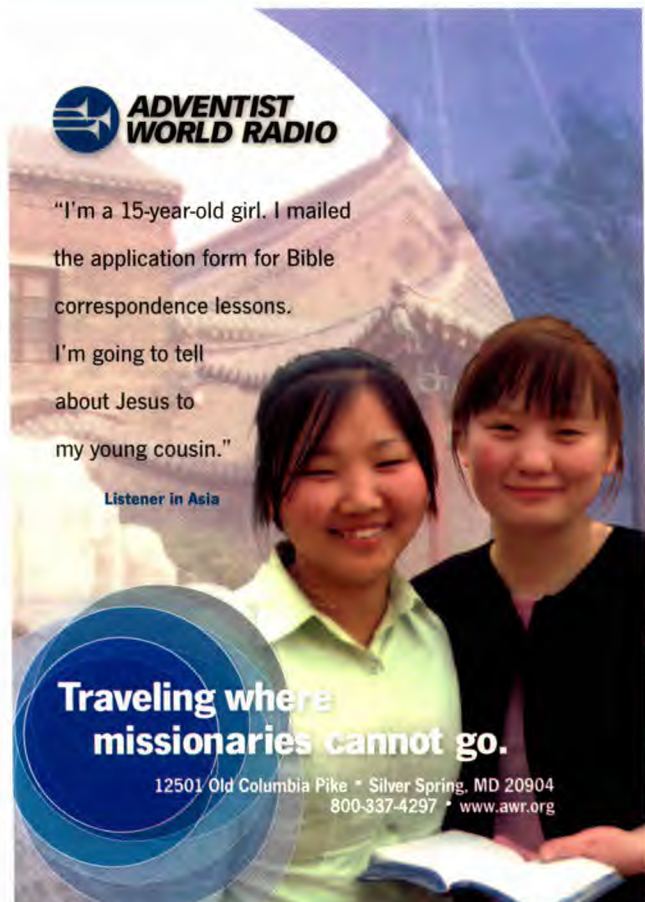
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## PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**GATLINBURG, TENN., LOG CABIN RENTAL.** Seven bedrooms, 5 full baths, 6 king beds, sleeps 21. Game room with 84" TV screen in media room w/DVD player. Three mountain view decks, 2 hot tubs - 2 inside, 2-person spas, and a pool. Call 800-508-6070 - also for sale. ©

**CHURCH BUILDINGS.** Engineered steel—stamped sealed drawings, custom exterior. We work with your architect. Gyms, classrooms, storage. Call 850-642-5566; www.rocksolidbuildingsystems.com ©

**QUIET OAKS ASSISTED LIVING in Graysville, TN** (45 miles from Southern Adventist University) has room openings for seniors. A 25-acre mountain estate with many walking trails and gardens is located

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**MOVING to COLLEGE DALE/CHATTANOOGA/OOLTEWAH?** An Adventist Realtor with over 17 years of experience will be delighted to assist you in this major real estate investment. This area has a lot to offer. For free consultation, call Sam Nkana @ 423-503-5286. Email: asnkana@comcast.net. [1-3]

**FOR SALE.** Minutes from SAU, this 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath home is designed for low-maintenance living. Features open floor plan, upgraded fixtures and much more. Located in a private community where nature abounds. See video of this home at www.4REALTYSPECIALISTS.com. Realty Specialists, 423-238-7325. [1]

**FOR SALE.** Well priced, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths home. One story over a finished basement. Offers separate dining room, and huge den with fireplace. Located in Harrison near lake. See video of this home at www.4REALTYSPECIALISTS.com. Realty Specialists, 423-238-7325. [1]

**FOR SALE.** Almost 6 acres of cleared land with a great scenic view for \$56,500. Horses are welcome, and utility connections are at the road. Build your special country "get away" approximately 30 miles from SAU. Ron Reading, Realty Specialists, 423-902-3439 or visit www.4REALTYSPECIALISTS.com. [1]

**WITH the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS National Park on the next ridge,** 48+/- Acres of Prime East Tennessee Land, 3 Large Lot Tracts (sold together/will not subdivide), 50' Access Roadway and Underground Utilities In Place. A Wonderful Opportunity to Own Tennessee Mountain Property in a private and beautiful mountain setting. Please Contact: JamesHoppa@Comcast.net, 865-257-0372. [1,2]

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**FOR SALE.** Four miles from Southern Adventist University and Collegedale Academy. Wooded 5-acre tract. Great hillside views, flat land, and a creek. \$119K. For more information, visit www.saddlezone.com/land or call 423-236-4637. [1]

**METRO ORLANDO REAL ESTATE.** Three and four bedrooms -1/4-1/2 Acre+ - 3 feature homes priced \$220K-\$300K in the Forest City area near several SDA churches, schools including Forest Lake Academy, and Florida Hospitals. Contact Charles Evers, Realtor, SRES, with Charles Rutenberg Realty, over 30 years real estate experience in Central Florida. Direct 407-667-7780. [1]

**"LIFE at its FULLEST - RETIREMENT at its BEST"** Maybelle Carter Senior Adult Community is a scenic Christian retirement community located on seven beautifully landscaped acres in Madison, TN. We offer an elegant and fun-filled lifestyle for adults 55 years and over. Our Adventist-owned community offers Three Angels Broadcast Network, vegetarian meal options and is close to SDA churches, academy, elementary schools, and hospitals. With one and two bedroom apartments available, we invite you to come join our family. Website: www.maybellecarter.com; Email: jtodd@maybellecarter.com; Phone: 615-868-2290. [1]

**RETIRE in the SMOKEY MOUNTAINS.** Regency Retirement Village is east Tennessee's premier retirement community. Located in Morristown, TN. We offer a luxurious and fun-filled lifestyle for adults 55 years and over. Our Adventist-owned community offers vegetarian meal options and is convenient to the local SDA church. With efficiency, one and two bedroom apartments available, we invite you to come join our family. Website: www.regencyretirementvillageofmorristown.com; Email: vfarmer@regencyretirementvillageofmorristown.com; Phone: 423-581-7075. [1]

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**CENTRAL FLORIDA REAL ESTATE -** Let Bob Fulghum (SMC '54) with 25 years experience in real estate, help you with your real estate needs. I also do property management, 407-896-6080 or 407-758-5807. [1,2]

**COLLEGE DALE GUESTHOUSE.** "A lovely retreat!" "We don't want to leave, ever!" says guests. 1½ bedroom, fully equipped kitchen, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. \$50/night for two (2-night minimum). Roger King 423-236-4688. View pictures at: www.rogerkingrentals.com Keep this ad! ©

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# Advertisements

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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** seeks qualified applicants for faculty positions in the following departments and schools: Chemistry, Communications, Engineering, Library, Mathematics, Social Work, and Technology. For more information, please visit <http://www.wallawalla.edu/resources/employment/faculty-employment/>. All positions will remain open until filled. To apply, follow the application instructions listed with each position. [1]

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**GORDON HOSPITAL is CURRENTLY SEEKING a physical therapist for home health.** Candidate must be able to be licensed as a physical therapist in the state of Georgia and have at least one year of previous physical therapy experience. Relocation expenses would be covered for this position. Gordon Hospital, owned by Adventist Health System, is located in Calhoun, GA, approximately one hour south of Chattanooga, TN and one hour north of Atlanta, GA. To apply, contact Jeni at 706.602.7800 x2321 or [jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org](mailto:jeni.hasselbrack@ahss.org) or apply online at [www.gordonhospital.com](http://www.gordonhospital.com). [1,2]

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**UNION COLLEGE seeks two tenure-track, qualified SDA nursing instructors,** 2008. Experience in either Medical/Surgical or Mental Health nursing required. Minimum of MSN required; teaching experience preferred. Submit resume to Jeff Joiner, Nursing Program Director, Union College, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or [jejoiner@ucollege.edu](mailto:jejoiner@ucollege.edu) [1]

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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**FOR SALE.** For the first time in book form, “The 30-Day Diabetes Miracle” guides diabetes sufferers through a three-part program of lifestyle medicine that addresses and corrects lifestyle behaviors at the source of this disease. It’s a real world solution that offers patients benefits often described as nothing short of “miraculous.” “The 30-Day Diabetes Miracle” is

currently available at your local ABC or favorite online bookstore. [1-3]

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**NEEDED:** The Quiet Hour is looking for a diesel-

powered sailboat, 45-55 foot, for medical work in remote Solomon Islands. Contact Michael Porter or Charlene West at The Quiet Hour, 800-900-9021, x116 or 111, respectively. [1]

**CONFUSED BY ALL THE TALK ON DIET?** Attend the two Conferences on Vegetarian Nutrition on March 4-8, 2008 at Loma Linda University in California. For more information on speakers, topics, and motels, contact Stoy Proctor at 301-680-6718 or e-mail [sanchez1@gc.adventist.org](mailto:sanchez1@gc.adventist.org) [1,2]

**MISSIONS MADE POSSIBLE.** Non-profit ministry providing air transportation at no charge for sick and ill individuals to Southeast USA medical treatment centers needs your help with donations to this ministry. Contact Ken Guill, President, Missions Made Possible (501 C 3 Corp) 407-423-1025, cell 407-929-8559. [www.missionsmadepossible.com](http://www.missionsmadepossible.com) [missionsmp@aol.com](mailto:missionsmp@aol.com) [1-3]

**PPPA is seeking copies of audio versions of classic Adventist stories** as told by our church's greatest storytellers. We are looking for "hidden gems," recordings not currently available. We can convert records, reel-to-reel tapes, cassettes, etc. Do not send recordings until requested. For more information call Warren Riter at 208-465-2530. [1]

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**2008 NATURAL REMEDIES and HYDROTHERAPY Workshop.** Andrews University Seminary offers this popular workshop May 4 to 9. Registration forms/info: [www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/](http://www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw/) or email [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu), call 269-471-3541. [1]

**OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS.** Norwegian Coastal Cruise July 7-22, 2008, including 4 days in Bergen area and 12-day coastal cruise from Bergen to Russian border and return, visiting Trondheim, Tromso, Lofoten Islands, North Cape, Hammerfest and more. Rhine River Christmas Markets Dec 4-14 visiting Basel, Strasbourg, Heidelberg, Koblenz, and Cologne. Contact Merlene Ogden 269-471-3781 or [ogden@andrews.edu](mailto:ogden@andrews.edu) or Judy Zimmerman [zim41634@aol.com](mailto:zim41634@aol.com) [1]

**SDA SINGLES ON CRUISE!** August 25-29, 2008. Carnival Fascination – Miami, Key West; Cozumel, Mexico; Miami. From \$242.22 per person. Book NOW! Visit [www.yourholidayescape.com](http://www.yourholidayescape.com) for complete details, or call 770-601-1520. [1]

**MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION in Atlanta, June 23-July 3.** Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit [www.gcsession.org](http://www.gcsession.org) for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009. ©

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Pathfinder Council**—Jan. 4,5. NPR.  
**Lay Advisory Retreat**—Jan. 25,26. NPR  
**VBS Workshop**—Feb. 2,3. Charlotte.  
**Lay Pastoral Assistant Training**—Feb. 8-10. NPR.  
**Romance at the Ranch**—Feb. 15-17. NPR.  
**Hispanic Marriage Retreat**—Feb. 22-24. NPR.  
**AHS Mission Conference**—Feb. 28-March 1.  
**Panama Mission Trip**—Feb. 27-March 10.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online**—<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>  
**Florida Pathfinder Events**—<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000, x127.  
**Family Ministries Retreat**—Jan. 19, 20, Miami Temple church. Theme: The Journey. Presenters: Ron and Nancy Rocky. Details: <http://www.yourfri.com/> or 305-223-2102.  
**Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information.** Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.asamcf.org/>, [djmiller4000@embarqmail.com](mailto:djmiller4000@embarqmail.com), or 386-789-3235.  
**Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars**  
 Jan. 19. Kissimmee Spanish.  
 Jan. 26. Ft. Lauderdale Spanish.  
 Jan. 29. Eden in Miami.  
 Feb. 2. Umatilla.  
 Feb. 2. Gainesville Spanish.  
 Feb. 16-17. Maranatha in Miami.  
 Feb. 23. Apopka Spanish.  
**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](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)  
**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**  
 Jan. 26. Maranatha in Miami.  
 Jan. 27. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Jupiter.  
 Feb. 2. Jacksonville Southpoint.  
 Feb. 3. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 Feb. 9. Naples.  
 Feb. 10. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers

Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Lakeview, Winter Haven.  
 Feb. 23. St. Petersburg.  
 Feb. 24. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.  
**Women's Ministries Retreats**—Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: The Gymnasium of the Soul... Training For Spiritual Fitness. Details: 407-644-5000, x134.  
 Feb. 1-3. English.  
 Feb. 8-10. English.  
 Feb. 15-17. Hispanic.  
 Feb. 22-24. English.

**Winter Haven Church Concert Series**—Details: <http://www.winterhavensda.org/>, [pastor@winterhavensda.org](mailto:pastor@winterhavensda.org), or 863-224-2196.

Feb. 2. Joe Pearles.  
 Feb. 23. Jaime Jorge Worship Concert.

**Lake Union Academies Alumni Reunion** (formerly Michigan Academies Alumni Reunion). March 1. Forest Lake Academy H.H. Schmidt Auditorium, Apopka. Details: [rebecca.becker@flhosp.org](mailto:rebecca.becker@flhosp.org) or 407-814-1859.

**The Heralds in Concert**—March 1. Ambassador church, Lauderdale Lakes. Details: [amsda@bellsouth.net](mailto:amsda@bellsouth.net), 954-733-0607, or 954-817-6419.

**Men's Ministries Conventions**—March 7-9 and March 14-16. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: The Last Frontier. Registration: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online**—[www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)  
**Dalton, GA Evangelism** — Jan. 5 — Feb. 5. Dalton, GA.  
**Adventurer Director's Council** — Jan. 5.  
**Pathfinder Directors' Council** — Jan. 6.  
**India Mission Trip** — Jan. 27-Feb. 20.  
**New Member Retreat** — Feb. 1-3. Cohutta Springs.  
**Elders' Certification Training** — Feb. 1-3. Cohutta Springs.  
**CISM: Assisting Individuals in Crisis** — Feb. 3,4. Albany, GA.  
**Hispanic Elders' Certification** — Feb. 8-10. Cohutta Springs.  
**Bells & Strings Festival** — Feb. 8-10. GCA.  
**High School Retreat** — Feb. 8-10. Cohutta Springs.  
**Columbus, GA Evangelism** —

Feb. 9-March 9.  
**Atlanta Adventist Academy Day** — Feb. 14.  
**Pathfinder Teen Challenge** — Feb. 15-17.  
**Hispanic Children's Ministries Convention** — Feb. 15-16. Atlanta, GA.  
**Hispanic Lay Preachers Training (ShareHim)** — Feb. 22,23. Atlanta, GA.  
**Children's & Family Ministries Convention** — Feb. 22-24. Cohutta Springs.  
**Hispanic Congregations Leaders' Training** — Feb. 29-March 2. Cohutta Springs.

## Gulf States

**Literature Evangelists Yearend Retreat**—Jan. 3-6. Gatlinburg, TN.  
**Pathfinder Council Meeting**—Jan. 11-13. Camp Alamisco.  
**Teachers' In-service Meetings with Sandy Doran**—Jan. 13-15. Camp Alamisco.  
**ShareHim Boot Camp**—Jan. 18-20. Camp Alamisco.  
**Teen Invitational Caving**—Jan. 25,26.  
**Education Fair**—Feb. 3,4. BMA.  
**Family Ministries Ministers'/Wives' Retreat**—Feb. 12-14.  
**Elders' Training #3**—Feb.15-17. Camp Alamisco.  
**Executive Committee**—Feb. 19. Conference Office.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board**  
 Jan. 15. March 11.  
**Conference Executive Committee**  
 Jan. 15. March 11.  
**Highland & Madison Academy Boards**  
 Jan. 17. March 20.  
**Conference Board of Education**  
 Feb. 14. April 10.  
**Eastern Kentucky Camp**

**Meeting**—Feb. 29-March 1. Prestonsburg, KY.  
**West Tennessee Festival of Faith**—March 8. Memphis, TN.  
**Highland Academy Alumni Homecoming**—April 4,5. Honor classes include years ending in 3s and 8s (1998, 2003, etc.) See [www.highland-academy.com](http://www.highland-academy.com) for more information.

## Southern Adventist University

**Classes Begin**—Jan. 7.  
**Community Service Day**—Jan. 21.  
**Preview Southern**—Jan. 24,25.  
**Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert**—Jan. 27.  
**Student Week of Prayer**—Jan. 28-Feb. 1.

## Announcements

**Health Summit Orlando — Feb. 1-9.** Do you need motivation and new ideas for health ministry outreach? More than 25 seminars will be taught including the following brand new offerings: Forgive to Live, Reaching Out to Your Community, Foundations of Health Ministry (earning college credit), Women's Health, and Family Health. To learn more about this exciting training, which is co-sponsored by the North American and Inter-American Division Departments of Health Ministry, go to [www.nadhealthsummit.com](http://www.nadhealthsummit.com)

**Union College Homecoming** — April 3-6. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited. Honor classes are 1938, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1998. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu)

	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25	Feb. 1	Feb. 8
Atlanta, GA	5:40	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:05	6:12
Charleston, SC	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Charlotte, NC	5:22	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:55
Collegedale, TN	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:12
Huntsville, AL	4:46	4:52	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:19
Jackson, MS	5:06	5:12	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:37
Louisville, KY	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
Memphis, TN	4:59	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:32
Miami, FL	5:41	5:46	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:07
Montgomery, AL	4:51	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:15	5:22
Nashville, TN	4:43	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17
Orlando, FL	5:40	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:08
Wilmington, NC	5:13	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:45

# From This Day Forward



A one-day Celebration of  
Marriage Commitment

**March 8, 2008**  
**Miami, Florida**

**June 21, 2008**  
**Southampton, Bermuda**

**September 27, 2008**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**

**October 11, 2008**  
**New York, New York**  
**Spanish Event! (En Español)**

**November 8, 2008**  
**Seattle, Washington**



## Speakers



Elaine & Willie Oliver



Brenda & Mike Aufderhar



Viviana & Enrique Calandra



Pamela & Claudio Consuegra



Deirdre & Allan Martín



Nibia & Jorge Mayer



Januwoina & John S. Nixon



Juanita & Alfredo Ruiz



Gayle & Mike Tucker

**FROM THIS DAY FORWARD**

A One-day Celebration of Marriage Commitment



Dress code is business casual. • To register visit [www.ftdf2008.org](http://www.ftdf2008.org) or phone 800-732-7587

All rates are per couple • Early Bird Rate: US\$99 • Regular Rate: US\$129 • Group Rate: US\$90

For a complete registration brochure, contact your church's Family Ministries Coordinator or go to [www.adventistfamilyministries.com](http://www.adventistfamilyministries.com) to download one.

Sponsored by Family Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.  
Co-sponsors: Arizona Conference, Atlantic Union Conference, Bermuda Conference, Florida Conference, Pacific Union Conference, Southern Union Conference, and Washington Conference.

# Go Light Your World



Lonnie & Jeannie Melashenko



## Who?

### are VisionBuilders

An exceptional group of supporters who know of Jesus' Love and want to tell others about His soon return, uniting in prayer and giving with a commitment of \$1,000 or more to the ministry annually. In return, they are invited to participate in one of the following weekend spiritual retreats each year.\*

Cohutta Springs Conference Center  
Crandall, Georgia  
**March 7-9**



Devotional Speaker  
**Chaplain Barry Black**



The King's Heralds



Jimmy & Pam Rhodes

Here is your opportunity to become actively involved in the huge task of reaching people everywhere for Jesus!

A VisionBuilders weekend allows you to become an active participant in the mission of reaching people everywhere for Jesus. As our honored guest you play an active role in the ministry's evangelistic outreach while experiencing time for personal reflection and rejuvenation.

## Kids are VisionBuilders too!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-12



For information and to register for this or other VisionBuilders locations, call **1-800-429-5700** or go online: [www.vop.com/visionbuilders](http://www.vop.com/visionbuilders)

\*ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Southern  
**TIDINGS**

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



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