

# TSOUTHERN IDINGS

*Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family*



## Evangelism

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# It Seems Impossible

The Southern Union Executive Committee recently voted a bold vision—a bold objective. In fact, so bold that, humanly speaking, it is impossible. The idea came from our ministerial directors as they reflected on the North American Division challenge to try to reach the impossible in Church growth in 2009.

Here's the vision: To have all conferences in the Southern Union emphasize and promote 2009 as the "Year of Pastor/Lay Team Evangelism," and that every church be encouraged to consider as a prayer objective a "tithe" in net membership gain in 2009. It means that pastors and lay members will join hands in an outreach and discipling explosion that, through the Holy Spirit's power, would result in a 10 percent net gain in membership.

Why does it seem impossible? For the past 10 years, the average Church growth rate in the Southern Union churches has been 3.5 percent, in North America 2.2 percent, and in the world it averaged 5.5 percent. We are praying and working toward 10 percent in 2009.

The Executive Committee voted to affirm the following recommendations from the ministerial directors:

1. That every pastor will be encouraged to model "evangelizing" to the members they serve.
2. That every pastor will be encouraged to train and empower members to accomplish the Gospel commission.
3. That every church will be encouraged to utilize creative, entry-level, felt-need, and bridging ministries for its various communities.
4. That every church will be encouraged to hold periods of fasting and prayer at the beginning of 2009, and before any outreach/decision events.
5. That every church will be encouraged to plan for and hold two pastor/lay team outreach/decision events during 2009.
6. That every church will be encouraged to empower all members to use their spiritual gifts to disciple new believers and mentor each other.
7. That conferences will develop and/or make available programs, materials, and training for discipleship and spiritual growth.
8. That conferences will develop and/or implement reconnecting ministries with materials and training to help minister to inactive members.
9. That conferences will assist churches to birth, grow, and support mission-minded, wholistic small groups.
10. That conferences will encourage and support church planting.
11. That every union and conference leader holds, or directly participates in, at least one evangelistic series in the Southern Union in 2009.

That means I will be preaching an evangelistic meeting in the Southern Union in 2009. I'm excited that we've gone on record with the Lord and with ourselves that we will attempt the impossible. Come, Holy Spirit, we need You. Thank you for being a part of this adventure. I believe the church you attend will attempt the impossible. And, we will give God all the praise and all the glory.



Gordon Retzer  
*Southern Union  
President*

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Cover Caption: Phil White, senior pastor at Calhoun, Georgia, Adventist Church, baptizes Ana Roberts as her father Bill Lewis, niece Emily Case, and mother Pat Lewis look on.

Cover Feature



# It's Soul-Winning Time

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

"What time is it?" Willie Black asked his congregation. From the pews his son, James, responded, "It's soul-winning time!" In the Southern Union it is always soul-winning time. By the end of the third quarter of 2007, God blessed the conferences in the Southern Union to report 6,038 baptisms and professions of faith. As 2008 begins, conference leaders, pastors and members, teachers and students are off to a running start for another great year of public and personal evangelism.

## Carolina Conference

New challenges and opportunities for reaching every person in the Carolinas continue to expand. During 2007, 500,000 homes received invitations to study the Bible through the mission-mailing program. Additional quarterly mailings are planned to reach another 500,000 homes in 2008.

More than 100 requests totaling \$800,000 for Carolina Breakthrough evangelism subsidies have been sent to the Conference evangelism coordinator.

The Conference is planning two evangelism field schools this year. Southern Adventist University will be holding a field school of evangelism in the Columbia, South Carolina,



Miriam Isla (left), West Palm Beach, Florida, Hispanic Church elder, leads a small group Bible study that has resulted in 17 baptisms since it was formed in 2006. This ministry group, one of 15 in the church, meets in the home of Lourdes Nieves, and was spawned as a result of health screening events held in the community. Two new groups are scheduled to begin in February after members hold health-screening services in their communities, according to Vicmael Arroyo, pastor.



*All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church in Norcross, Georgia, heard "I do" declared five times in the context of baptism and wedding vows. The first three occurred June 30, 2007, during the baptism of Susan Fink (left), Rosa Maria Galarza, and Samuel Cline. The following Sunday, July 1, Samuel and Rosa repeated this vow to each other in the context of holy matrimony.*

area this spring. Andrews University Theological Seminary and the North American Division Evangelism Institute will hold a field school in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area this fall.

This fall one dozen churches in the Asheville/Hendersonville area will team up to hold an area-wide evangelistic meeting as well.

### Florida Conference

God's blessing upon evangelism in 2007 was felt throughout Florida Conference. A satellite campaign at Forest City Spanish Church in April, with Conference Hispanic evangelist Rolando de los Rios, resulted in more than 500 baptisms. In October 12 simultaneous reaping meetings in north Florida, held by Conference office staff, pastors, and evangelists, saw more than 100 individuals baptized. A fall reaping campaign in the Lauderhill Church, with preaching by former calypso musician Claudius Morgan, resulted in 104 baptisms. The Conference evangelistic team, Bill and Sunshine Waters, saw 50 new members join the Bradenton Church in August during their Bible Prophecy Made Simple meetings.

Newton Hoillette, pastor of the Lehigh Acres Church near Ft. Myers, trained 16 lay volunteer Bible workers who helped prepare 58 individuals for baptism. Miriam Isla has been

leading a small group meeting in the Miami area that resulted in 17 baptisms.

Youth teams will highlight 2008 evangelism plans this summer before the national Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) convention opens in Tampa. Each year, a youth-led series of meetings provides evangelistic training for young people that results in stirring testimonies and stories at the convention.

In the fall, young people will be among those holding Harvest 2008 meetings simultaneously in central Florida with Mark Finley's October 24-November 29 NET series from the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. A Spanish-language campaign will be held by de los Rios, November 1-8, in the Miami Central Spanish Church as a culmination to small-group evangelism ministry that will be ongoing this year in Spanish-speaking churches. Both series of meetings will be uplinked via satellite on the Hope Channel network.

A grand celebration for the English and Spanish meetings will take

place December 5 and 6 in the Forest Lake Academy gymnasium, where an invitation will also be extended to individuals who haven't yet made a decision for baptism.



*Wilfredo Valle presents a ShareHim message in Chamblee, Georgia. Valle is part of a team of several lay evangelists who preached the Seventh-day Adventist message in November 2007, reaping 100 baptisms.*

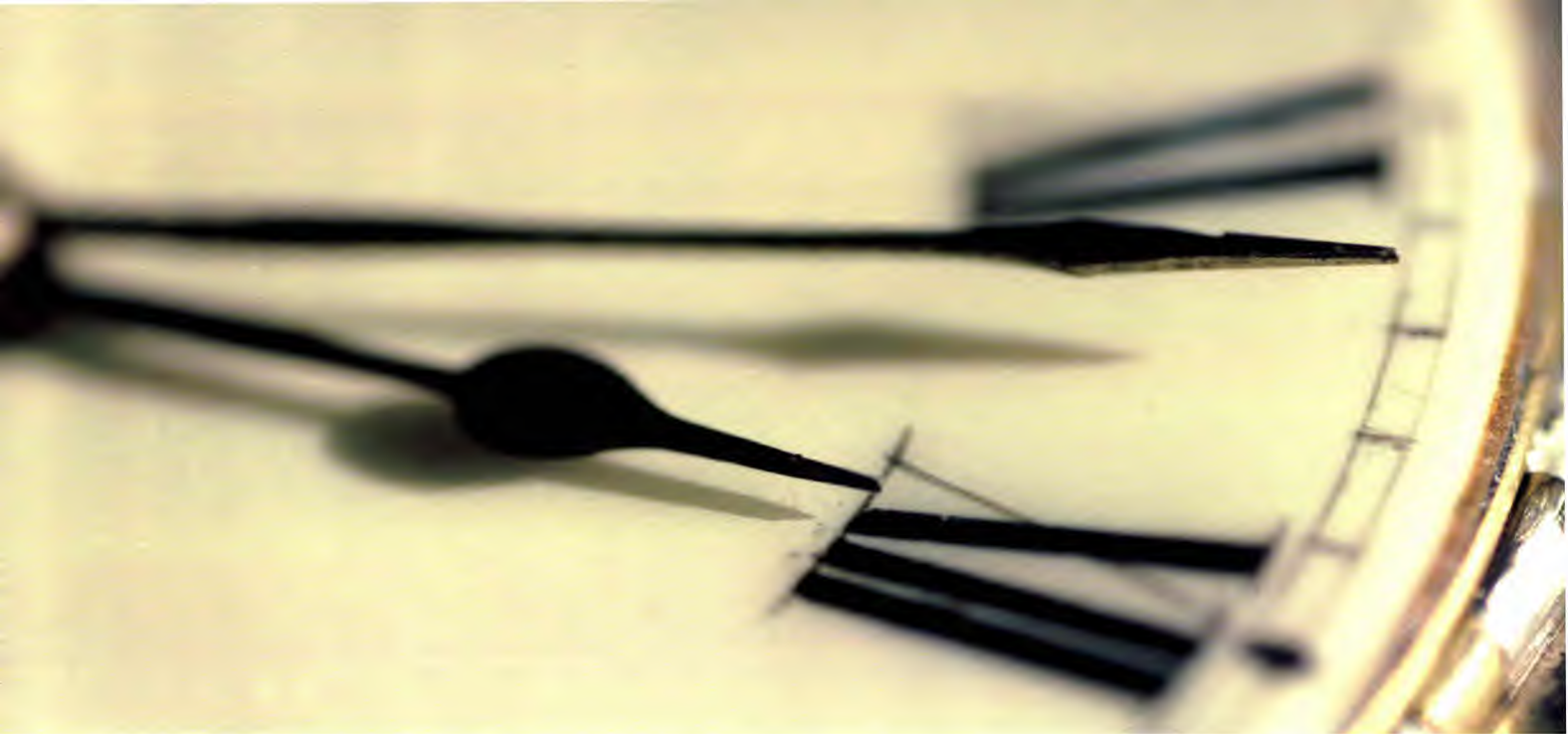
### Georgia-Cumberland Conference

Forty-three lay evangelist teams preached the story of salvation during a November 2007 ShareHim series in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. At the conclusion of the meetings, more than 100 were baptized.

Richardo Campos participated in ShareHim for the first time in the November series. He preached in a home for 16 nights and had 39 people attending his meetings. Six



*Brand new members of the Celebration, Florida, Company wasted no time banding together in praise immediately following their baptisms.*



individuals were baptized as a result. "At the beginning it was hard and I was nervous," says Campos. "With time and the way people were reacting, it gave me more confidence."

In total, 132 lay Hispanic teams have been trained in the Atlanta metro area. Forty-three teams held campaigns, November 2-17, 2007, and the remaining will preach from March 21 to April 5, 2008.

"I am elated to hear how God has blessed these efforts. I passionately believe that this is where God is calling us, as a Conference," says Ed Wright, Conference president. "Evangelism has always been at the core of our purpose, but for too long we have relied on "professionals" to do it. As more and more members embrace this divine call, we will not only see increased decisions for Christ, but stronger and more vibrant members in our churches, as well. I am proud of our Hispanic members for leading the way, inspiring all of us!"

#### **Gulf States Conference**

Following on the heels of its 500-plus baptisms in 2007, Gulf States is planning a major evangelistic thrust in Montgomery, Alabama, for 2008. In cooperation with South Central Conference, they will have 12 satellite church locations. Each church is prepar-

ing the territory in its own area, and each will have its own speaker. At the conclusion, they hope to plant a church in Prattville, Alabama.

A particularly exciting church plant last year involved students from Bass Memorial Academy. English teacher Drew Rester had been hoping for years to start a church in Wiggins, Mississippi. For two years, Adventist Church members met in his parents' home, but last summer they bought a building in Wiggins

and prepared to hold evangelistic meetings. Bass students were excited about the project and became involved in the effort. They blanketed the entire county with literature, and contributed to the meetings via scripture presentation, prayer, special music, and child care. Currently, there are about 40 in regular attendance at the new church.

#### **Kentucky-Tennessee Conference**

God blessed evangelism in the



*Maximina San Juan (center) teaches a small group that has become the nucleus of the Betel Mission in Kilpatrick, Alabama. Surrounding her are Maribel Silvan Lopez (left), Marixa Lopez, Ana Lopez, and Gavino Francisco. During the summer of 2007, she helped bring nine individuals to Jesus.*

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference during 2007. The evangelistic meetings preceding the ASI convention in Louisville proved to be a great blessing. Young people in preparation for the meetings visited thousands of homes. Many of them converged on the city and were joined by the local youth of the churches. All of the young evangelists who conducted the meetings were powerful preachers. Simultaneous with the ASI evangelistic meetings, Louisville First conducted their own campaign. They invited Douglas Na'a, a seminary student, to be the evangelist.

Phillip Sizemore, the new pastor at South Louisville, stirred up such an interest in evangelism that the church board voted to augment the \$12,000 budget, provided by the Conference, with another \$20,000 from the church coffers.



*Hector Hernandez, pastor of the Brunswick, Georgia, Church, baptizes one of six new individuals at his church from a September 2007 evangelistic effort.*

Evangelism thrived in the Hispanic congregations. The three Hispanic pastors were responsible for conducting 24 campaigns. Some of these campaigns they preached themselves; some were conducted by visiting evangelists.

Dennis Rogers, a layman of the Ohio County Church, has a burden for saving people. Rogers teamed with Jimmy Rone, a new member and former methamphetamine user, to start a program called Celebrate Recovery at the local jail. Dennis and Jimmy gave the inmates hope, not only for their addictions but also for



*Benjamin P. Browne (fourth from left), South Central president, is pictured with the baptismal candidates for the new church group in Demopolis, Alabama, in the South Central Conference. The evangelistic meeting was conducted by Conference evangelist Alfred Miller.*

their salvation through Jesus Christ. Through this ministry, David and his wife, Kathy, were baptized.

John Van Zyl, Conference ministerial director says, "God blessed us by adding 420 souls to our Conference family, but we recognize it is but a fraction of what God wants to do for us. We are launching the new year with three Homeland Evangelism rallies. Building healthy churches will be our focus this year. Administration is scheduled to meet with every congregation to review their plans for spiritual growth, discipling, evangelism, and community involvement. We recognize that retaining and discipling members are equally important. Unhealthy congregations do not have the vitality and spiritual energy to accomplish those important tasks."

### South Atlantic Conference

William Winston, Conference executive secretary, reports 1,189 baptisms for the South Atlantic Conference during 2007. Of these baptisms, 330 occurred at the Atlanta, Georgia, Berean Church where an evangelistic culture has been created through innovative worship services and ongoing outreach initiatives. The members engaged in "Tract Attacks," community block parties, musical concerts, a Habitat for Humanity

"house-build," two weekly television broadcasts, and two public evangelistic campaigns with Carlton P. Byrd, D.Div., senior pastor, as speaker.

Byrd says, "Two public evangelistic campaigns and an evangelistic collegiate ministry are planned for 2008. Our church believes that God is going to do 'exceeding abundantly above all' we can ever ask or think in 2008!"

### South Central Conference

The South Central Conference is working to establish 22 new churches in five years. Benjamin P. Browne,



*Carlton P. Byrd, D.Div., pastor of the Berean Church in Atlanta, Georgia, baptizes Verna Little during the fall "Standing on the Word" Bible Conference, which resulted in 129 baptisms.*



Conference president, says, "Three congregations were organized during 2007, to make a total of six congregations organized since 2006. These new congregations are located in Evergreen, Demopolis, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama."

Edgardo J. Herrera, Latino coordinator and pastor of the Agape Church in Kilpatrick, Alabama, shares the stories of Maria Andres Felipe and Maximina San Juan, who share a passion to share the story of Christ's transforming grace with their relatives and neighbors. During the summer of 2007, San Juan and Felipe participated in a tent meeting where nine people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Currently, Maximina San Juan is the leader of a small group of eight, which she is preparing for the Alejandro Bullón reaping meeting in April 2008. Every year Maria Andres Felipe brings three to seven people to Jesus Christ. Last year she brought five new members and led this group to prepare a new, small-group community called Betel Mission, in Kilpatrick, Alabama. As a result of the members' labors, God had blessed the Agape Church to grow from 18 members in 2003, to 83 members in 2007. This church is averaging about 15 new members each year through the discipleship program.



*Maria Andres Felipe (right) teaches Jeremias Coix and Maria Lorenzo. Every year Felipe brings three to seven people to Jesus Christ. Last year she brought five new members and led this group to prepare a new, small-group community called Betel Mission, in Kilpatrick, Alabama.*



*Baptismal candidates anxiously await baptism at the Atlanta, Georgia, Berean Church, at the conclusion of a fall evangelistic meeting by Carlton P. Byrd, D.Div. Courtney Russell (left), Suvette Seelal, Trovi Fulp, and Byron Biggs were included with the individuals baptized, which resulted in 330 baptisms during 2007.*

### **Southeastern Conference**

The Southeastern Conference has challenged itself to generate a Conference-wide goal of baptizing 1,000 in one day during camp meeting. Willie L. Taylor, Conference president, calls it **"1K in 1 DAY!"** It will turn camp meeting into a soul-winning convention.

Last November the pastors met to receive strategic training. Office staff and lay leaders have also been briefed regarding the mission.

Each member and worker is asked to conduct at least one study with a relative or friend, and is expected to assist their team partner with his or her study as well. Theus Young, Conference publishing director, will provide every Southeastern member with a *Bible Readings for the Home*.

Clarence Wright, Conference personal ministries director, is planning numerous joint leadership lay training classes. Nicole Brise, Conference prayer coordinator and women's ministries director, is coordinating Conference-wide evangelism prayer services, as well as committing to a goal for the women. Lewis Edwards, Conference family life director, is planning a family evangelism series. Many are involved with joint ministry efforts to make this enormous goal a reality.

### **Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences**

Finding opportunities for spiritual outreach is a challenge at a college that is largely a commuter campus and has a intense health sciences curriculum. Florida Hospital College chaplains Stan Dobias and Reynold Acosta are committed to finding meaningful chances to do just that. The College has sponsored mission trips to Russia, Cuba, and Central America to build buildings or work with orphanages. However, the chaplains challenged the campus ministry team to take mission trips to do public evangelism in partnership with ShareHim and The Quiet Hour.

"I felt God calling me," said



*Ashley Skinner, a member of the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences Campus Ministries team, put God to the test, and stepped out in faith to evangelize.*

Jason Busch when Acosta asked students to spend the majority of their August break working in Mexico City. When Ashley Skinner was asked to consider preaching, she immediately said, "Absolutely not!" But, she could not get the thought of preaching out of her mind. During one of her

sleepless nights she decided to put God to the test and step out in faith. In less than a week, Ashley raised \$797 to cover her expenses for the trip.

On August 7, 2007, Jason, Ashley, and the rest of the team flew to Mexico City to work with five local

churches that ranged in size from 100 to 300 members. In spite of Hurricane Dean, the attendance at the sites exceeded the seating capacity of the churches. The students who feared public speaking spoke with power and were embraced by the audiences. When the meetings concluded, numerous decisions were made for Christ.

Dennis Ross, evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union, reminds us, "Evangelism is still the life blood of the Southern Union. We still believe that people need to be reached with the Gospel for Christ. . . . Jesus said GO. Where are we to go? Go everywhere. Go wherever there are people. In your own home, on the computer, on the job, in the supermarket, library, civic meetings, airports, wherever people gather. Joses Sierra a young man in Florida Conference has gone onto myspace.com and started more than 400 Bible studies. There are countless opportunities where we can share our testimony with people. The challenge is not finding people. The challenge is obeying Jesus command, 'GO.' May this be our determination in 2008!"



*Anna Romanov and three other youth held an evangelistic meeting in Greenwood, South Carolina.*

The Seventh-day Adventist movement was set ablaze by a passion burning in the hearts of young people. Many leaders among the early Adventists were "kids." J. N. Andrews was 22 when he served on the publishing committee. Ellen White was 17 when she had her first vision. Uriah Smith was 21 when he joined the publishing work. James White preached 1,000 sermons before his 21st birthday. God tapped into the energy and vision of teenagers and young adults to begin a church that made a profound impact.

In 1912, Ellen White published an article which called upon the Church to re-enlist young people in its mission. It concludes with these ringing words: "With such an army of workers as our youth rightly trained..., how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the

end come, — the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!"

We don't have all of the answers as to how we might accomplish this, but over the past several months, we have sensed once again God calling us to give this clarion call. We are convicted that Jesus is coming soon, and He desires to accomplish His dream of heralding the Gospel through the lips and lives of our young people. We have been praying for God to raise up youth evangelistic teams in Florida Conference. In 2008 we are looking to support pilot projects involving our youth in carrying the message about Jesus and His grace and truth. Please join with us in praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our young people, and that God will show us what He wants to do through them.

MICHAEL CAULEY  
PRESIDENT, FLORIDA CONFERENCE

# 2008 Public and Personal Evangelism Training Opportunities

Are you involved in the work of spreading the Gospel? What are your own spiritual gifts, and how can they be used in this work? As you pray for preparation or an opportunity to serve, here are training opportunities provided by your local conference and the Southern Union office of church growth/evangelism that you can consider:

## **Carolina Conference**

**March 1-8**

SU/SAU Field School for Evangelism Revival, Columbia, South Carolina.

**May 23-June 28**

SU/SAU Field School for Evangelism, Columbia, South Carolina.

**July 25-27**

ShareHim Bootcamp, Nosoca Pines, Liberty, South Carolina.

## **Florida Conference**

**March 14-16**

Elders' Certification (Personal Evangelism), Florida Conference Office, Orlando, Florida.

## **Georgia-Cumberland Conference**

**November 21-23**

Homeland Lay Evangelism Bootcamp, Collegedale/Chattanooga, Tennessee, area (contact E.W. Dempsey at the Conference Office for location).

## **Gulf States Conference**

**February 22-24**

ShareHim Bootcamp, Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, Alabama.

**April 18-May 3**

ShareHim Lay Mentoring Series, Pensacola, Florida.

**September 5-7**

ShareHim Bootcamp, Camp Alamisco, Pensacola, Alabama.

## **Kentucky-Tennessee Conference**

**April 4-6**

ShareHim Bootcamp, Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, Tennessee.

**August 22-24**

ShareHim Bootcamp (contact John Van Zyl at the Conference Office for location)

## **South Atlantic Conference**

**October 24-26**

MegaFest Lay Evangelism Training Rally, River Oaks Convention Center, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

## **South Central Conference**

**March 22**

Church Growth Seminar, Emmanuel Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

**October 18-25**

Parable Series (Decision Revival), Emmanuel Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

## **Southeastern Conference**

**March 28, 29**

Elders' Certification in Personal Evangelism, Bethel Church, Florida City, Florida.

**April 12**

ShareHim Rally, First University Church, Tampa, Florida.

**May 10**

Church Growth Seminar, Southern Most Church, Key West, Florida.

**October 4**

Elders' Certification (Personal Evangelism), Pensacola, Florida.

**December 12-14**

ShareHim Bootcamp, First University Church, Tampa, Florida.

## **Southern Union-wide**

**October 24-November 29**

NET 2008 with Mark Finley, Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Florida.

**December 1-4**

2008 Southern Union Evangelism Council, Daytona Beach, Florida.

## **Resources for Personal and Public Evangelism:**

Advent Source — 800-328-0525

Amazing Facts — 916-434-3880

Seminars Unlimited — 800-982-3344

ShareHim — [www.ShareHim.org](http://www.ShareHim.org)

The Quiet Hour—800-900-2021

## **Ministry Opportunity**

Hold a **ShareHim Homeland Evangelistic Campaign**. To see a list of 2008 campaigns in the Southern Union territory, visit [www.ShareHim.org](http://www.ShareHim.org).

Participate in the **ASI Youth for Jesus Evangelistic Campaign**, July 9-August 9, 2008, in Tampa, Florida. Visit [www.asiyouthforjesus.org](http://www.asiyouthforjesus.org).

Join the **Good News Atlanta** project coordinated by the South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences. For more information, contact your local conference president.



# Personal Evangelism Brings 34 to Christ

BY BARBARA MITTLEIDER

There was great celebration as Brian, Deb, and Trendy McDaniel were baptized, November 24, 2007. Their journey began at Emory Adventist Hospital where Brian is assistant vice president. Dennis Kiley, president of Emory Adventist Hospital in Smyrna, Georgia, along with his wife, Kathy, began an outreach church at the hospital. They invited Brian and his family to attend. At first they attended every fifth week when Brian was on call and then gradually began attending every Sabbath.

When the congregation was transferred to the

Lakewood Church in Smyrna, Brian and his family began attending the Calhoun, Georgia, Church. There, members Dennis and Tami Starkey, who had met the McDaniels several

months prior at an interdenominational marriage retreat, began giving them Bible studies. After completing the studies, Brian, Deb, and Trendy entered the baptistry

together and sealed their ongoing commitment to the Lord. The McDaniels are now in the process of giving studies to their extended family.

Personal evangelism, working on a one-to-one basis, is successful in the Calhoun Church. During the past 12 months, 34 individuals have become members through baptism, rebaptism, or by profession of faith. A special feature of each baptism



TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

*Phil White (left), Calhoun, Georgia, Church senior pastor, greets Dan and Belina Bramblett on Sabbath morning during his pew ministry. Dan is the brother of Deb McDaniel. They are now taking Bible studies from the McDaniels.*



ELDON GARRMAN

Pastors Phil and Jan White baptized Brian and Deb McDaniel on November 24, 2007.

is when Phil White, senior pastor, invites the local elders and ordained ministers to participate in a commissioning service for the new member. The pastor offers prayer, and all participants join in the laying on of hands for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to empower the new member for service.

Each one is anxious that their spiritual gifts may be discovered. For "... if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, ... His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts" *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 328.

Jason Everts was raised in an Adventist home but had never come to the place of feeling the need for a full commitment to the Lord. For years he was away from the Church, but during the past year and a half he had been studying and getting to know God in a more personal way. At his baptism he acknowledged that this was the real starting point and that he was finally on the right path.

Shortly after his baptism on August 25, 2007, he went on a short-term mission trip to Haiti. The need in Haiti was so overwhelmingly great that he wondered what he could do to continue his new

ministry of helping others. He is currently giving Bible studies to another young man and woman in the community.

Bill Lewis began working five years ago on the farm of David and Cheryl Brannon. Meanwhile, David Brannon, M.D., became better acquainted with Bill's wife, Pat, who worked with him in the operating room at Gordon Adventist Hospital in Calhoun.

Cheryl invited Bill and Pat to church. With many conflicts or family obligations, this wasn't possible until, one Friday as Bill was leaving the farm, he told Cheryl, "We'll see you at church tomorrow."

Church attendance raised many questions in their minds, so the Brannons began Bible studies with them. Both had open and willing hearts, and one evening as they were leaving the Brannons' home, they indicated they had made their decision to accept what they had been studying.

Bill and Pat were baptized December 23, 2006. They invited other family members to attend church with them. As a result, their granddaughter, Emily Case, was baptized on July 21, 2007, and their daughter, Ana Roberts, on Decem-

ber 22, 2007. Ana says, "Mom and Dad were so excited with what they were learning that I decided I wanted to join the studies." Emily is currently in eighth grade at Coble Elementary, the local church school.

It is thrilling to see how the Lord blesses when members actively participate in giving Bible studies and become more involved in the work of the Church. Calhoun members look forward with anticipation to a continued exciting journey with the Lord during 2008.

*Barbara Mittleider is the communication coordinator at the Calhoun, Georgia, Church.*

## How Does It Happen?

Every Sabbath Phil White, senior pastor of the Calhoun, Georgia, Church, walks throughout the sanctuary greeting everyone in the pews. With 15 to 20 non-member guests each Sabbath, his pew ministry has proved to be an effective part of the soul-winning process. This has also helped him find several interested individuals seeking Bible studies. To get the church involved in ministry, members are invited to participate in the giving of Bible studies.

According to White, "What the Church needs is not more paid clergy, but more members who understand and accept their God-given calling to the priesthood of all believers. That means the Church needs more physicians who recognize their calling to be the best pastor-physician. The Church needs more carpenters who recognize their calling to be the best pastor-carpenter. And so on. That's what it's going to take to grow the Kingdom of Heaven."

## Messiah's Mansion Leads to Sanctuary Message



The Messiah's Mansion visited both the Kernersville and Hendersonville, N.C., churches this past fall. In both communities the response was positive. Donovan Davis, senior pastor at Kernersville, and Charles Ferguson, senior pastor at Hendersonville, commented that many of

the people who visited the exhibit were Christians of other denominations. They were studying the sanctuary and found the exhibit and tour beneficial, and the tour guides well-versed and interesting. Pastors and members of other churches in both areas said they would like the exhibit

to return annually.

Guided tours were conducted by staff and students from Oklahoma Academy as well as by adult and youth church members in both locations.

Nearly 4,000 people toured the Messiah's Mansion in Kernersville, and more than 3,700 individuals went through the exhibit in Hendersonville.

In order to follow-up on the interest generated by the exhibit, Jorge Baute, Hendersonville associate pastor, wrote and presented a series of lectures, which showed how lessons were taught through the sanctuary and its services included insights into the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists.

John Williams, audio-visual director for the Hendersonville Church, took Baute's notes and composed a PowerPoint presentation, correlating what they had seen in the Messiah's Mansion with what the Bible teaches on each of these topics. Baute and Ferguson presented this innovative method of evangelism to the pastors at the Southern Union ministerial meeting last month in Daytona Beach, Fla.

As a result of the exhibit in Hendersonville, 32 individuals who are not Seventh-day Adventists attended at least one of Baute's presentations, and 28 attended all. In addition, 250 members of area Adventist churches attended one or more nights.

—BY JOHN SWEIGART

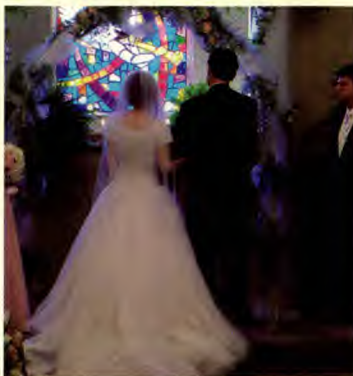
## Rocky Mount Pastor Marries

The wedding service of Adina Loredana Ispas, formerly of Houston, Tex., and Daniel Bran, pastor of the Rocky Mount and Roanoke Rapids, N.C., churches, took place on September 16, 2007, at the Rocky Mount Church.

The service, with John Sweigart, Conference ministerial secretary, officiating, blended elements of traditional wedding services in Romania and the United States. Adina was given away by her father, a

petroleum engineer, and her mother, a homemaker. Her younger sister, Larissa, a college student and bridesmaid, read

a poem. Daniel's brother, Emanuel, a ministerial student at Newbold College in England, and his wife,



Camelia, were best man and matron of honor. They also presented a blessing in music during the service.

Adina and Daniel

were born in the formerly communist country of Romania. Their stories of what they experienced

growing up and coming to the United States are amazing. How they met and carried on a long-distance courtship is romantic.

Along with other family and friends, members of both of Bran's churches were present to witness the joyful celebration.

The Brans reside in Rocky Mount, where Daniel pastors, and Adina is adapting to life in the parsonage.

—BY JOHN SWEIGART

## Old Sign Creates Witnessing Opportunity



day Adventist from Greenville, S.C., has a passion for collecting signs. What had caused him to suddenly stop was the sight of a brand new billboard high overhead with a group of smiling faces and the words, "Welcome! to South Carolina from your friends at the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

While he enjoyed seeing the new billboard display, what really piqued his interest was the old sign still resting against the base of the structure. Knowing it was probably headed for the junk yard, he called the Carolina Conference

Not only is Benfield a collector of signs, but he likes to profess his beliefs on his license plates as well. His wife's car has a plate that proclaims "Sabbath," and his car sports an advertisement for his favorite Adventist Television station, the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

And, they do get noticed. Many times he has driven down the road and had folks wave at him. Once in Charlotte, N.C., someone held up a Sabbath school quarterly as a gesture of support.

When Benfield places the old sign from the Interstate on the side of his barn, he will be one of the last to use the old billboard design. The Southern Union and the North American Division are planning to adopt a design based on the one used in the Carolina Conference.

It's a continued effort to, like Billy Benfield, tell the world what Seventh-day Adventists are all about.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER



While Billy Benfield was driving down Interstate 85 near Gaffney, S.C., he suddenly stepped on his brakes and pulled over to

the side of the highway. Something had caught his attention, and he had to take a closer look.

Benfield, a Seventh-

office and asked if he could have it.

"I want to put it on the side of my barn," Benfield explained.

## Sharon Church Hosts Long-Awaited Vespers

The members of the Sharon Church in Charlotte, N.C., met on December 22, 2007, for vespers and refreshments on the site of their new church and school.

The outline of the

new facilities were laid out in yellow tape so members could walk the perimeter and pray for God's guidance.

The new church structure will seat 500, and will provide rooms for many

church and community activities. The school will accommodate 12 grades. There is an 86-foot tower on the church that will be visible from I-485, alerting all passing motorists to the location of the church.

The plan is to break ground this spring.

They pray that, with God's blessing, the new church and school will become a lighthouse for truth in the Charlotte area.

—BY ELLIE GREEN

## History Made at Maranatha Ordination Service

Willingness, service, and integrity were the key points of the message by Keith Harding, pastor at Maranatha Church, Miami, Fla., for an ordination service that included women for the first time in Maranatha Church's history. The pastor exhorted the three individuals being ordained to uphold the integrity of the office of elder, to make service in the community a focal point of their mission, to embrace the truth, and to demonstrate practical love for the Gospel by sharing it with boldness and clarity.

The candidates for ordination:

**Ottmar Wilson**, with a passion for men's ministries, prays that God will use this ministry to enhance the spiritual life of the church and that the



Elders ordained at Maranatha Church in Miami were Ottmar Wilson (left), Janet Fox, and Ruby Williams.

men will become role models, committed husbands, and responsible fathers under Divine control. A third generation Adventist, who has also served the Lord in his native Jamaica, he currently offers spiritual counsel to the Pathfinders, teaches Sabbath school, and supervises the activities of the deacons.

**Janet Fox**, serving in the family life and Sabbath

school departments, has allowed God to use her ministry as a glue to hold many families together. Fox believes hospitality is one avenue through which the church can bridge the divide between young and old and lead others to Christ. Baptized at the age of 13 in Birmingham, England, this second generation Adventist later immigrated to the United States.

**Ruby Williams**, as a founding member of the Maranatha Church, worked untiringly and gave sacrificially to the establishment and growth of the church. Williams has served as head deaconess in the church for 17 years. She is passionate about evangelizing and has witnessed the conversion of five relatives and three life-long friends. Originally baptized in Jamaica, she recommitted her life to Christ and was the first candidate to be baptized in 1976 when Maranatha formed as a company.

After the ordination prayer, the families were invited to join the newly ordained elders on the platform where Harding charged them to be collaborators in God's work.

—BY LESONIE WALKER

## North Lake Church Breaks Ground

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new 10,151-square-foot North Lake Church near Leesburg, Fla., was held November 4, 2007, in a service led by Dotty Pommer, head elder.

Reggie Bacchus, assistant head elder of the near 80-member congregation, shared expressions of devotion and praise:

"Two years ago, through Your servants Obed and Coretta Graham, You gave us this beautiful hill for the purpose of building a church to Your glory. Today, we



Paul Cunningham (left), Dennis Fletcher, Ann Fletcher, Warren Minter, Louise Patterson, and Loretta Moog participated in the November 4, 2007, North Lake church groundbreaking.

come to dedicate not only ourselves, but this broken ground for the service of our God. We pray this new

church will be a citadel, a house of refuge, a light to the community, so when visitors join us in worship,

they may find this church to be one of unconditional love and acceptance.

"We also pray a special blessing on Allan Miller, our construction superintendent; Hubert Moog, our building committee chairman; and Randy Smith, our building contractor. We dedicate these skilled men to Your service."

Congratulatory messages and words of challenge were given by the pastor, Mel Landers; local leaders; and Conference administrators.

—BY CHET JORDAN



## Pathfinder Drill Team Present Flags at NBA Game

Five members of the Winter Springs Pathfinder Club drill team were honored to serve as color guard for the November 24, 2007, National Basketball Association (NBA) game between the Orlando Magic and the Miami Heat.

Presenting four flags during the National Anthem were Bianca Diaz, the Christian flag; Joe Mercado, the Pathfinder flag; Ivy Sanchez, the Florida flag; and, Elvin Gonzalez, the American flag. Kayla Pyecha, drill team captain, called out the positioning commands and presented arms to the American flag with a sharp salute.

Considering the intense rivalry between the two Florida NBA teams, the game at Amway Arena was sold out. "It was awesome to show everyone

that we as an organization and a club were honoring Pathfinders, Florida, America, and most importantly, God," said Pyecha in speaking for the group.

The drill team gave credit for the opportunity to Winter Springs Church member Norm Middag who made the contact and necessary arrangements. Middag is former Pathfinder director for the North American Division.

Following the November 24 appearance, the team received invitations to provide the color guard for two additional games: the Orlando Magic and New York Knicks on December 26, and the New Year's Day Capital One Citrus Bowl game between University of Florida and University of Michigan.

—BY BIANCA DIAZ



The Winter Springs Pathfinder Club drill team present the flags during an NBA game between the Orlando Magic and the Miami Heat on November 24, 2007.

MIKE FOGG

### Strings Students Combine in 100-member Orchestra



WENDY EVERTS

A 100-member orchestra composed of strings students, pre-K through grade 12, from Forest Lake Education Center (FLEC), Longwood, Fla., and Forest Lake Academy (FLA), Apopka, Fla., presented a concert, December 12, 2007, in H.H. Schmidt Auditorium on the FLA campus. Conductor Chip Everts, strings instructor at both schools, says, "It was good for the academy students to mentor the elementary students, and excellent for the elementary students to see what they could look forward to at the academy."

### Orlando Church to Host Stop-Smoking Clinic

In response to the serious public health risk of smoking, Orlando, Fla., Central Church is offering a six-week stop-smoking clinic facilitated by Jack McCaskill, formerly with the American Cancer Society. The clinic will be offered Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., February 25-March 31, in the church's Hillcrest Community Center.

Clinic participants will learn about the addictive nature of tobacco products and health dangers associated with smoking, how to prepare to quit smoking, coping skills to stay smoke-free, and how to get needed support after becoming smoke-free.

The church plans to offer community outreach programs on healthy living and wellness in 2008.

—BY CHERIE FAIRCLOTH

## Bulletin

Attend the Georgia-Cumberland **Youth Festival "Shine,"** Sabbath, March 29, at the Cross Point Christian Centre, 2681 Underwood Street, Dalton, Ga. Call 800-567-1844, x346, or email [alysa@gccsda.com](mailto:alysa@gccsda.com) to learn more.

Registration is open for **Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.** Email [campinfo@gccsda.com](mailto:campinfo@gccsda.com) or register online at [www.cs-yc.com](http://www.cs-yc.com).

The Adventist **Southern Deaf Fellowship (SDF)** group shared with more than 3,000 deaf people who attended the American Sign Language (ASL) Expo, October 20, 2007, in Atlanta, Ga.

**Eighth graders from A.W. Spalding Elementary** helped school chaplain Tabor Nudd lead out in a week of prayer, fall 2007, at the Bowman Hills School.

**Fifty enthusiastic seniors** — ages 47 to 82 — from Maranatha Volunteers International built two 1,400-square-foot staff houses for Advent Home, October 2007.

Bells rang Sabbath, November 3, 2007, at the Rome, Ga., church as the **Oakwood Bell Choir** from Huntsville, Ala., presented worship.

The **All Nations Church** in Norcross, Ga., held its first Neil Nedley Depression Recovery Seminar. The 8-week seminar was attended by church members and visitors.

## Pathfinders Visit U.S.S. Yorktown

Thirty-two Conference teens and staff attended a Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum near Charleston, S.C., November 30-December 2, 2007. This was a trip to reward teen Pathfinders who go beyond the regular Pathfinder program.

"This trip presented a learning opportunity to help teens understand the role of the military, realize the cost of freedom, and better appreciate being an American," said John Swafford, Conference Pathfinder director.

Highlights of the trip included a tour of the World War II aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Yorktown. The group stayed overnight on the ship in the actual berthing areas once occupied by the crew. For the full effect of living aboard a World War II ship,

the morning and evening meals were prepared and served in the "Chief's Mess" aboard the U.S.S. Yorktown.

The group also toured World War II submarine Clamagore, World War II Destroyer Laffey, World War I Coast Guard Cutter Ing-ham, and Fort Sumter.

On their bus ride to Charleston, they had the opportunity to view "The Conscientious Objector," the documentary film about Desmond Doss. The group also visited the newly renovated Congressional Medal of Honor Museum on board the U.S.S. Yorktown and noted the information about Desmond Doss. Doss was a Seventh-day Adventist who was the first of two non-combatants to receive the Medal of Honor. Presently, 3,459 have received the honor.



KAREN REED

Stanley Knight, Pathfinder director for the Carolina Conference, met the group to give a worship talk about "the daily war for our lives."

—BY JOHN SWAFFORD AND JOE WHITE

## Cohutta Dining Hall Expanding

The Cohutta Springs Youth Camp dining hall is getting an additional 8,500 square feet with an expansion project that began December 2007. The project will cost \$785,000. Funds are coming from the Georgia-



WEBCAM IMAGE

You can see the progress on the expansion by watching a live stream from the webcam at [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com).

Cumberland Conference, Cohutta Springs Development Association, and donors who have given \$220,000 of the \$300,000 goal to date.

The expansion will include eight guest rooms

on the lower level, the dining hall on the middle level, and a staff lounge on the upper level. The project is being built by East Tennes-

see Specialty Builders and is slated for completion May 2008.

"With 200 additional campers each year, we desperately need the space to accommodate them," says Rob Lang, Conference youth ministries director, who also serves as project manager for the dining hall expansion. "Due to my passion on seeing this completed in time for camp, as well as previous experience in the building arena, I have been asked to serve as project manager."

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

## Habitat for Humanity Home Dedicated

After seven Sundays of working on construction, the Habitat for Humanity house at 914 Plainview Drive, Atlanta, Ga., was dedicated on December 2, 2007. The house was a joint effort between the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences.

"It's a blessing because you all could have been anywhere else, but you were here with us, helping us," said new homeowner Angela Kendrick, a single mother with three daughters.

This was the first venture for both conferences

in partnering to connect with the Atlanta community in this manner.

The project began on October 14, 2007, and volunteers from both conferences joined each Sunday to build the house.

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, says he hopes to partner with South Atlantic Conference for more projects in the future, especially in preparation for the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta.

—BY MARTIN KNOPPER  
AND REBECCA BROOKS



Vanard J. Mendinghall (left), South Atlantic president; Ollie Clemons, Atlanta, Ga., Berean Church coordinator; Chris Donovan, Georgia-Cumberland project coordinator; and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland president, receive plaques of thanks from Atlanta Habitat for Humanity.

## Hospice Benefit Held in Bristol

The Family Life Center at the Bristol, Tenn., Church was transformed into a fine dining establishment on December 2, 2007. The first Truly Christmas program brought together

48 women from the church and community for a festive meal and spiritual program. The proceeds from the event were dedicated to the Hospice House at Wellmont Regional Medical Center

in Bristol. It was a way of showing the church members' gratitude for the ministry that the hospice caregivers had shown to two church families recently.

The idea for Truly Christmas was inspired by the memories that organizer Debbie Begley had from her experience with the program at the Peachtree City, Ga., Church.

"God really put it on my heart," said Begley. "We wanted to do something special for the women of our church and also reach out to our community."

Along with fellow coordinator Vanessa Morenings, Begley and a crew of volunteers spent many hours organizing, cooking, and decorating.

Each hostess sponsored

and decorated one of the nine tables and invited guests to join them at their table. A white-shirted staff of 18 men from the church and community served the meal.

After dinner, everyone moved to the sanctuary for a Christmas program of music and scripture readings.

Joyce Peak, the charge nurse at Hospice House, spoke about the enormous physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of hospice care. When the members presented her with a check for \$1,170 and the promise of more that had been pledged, Peak responded, "I don't know what to say except 'Thank you! Thank you!' This is a really great thing that you are doing."

—BY SCOTT BEGLEY



Joyce Peak (center) was presented with a \$1,170 gift for Hospice House by benefit coordinators Debbie Begley (left) and Vanessa Morenings (right).

## Shoals Christmas Float Wins First Place



The star hanging above the float was designed and made by a church member. Women dressed in angels costumes carried the banner, while others handed candy and Little Friends to the children.

When the Shoals, Ala., Church members entered a float in the Florence, Ala., Christmas parade they had no idea they would receive the top award. Their hope was to remind the public of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

The church members dressed in biblical costumes to portray the Nativity. The authentic float included live goats, caged

chickens, a duck, and doves which slept above the manger. Surrounding the float were women dressed in angel costumes. Two of the women carried a banner which read, "Wise Men Still Seek Him." The other women distributed candy and *Little Friends* to the youngsters attending the parade.

The response from the crowd as the float passed

by ranged from applause to, "You guys got it right! We love your sign. Way to go!"

"It was exciting to hear the positive comments," says Tawana Threlkeld, a participant and the wife of the pastor, Kurt Threlkeld. "There were 150 floats, and we were one of two that had a religious theme," she added.

The church had par-

ticipated in the Tuscumbia, Ala., parade a week earlier and received the same response from the crowds.

The award for placing first in the Florence parade included a check for \$400, but, according to Tawana, the real reward was having the opportunity to bring Christ back into Christmas.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## Pathfinder Honors Weekend Revived



Attendees learned about lighthouses in a class taught by Bob Kimbro, the Pathfinder Council chairperson.

More than 50 Pathfinder leaders and Teen Leaders in Training (TLC) attended the first Pathfinder Honors Training weekend held in several years.

The event held at Camp Alamisco was designed to introduce and teach different honors to the leaders so that they can go back to their clubs and teach their Pathfinders.

A variety of honors were taught, including bats, scrapbooking, lighthouses,

carpentry, the sanctuary, small engines, and string craft. Several honors were taught in Spanish.

The weekend is coordinated by the Pathfinder Council, and Bob Kimbro, Pathfinder Council chairperson, was pleased with the turnout since the event had been cancelled for the past several years due to a scheduling conflict at Camp Alamisco.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

## State Honors Life of Desmond Doss

The state of Alabama, County of Cherokee, voted to recognize and honor the life of Corporal Desmond T. Doss, Sr., an outstanding citizen of Cherokee County who passed away on March 23, 2006.

A resolution was adopted through the County Commission of Cherokee County, Alabama, to honor the life and sacrifices of Doss. Cherokee County Commissioner Lori Owens came to Piedmont Church on Saturday, November 17, 2007, to

present this resolution.

Doss was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman on October 12, 1945, for saving 75 lives during WWII, in Okinawa, Japan. Doss served as a medic and never used a weapon.

Owens stated that Doss served the United States of America with great honor and distinction, and in doing so brought pride to Cherokee County.

—BY LINDA FREEMAN



Frances Doss (center), widow of Desmond Doss, thanked Cherokee County Commissioner Lori Owens (second from right), for the resolution presented to Piedmont Church for the outstanding life of Desmond Doss. Family members of Frances Doss were also present.

## Laurel Members Witness with Fall Festival



Balloons, with tiny coloring pages and Bible verses, were given to every child.

One might ask what does cotton candy, face painting, a football throw, plus many other fun activities have to do with witnessing. The answer is—a lot. The purpose is to provide a fun-filled, family-oriented event that

draws visitors to the church. This year the members of the Laurel, Miss., Church decided to invite the community to its fall festival, and the attendance quadrupled over last year's event. The church advertised through several free mediums and made sure the public knew they were

invited. The parking lot was full of visitors' cars.

Other activities included a "Daniel and the Lion's Den" photo shoot, and pin the nose on the pumpkin. The teens were in charge of the pony rides, basket-

ball toss, corn toss, dart throws, and a huge inflated slide, which could be seen from the road and helped draw people to the festival.

Free food was served, and included baked potatoes, chili, nachos and cheese, fruit salad, hot cocoa, and punch.

A balloon arch created a main entrance with a registration table. *The Ten Commandments* book and "Who are the Seventh-day Adventists?" brochure were given to the adults. Lunch bags filled with *Little Friends*, *Primary Treasures*, and age-appropriate tracts, as well as balloons—each with a tiny coloring page and Bible verse tied to it—were given to every child. The addresses obtained at registration will be used to invite families

to vacation Bible school and summer camp.

The booths were made by families using their own money, except for cost of food and slide rental. Each family was responsible for setting up and taking down its booth. The event was costly, but the friendships made with the families in the community were priceless.

—BY HELEN RYAN AND REBECCA GRICE



A young visitor found the festival very relaxing.

## New Publishing Director Elected



The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Executive Committee has invited Keith Reid to serve as publishing director. He assumed his new responsibilities January 1, 2008.

Reid was raised in New York with two younger brothers and one older sister. His father was a New York City policeman, and his mother worked as a secretary at a local high school.

Having excelled academically in high school, he was offered a scholarship to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. It was while attending MIT that Reid met two Adventist men who introduced him to the Sabbath. Following graduation, Reid worked with DuPont in the northeast in the chemical engineering field for three years.

In 1979, Reid was invited to a tent meeting which led him to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He became a literature evangelist in 1983 in the

Northeastern Conference, where he soon became a district leader. Later, Reid spent three years at Uchee Pines in Alabama. In addition to studying and working as a lifestyle counselor, he helped to develop and led in their literature outreach program. This included several months as a field school of evangelism instructor in Norwalk, Calif.

From 1989 to 1991, Reid and his wife, Carolyn, worked with Maranatha Institute and the Troy Adventist Church in Alabama in various capacities, which included literature evangelism and Bible work. In 1991, Reid joined the South Cen-

tral Conference as a literature evangelist in Alabama, and in 1993 he accepted a call to be the Kentucky district leader for South Central. In 1996, Reid began working in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as a literature evangelist and became the Kentucky district leader in 2000.

Reid married the former Carolyn Rattliff in 1989. She was raised in an Adventist home and attended Pine Forge Academy and Columbia Union College. The Reids have one daughter, Cassia Hosanna, who is 11.

—BY RICHARD R. HALLOCK

## Madison Academy Holds “Reach Out” Day

Madison Academy students spent a day to serve at convalescent homes, local schools, churches, and the Second Harvest Food Bank on November 28, 2007.

Madison Academy students, along with eighth-graders from Madison Campus Elementary and Ridgetop Adventist School, assembled for a short worship talk by Andrew Jamieson, chaplain.

After loading the buses, the students were dropped at various projects. At noon, they returned to the Academy for lunch and a video recap of the morning's events.

Freshman Justin Brown stated, “It felt good to help out at the food bank.” Jus-

tin helped to sort and bag canned goods for the less fortunate in Nashville.

Jameya Knight, a senior, was part of the group that went to Maybelle Carter Retirement Village to decorate the building for Christmas and visit the residents.

She said, “I loved it, and it made me happy because I got lots of kisses from the elderly ladies there. I felt like I made a difference.”

The students at Madison Academy are learning the gift of service, and how it affects others and them-

selves. They are being trained for not just certain days of service but living a life of service.

All participating students received tee-shirts with the day's theme on the front — “Reach Out!”

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON



Madison Academy students sorted and bagged food for needy families in Nashville.

## Two New Companies Organized

The little church was filled to capacity on Sabbath, December 15, 2007, for the organization of Smyrna Hispanic Company.

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference authorized the formation of a mission group in the Smyrna, Tenn., area in July 2006, with 32 baptized members and an attendance of 50. Since then the group has grown to 45 members with an average Sabbath attendance of 70.

The new Smyrna His-

panic Company resulted from a church plant project of the Nashville Tenn., First Hispanic Church, currently pastored by Carlos Pinto. Pinto is also the pastor assigned to Smyrna Company. The company is currently meeting in the Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in LaVergne, Tenn.

The following Monday evening, December 17, Oasis Company was organized in Portland, Tenn. Following the young adult

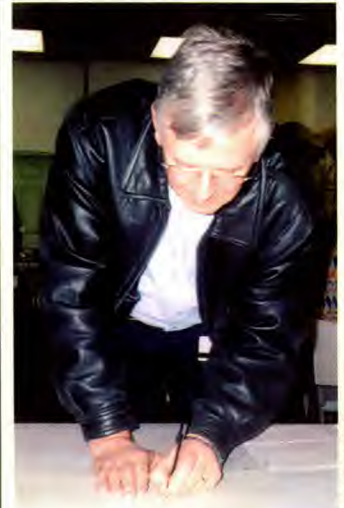
camp meeting held on the Highland Academy Campus in 2006, a group from Highland Church saw the need for an informal environment for people in the Portland community seeking greater meaning in life who might otherwise not attend an Adventist church.

The Oasis group began Friday night meetings in a remodeled store front in the heart of Portland's business district, and the response was more than encouraging. Oasis attracted people from the community as well as some former and nonattending Adventists.

Many of the core leadership of the group came from Highland Church. Several have attended training events on how to reach the postmodern society, a curriculum developed by the Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies at the General Conference.

Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, was present to speak and to officiate at both of these organizational meetings.

In 2002, the Confer-



MARVIN LOWMAN

*Michael Smith, a member of the core leadership team at Oasis, signs the charter member list for the newly formed company.*



MARVIN LOWMAN

*Armando Calderon was among the first to sign as a charter member of the newly organized Smyrna Hispanic Company.*

ence Executive Committee voted guidelines which would promote the strategic growth of the Conference. Following the guidelines assures that churches are organized for the right reasons and are planted in areas where there is adequate potential for viability and growth.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

## Short-Term Missions Continue

Members of the Louisville, Ky., First Church continue to participate in short-term mission projects. In December 2007, six Louisville First members took part in a mission trip to the Caribbean with the Cruise With a Mission (CWM) organization, planned by the Center for Youth Evangelism, based at Andrews University. David Voignier is pictured with gifts which were distributed to children in Guatemala.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER



TIM MADDING

## New Life Church Burns Mortgage

The groundbreaking service for New Life Church in Warner Robins, Ga., was held October 1989. Members, Conference officials, and the mayor of Warner Robins participated in the ceremony. The erection of the building began under the leadership of Samuel Dade, pastor. Funds were low; therefore, the church became the project of the general contractor and Johnny Butts, elder and project manager. All the families sacrificed and worked together to keep expenses to a minimum. Thirty months passed and Dade was transferred before the church was completed.

Walter Boyd, pastor, arrived during March 1992. The congregation had been renting and worshipping in the basement of the Lutheran church for

six and one-half years. Upon completing the building, an opening day service was planned. The city of Warner Robins provided a full police escort from the Lutheran church on Pleasant Hill Road to the newly erected church on Green Street. Before entering the church for the grand opening, the members sang their theme song, "We've Come This Far By Faith."

Twenty-five members strong at that time, New Life Church, sometimes referred to as the "Miracle Church," held its first worship service in the newly erected edifice in April 1992. Dade returned to be



*William L. Winston (left), Conference executive secretary; Eula Winston; Michael Harris, head deacon; Ethel Haynes, head deaconess; Bobby Head, head elder; Stephan Davis, pastor; Evelyn Myrthil, treasurer; and Patricia Davis participated in the mortgage burning ceremony.*

the speaker for the grand opening day.

On September 29, 2007, New Life members joyfully celebrated the burning of the mortgage. William L. Winston, Conference executive secretary, and Stephan Davis, pastor, conducted

the service. Winston was also the divine worship speaker.

Michael Harris, committee chairman, coordinated the events for this special occasion. Many yearned to see this day, and some fell asleep in the Lord. Only three of the original members remain, Bobby Head, Darline Head, and Ethel Haynes.

Through the years, things had worn out and the Lord's house needed to be restored.

Evelyn Myrthil, treasurer, initiated the church beautification project. The plan was to have the New Life Church renovation project completed by Homecoming on October 20, 2007.

—BY DARLINE HEAD

## Baldwin's Chapel Honors Community Friends

The faculty of Baldwin's Chapel Adventist School in High Point, N.C., took the time to honor two special community families on Sabbath, November 17, 2007. Sherman Marshall, who lives directly across the street from the school, does not hesitate to help when he sees a need on the school grounds. He voluntarily removes unwanted shrubbery from the school fence, picks up

trash when the cans topple over, and watches the school grounds to make sure no suspicious activity is happening after school hours.

The Harper family recently enrolled four of their children in the school and voluntarily mow the lawn early in the morning. Sara



*Food basket recipients include the Harper family and Sherman Marshall (right), Baldwin's Chapel neighbor.*

Harper is constantly looking to find ways to benefit

the school. Neither family is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

To show appreciation, the students, faculty, and staff of Baldwin's Chapel Adventist School invited both families to church to honor them with large food baskets filled with various items.

—BY BEATRICE BANKS



# Miami Union Academy Changes Student's Life

"I appreciate the work that Miami Union Academy (MUA) has done in providing a quality educational experience for the youth in south Florida, and its contribution to the Step Up for Students Program," stated Florida Governor Charlie Crist at the fourth annual Step Up for Students Donor Appreciation Rally, which was held at Miami Union Academy on December 10, 2007.

thank you to the corporate donors for their continued financial support of the Step Up for Students Program.

Brise, a graduate of MUA and a member of the school board, served as the master of ceremonies for the rally.

The Step Up for Students Scholarship Program provides scholarships up to \$3,750 to parents who want to place their children in private schools.

daughter. With the assistance of the Step Up Program, Prophete was able to send her daughter to MUA.

Prophete, a member of a non-denominational church in Miami, chose MUA because she felt that the school would provide her daughter with an environment that would enable her to succeed.

"After conducting research on all the private schools in my area, I was determined that Miami Union Academy was the best place for my child," stated Prophete.

Her decision to send her daughter to MUA was met with resistance from the pastor and members of her church.

The teachers at MUA worked with Cherfils to address her learning needs and helped her overcome the difficulties she had at the previous school she attended.

By the end of the first year at MUA, Cherfils was achieving A's, B's, and C's. She is now a sophomore at Oakwood University, and is also the first member of her family to attend college.

Not only were Cherfils' academic needs met while attending MUA and Oakwood University, her spiritual life was impacted



Melody Cherfils with her mother, Millie Prophete

as well. After attending a week of prayer at Oakwood, she decided to give her life to Christ and is now a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Governor Crist expresses his appreciation to Willie Taylor, Conference president, for the contribution MUA has made toward the success of the Step Up for Students Program.

"Christian education is a viable tool for evangelism," states Elisa Young, Conference superintendent of education, after hearing Cherfils' testimony.

Cherfils credits her success in life to MUA and her teacher, Shelly Garner. She plans to become a physician's assistant.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Florida State Representative Ronald Brise (left), MUA Principal Regina Harris, Governor Charlie Crist, and Esmeralda Gussman enjoy a musical performance by the MUA band.

Crist was joined by Florida State Representative Ronald Brise, former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and other dignitaries to say

Currently, 17,000 students in Florida are attending a private school.

One such individual was Melody Cherfils, a graduate of MUA and a former Step Up for Students Scholarship recipient.

During the rally, Cherfils shared her personal story of success.

Before receiving the scholarship, Cherfils had a GPA of less than 1.0 and considered dropping out of school. Her mother, Millie Prophete, was determined to help her



William Byrd (left), school board chairman, welcomes Governor Crist to MUA.

## 32 Baptized at Longview Heights



*A total of 32 were baptized at Longview Heights.*

Longview Heights Church in Memphis, Tenn., wrapped up a successful six-week Revelation Seminar, November 2007, conducted by James G. Owens, pastor.

The nightly count for visitors never dropped below 35. "This was not normal," stated Owens. "In other meetings I have done, attendance started to drop shortly after I preached the Sabbath and Mark of the Beast; however, 32 people were baptized at the end."

Among those baptized were a chemist, his son, and his 81-year-old mother, Vera Anderson, who has 14 children, all of which are successful



*James G. Owens (center), Longview Heights pastor, baptizes Vera Anderson and her son, who accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message after listening to God's Word on 3ABN.*

professionals. She is determined to bring them all into

the fold. Owens later found out that Anderson had been

watching the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) for more than two years.

One doctor, who was a very active leader in Anderson's church, wrote her pastor a moving and thoughtful letter explaining that she had been led into a deeper understanding of the Word and would be resigning her membership.

The Longview Heights members provided consistent support and invited neighbors, friends, and coworkers. Sandra Johnson, James Lee, and Annie Miller served as Bible workers.

—BY NATALIE T. OWENS

## Men of Distinction Support Ministry

Recently a group of distinguished men performed in a special concert in support of women's ministries at the Oakwood University Church. Funds were raised to support the many projects of this ministry, which includes special classes for women in auto care, computer and Internet challenges, foreign languages, leadership development, health issues, quilting, knitting, and parenting.

The outstanding concert talent included the nationally acclaimed electric guitarist Roland Gresham; Attorney Sandy Robinson, concert pianist; Kevin Long, organist; and Taj Davis, an Oakwood



*Distinguished men recently shared in a special concert to raise funds in support of women's ministries at Oakwood University Church.*

University student, bass clarinet.

Craig Newborn, Ph.D., senior pastor for the Oakwood University Church, concluded the first half with an inspirational message entitled, "The Call to Men for Spiritual Leadership." He

challenged the men to lead and serve in the family, the Church, and the community.

The second half included the well known flutist Josiah Person who has performed alone and in prestigious groups locally and in other major metropolitan areas; Daniel Washington with his clarinet and military band achievements, accompanied by Calvin Vance of Oakwood University; Taj Davis, tenor saxophonist; Philip Williams, music director at Oakwood Adventist Academy and Oakwood University Church choir director, pianist; and a special trio from Oakwood Academy: Arion Mills, James Williams,

and Kwame Malone. Special guest soloist Tommie Lockhart whose voice is recognized and loved locally and in other major cities was accompanied by seminarian and local minister of music Chester Andrews.

Jessie Godley Bradley, women's ministries director, expressed great appreciation for a successful program given by talented "men of distinction." Veterans and families of military service personnel were recognized for the tremendous sacrifices made for the freedom of all. Thanks to the Heavenly Father for all good gifts were given by David Lee, associate pastor. Clarence Hodges served as master of ceremonies.

—BY CLARENCE E. HODGES

## Mississippi FOCUS Announces 2007 Scholarship Recipient

Danny and Reta Chandler recently presented April Collins, a first year student at Oakwood University, with a \$1,000 scholarship check from Mississippi FOCUS (Friends of Oakwood College United Supporters).

Collins is a member of New Heights Church in Jackson, Miss.; Fred Batten, Jr., is her pastor. Her parents, Derek and Marbeth Collins are elders at the church.

Mississippi FOCUS is a \$50,000 scholarship program, founded in 1996 by Danny R. Chandler, a 1984

graduate of Oakwood College, and his wife, Reta. All contributions to Mississippi FOCUS are tax deductible.

Chandler also announced a new program he calls "Pocket Change." He states, "People don't always have \$25 or \$50 a month to commit to other programs, but we all have pocket change. The plan: Take a cup, and label it "Pocket Change." On Friday of each week, take the change out of your purse or pocket, put it in the labeled "Pocket Change" cup. On the first Sabbath of each month, turn the pocket change in to the

local church designated for Mississippi FOCUS. This is the same way we used to set aside money for investment. It is an investment in education."

Chandler says his hope is that at least 1,000 members in the Mississippi churches will participate. He expects to produce \$5 per month from each member who takes part. He says, "This is less than

the cost of a value meal at a fast food restaurant. All we are asking for is pocket change."

—BY DANNY R. CHANDLER



*Derek Collins (left); MarBeth Collins; Reta Chandler; Danny Chandler; April Collins, Mississippi FOCUS scholarship recipient; Denise Batten; and Fred Batten, Jr., pastor, share a photo moment at the end of worship service.*

## Students Improve Inner-city Camp

Southern Adventist University's outdoor leadership and outdoor education programs are partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Chattanooga to help inner-city children from underprivileged families get a taste of the natural world.

In early December 2007, 20 Southern students volunteered their time to help clean up Camp Kiwanis at Hidden Valley, which is owned by the Boys and Girls Club. Students



*Outdoor leadership majors Sunny Tier and Casey Walter work on repairing old cabins.*

the camp's currently vacant horse barn. This was a first step in helping to improve the camp and make it more functional.

Camp Kiwanis has been around since the 1960's. It operated as an overnight camp until about four years ago when staffing problems reduced its use to summer day camps.

"The trails have been here for years," says local resident Chris Hankins, who

helped with repairs around the camp and cleared trails and roads leading back to

has taken an interest in the camp and helped get Southern and other local

organizations involved in fixing it up, "but about half of them were so overgrown you couldn't even hardly get down them."

Other organizations who have helped with this project include Lee University and HeartWise Ministries, a nondenominational outreach ministry dedicated to helping children and bringing Christians of all faiths together for the good of the community.

Southern graduate students visited Kiwanis in January to evaluate the resources available there and develop a proposed plan on how to make the most of the camp.

—BY MATT HERZEL

## Education Students Help Local School

While a class of student teachers was at East Lake Academy, an urban middle school, for observation, they recognized the students' financial needs and decided to get involved in a big way.

The students developed a plan, arranged a Christmas wrapping fundraiser at Wal-Mart, wrote letters, and collected money from their local churches during the Thanksgiving break. Naming their program "Change for Change," the students raised more than \$2,200—



*Education students present their gift to East Lake Academy.*

an amount that will be matched by Wal-Mart.

"We hope this will influence change," says student Riley Kirkpatrick,

who organized this effort. "That's why we call it change for change."

The effort is completely student-driven, with

support from education professor Suzy Gloude-man.

"It's Christian work in action without a lot of talk," says Denise Dunzweiler, dean of the School of Education & Psychology, "shouting the love of Jesus to these kids without speaking."

The funds raised toward this project will help buy books for East Lake students, as well as paper, clothing, and whatever the teachers feel students need.

—BY MICHELLE KNOWLES AND LORI FUTCHER

# Adventist Students Connect

BY REBECCA BROOKS

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) ministry was implemented in Georgia-Cumberland Conference in June 2007, and is the North American Division's program to coordinate Adventist students on secular college and university campuses throughout North America. There are currently nine schools in the Conference that either have an ACF chapter or are getting ready to start one. Lisa Hope, director of ACF for Georgia-Cumberland, has also been contacted by universities in the Kentucky-Tennessee and Carolina conferences that are interested in using the program in their areas.

Shares Hope, "I've been contacted by people who read about it and live or attend church near a university or college campus. They want to know how to get started. So, I'm serving as a resource to give them ideas and practical suggestions to reach out to the students and develop an ACF chapter."

College is a time when faith can become a personal reality or a distant memory. For students involved in Adventist Christian Fellowship, it is obvious this ministry is making a



BRIAN YOUNG

At the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Adventist Christian Fellowship students gather for a spaghetti dinner each Wednesday evening.

difference in helping them stay connected to the Adventist Church.

"Adventist Christian Fellowship has been a really important connection for me to the Adventist Church. It helps me to get together with other people who believe the same as I do, where it might otherwise be hard to meet them here on a really big university," says Nathan Rowe, a senior electrical engineering major at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK).

Elisabeth Tilstra is a freshman at UTK after attending Collegedale Academy. "Being able to have that community and have people who I can surround myself with who not only believe what I believe, but know what I've believed since childhood—that's a big part of coming here. It's nice to find a whole group of people who understand where you're coming from."

ACF is planning a leadership convention for February 29-March 2, 2008. The event, themed CONNECT, is designed to be a connection point for students to

meet other Adventists on public campuses, a (re)connection with God, and a way to help students recognize their unique leadership roles in representing God on their campuses.

Rebecca Brooks is the assistant communication director for Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

The following schools are working with ACF. If you are interested in reaching out to Adventist students on secular campuses near you, contact Lisa Hope at [Lhope@gccsda.com](mailto:Lhope@gccsda.com).

- University of Tennessee at Knoxville (Advent House)
- University of Georgia, Athens
- East Tennessee State University, Johnson City
- Augusta State University, Augusta
- Medical College of Georgia, Augusta
- Chattanooga State Technical Community College, TN
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville
- Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta



BRIAN YOUNG

Adventist students Scott Hansen (left), Rachel Day, and Nathan Rowe study together at the University of Tennessee.

# 25 Years of Bible Bowl

BY D. WAYNE DAVIDSON



*South Atlantic's junior youth team: Coaches Petal Peters and Acquennette Jackson (left), Khalil Peters, Ronnie Jackson Jr., Kelli Duncan, Kayla Duncan, and Barbara Jackson, from Mount Olive church in East Point, Georgia.*

Baseball and Boston have been synonymous ever since I can remember. It was, therefore, not unusual to find the 2007 World Series being played in Boston's Fenway Park between the Boston Red Sox and the Colorado Rockies. What was particularly unusual for this weekend in Boston was to find the silver anniversary of the National Bible Bowl being played there, not too far from Fenway.

It was 25 years ago, at Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan, that the first National Bible Bowl was played. On that occasion, throughout the North American Division, there were only two teams, one from the Northeastern and South Central conferences that had come to minister to the delegates of the United Youth Congress—an event that had been sponsored by the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA).

Twenty-five years later, from the same regions in North America, 32 teams from 11 conferences converged on the prestigious campus of the University of Massachusetts at Boston to display their knowledge in a subject that has, throughout history, brought controversy and discord, peace and brotherhood, to various audiences across the



*South Atlantic's senior youth team: Shante McKinley (left); Joshua Haynes; Merriah Haynes; Coach Nidia Haynes; Stephen Brooks, Conference youth director; Wayne Davidson, Conference Bible Bowl coordinator; and Kassimier Haynes. The team is from New Hope Church in Ellenwood, Georgia.*



*South Atlantic's Young Adult team: Pete Summer (left), Undre Seav, Miracle Scott, Angela Harris, Titus Wongk, Victor Wongk, and Coaches Dale and Karen Wongk, from New Life Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.*

globe. They came to vie for the desired distinction of being titled as champions in the Word of God. They came to play Bible Bowl.

Representing the Southern Union were 11 teams from the Southeastern, South Central, and South Atlantic conferences.

From the beginning of the event on Friday morning to its close on late Saturday night, every challenge that attends an event of this magnitude was met by the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association. The association members were faced with generating 4,500 unique questions required for the event; setting up the Quiz Master equipment; and recruiting and assigning judges, moderators, Quiz Master operators, and logistic coordinators. These lay people rallied together to produce an event worthy of celebrating the ministry's silver anniversary.

It was here at Bible Bowl XXV that the ministry's nostalgia and history came face to face. From the collage of photos and articles in the hallways that were reminiscent of the early days, to the presence of

those whose performance had fueled its early growth, it was evident that through this ministry lives had been changed and individuals won for the kingdom of Heaven. Especially noted were the coordinators/old timers' game; and the presence of Judy Lee, who shared with the audience the memoirs of the Central States Conference's team involvement at the 1986 first national game in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The final games brought the junior teams from Ontario and South Atlantic to the front. Moderated by Maurice Turner, this game was well executed by South Atlantic as they laid claim to their seventh consecutive junior division championship.

Next up were the senior youth of Northeastern and South Atlantic, who executed a comeback and forced Northeastern to a third game in which South Atlantic held strong for the title of champion. These games were moderated by Thrifine Rowe and Fred Furman.

There an upset in the young adult division as Northeastern forced Greater New York to a third game

and then claimed the championship in an exciting end. Deni Davidson and Lawrence Brown moderated these games. South Atlantic was the second runner-up in this division.

In the adult division, Ontario held strong over Northeastern to carry the championship across the border with the well-known voice of Trevor Baker, president of the Northeastern Conference, behind the moderator's microphone. South Central was the second runner-up.

From playoff to champions, each Bible Bowl player demonstrated that they are champions in the Word of God. Their testimony in this ministry will one day become the history of Bible Bowl as they continue to enshrine God's Word in their hearts and to grow this ministry within North America and beyond.

*D. Wayne Davidson is the Bible Bowl coordinator for the South Atlantic Conference.*

## Baskin Receives First Adventist EDGE Teacher of Excellence Award

A historic event in the Adventist EDGE initiative took place at the Southern Union Board of Education on December 17, 2007; the first Adventist EDGE Teacher of Excellence Award was presented.

The meeting began with a devotional presented by the fourth grade class from Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Montgomery, Ala. The students presented the meaning of Adventist EDGE—Educators Delivering GREAT Education. They defined **GREAT** as **G**od centered, **R**esults oriented, in an **E**nvironment that nurtures, **A**ligned with Adventist and national standards, and a **T**eam effort. They then told how GREAT applies to their personal lives. At the end of the devotional, a surprised Reggina Baskin, the fourth grade teacher, was presented with the award.

Baskin is a charismatic adult. What is a charismatic adult? The late psychologist Julius Segal wrote, "From studies conducted around the world, researchers have distilled a number of factors that **enable children...** One factor turns out to be the presence in their lives of **a charismatic adult**—an adult from whom they can identify and gather strength. And, in a surprising number of cases, that person turns out to be a teacher."



*Union, Conference, and school officials celebrate the first Adventist EDGE award recipient: Jim Ingersoll (left), Southern Union associate director for secondary education; Benjamin P. Browne, South Central president; Tamara Libonati, Southern Union associate director for early childhood education; Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president; Erma Lee, South Central superintendent of education; Reggina Baskin, first recipient of the Adventist EDGE Teacher of Excellence Award; Conrad Gill, Ed.D., Southern Union education director; Victor Waller, Bethany principal; Diane Ruff, Southern Union associate director for elementary education; Gracie Culpepper, Southern Union teacher certification registrar; and W. Eugene Brewer, Ed.D., Southern Union development specialist.*

A basic belief that resides within the mindset of effective educators is that they have the power to be the charismatic adult in a student's life, and they actively seek opportunities to do so. The Adventist EDGE is all about enabling children.

Ask Baskin why she teaches and she will tell you, "Teaching is my destiny! I was created, equipped, and ordained to TEACH. Though there be

other occupational disciplines that could satisfy, there is no other that could fulfill. My personal and professional mission is as certain as my destiny...I was saved to teach, and I must teach to save."

Ask her why she believes in the Adventist EDGE and she will say, "I believe that true education transcends academics, and that those rightly educated depart the classroom's borders prepared for lives

of joyous service to the Master."

Ask her how she teaches and she will say, "I prepare before, connect during, and celebrate after each lesson gleaned for lifetime application. I have been divinely commissioned and credentialed as an enlightener, engager, and encourager; but most and best of all, a lead learner before the Master Teacher."

Ask her for her mis-

R. STEVEN NORMAN, III





R. STEVEN NORMAN, III



R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

Reggina Baskin teaches her fourth grade "kings and queens" at Bethany Academy in Montgomery, Ala.

Reggina Baskin's (back row, second left) fourth grade "kings and queens" presented the meaning of Adventist EDGE during the devotional for the Southern Union Board of Education meeting on December 17, 2007. Other attendees included Philip G. Palmer (back row, left), South Central treasurer; Benjamin P. Browne, South Central president; Sandra Hawkins, Bethany school board member; and Olakunle Harrison, Ph.D., Bethany school board chair.

sion statement and she will say, "It is my spiritual and professional determination to creatively meet my students' needs to inquire, explore, and experience. As I influence and model active learning, each mind

will prove Jesus to be the source of knowledge and sustenance. My students will love Jesus, know Jesus, reflect Jesus, and ultimately meet Jesus when He returns to claim those educated for His service."

Reggina Baskin is a charismatic teacher of excellence and truly repre-

sents the Adventist EDGE.  
—BY W. EUGENE BREWER, ED.D.

## Shurney Appointed Tennessee Board Chair at Center for Diabetes Prevention and Health Improvement

The Governor of Tennessee, Phil Bredesen, appointed Dexter W. Shurney, M.D., to be chair of the Tennessee Center for Diabetes Prevention and Health Improvement Board, in December 2007. Dexter Shurney graduated in 1979 from LaSierra/Loma Linda University and received his medical degree from Howard University. Shurney resides in Brentwood, Tenn.

Governor Bredesen's letter of appointment states among other things that Shurney's individual char-

acteristics and professional qualifications were found by the competitive selection process to be "exceptional among the number of nominees who expressed interest in the position." He added his expectation that Shurney's participation is "certain to leave a positive impact on this board

and its achievements."

Dexter Shurney, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H, is senior vice president and chief medical officer of Nashville-based Healthways, Inc. He also serves on the board of the American College of Medical Quality and represents ACMQ as the organization's delegate to

the American Medical Association. Shurney is also an active participant with the National Association of Managed Care Physicians, and for eight years served as editor of the *Journal of Managed Care Physicians*. He is board certified in preventive medicine.

Shurney is active in the Riverside Chapel Church in Nashville and also in the Oxnard All Nations Church in Oxnard, Calif. He is also a participant in evangelistic outreach.



# Obituaries

**ABSTON, Clara Ann Hudson**, 81, born July 26, 1925, died July 7, 2007. She was head of housekeeping at the Highland Hospital in Portland, TN, during the early 1960s. She and her husband worked with Dark County Evangelism in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Georgia. She was a member of the Pikeville, TN, Church.

**ALBOCK, Doris Davis**, 90, born Aug. 14, 1917 in Quitman, MS, died Jan. 12, 2007 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Meridian First Church.

**ALEXANDER, Jerry Max**, died Aug. 8, 2007 in Mobile, AL. He was a member of the Mobile Cody Road Church.

**BOTIMER, Laurence**, 88, born Sept. 29, 1918, died Aug. 20, 2007 in Collegedale, TN. He was a member of the Apison, TN, Church, and served for many years as a science teacher at denominational colleges.

**CAMPBELL, Claudell F.**, 80, born Nov. 2, 1927 in Palmetto, FL, died Nov. 2, 2007 in Palmetto, FL. She was a member of the Palmetto Church. She is survived by her husband, Willard; and one daughter, Brenda Becker of Parrish, FL. The service was conducted at the Palmetto church by Pastor Clarence Pillsbury. Interment was at the Palmosola Cemetery.

**CARPENTER, Michael B.**, 52, died Oct. 2, 2007. He was a Chaplain for more than nine years in Wisconsin. He attended the Greeneville, TN, Church.

**CLEMONS, Doris**, 87, died Sept. 28, 2007. She was a member of the Greeneville, TN, Church. She was a retired teacher from South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, MA.

**CORNEALY, Adeline**, 87, born Nov. 4, 1919 in Taylor, FL, died March 10, 2007 in Orange Park, FL. She was a member of the Orange Cove Church in Orange Park. She is survived by her husband, Walt; one son, Max Walker of Jacksonville, FL; two daughters: Rhoda Holt of Jacksonville, FL, and Jan Brummett of Spartanburg, SC; two grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

**CROOKER, Merrill Webster**, died June 17, 2007. He was a member of the Gulf States Conference Church.

**CRUMLEY, Gerline**, 82, died Oct. 27, 2007. She was a member of the Greeneville, TN, Church.

**DAILEY, Joseph**, 74, born Dec. 1, 1933, died July 23, 2007 in Fort Mitchell, AL. He was a member of the Phenix City, AL, Church.

**DEMING, Murray W.**, 98, born Nov. 11, 1909 in Broken Bow, NB, died Nov. 27, 2007 in Tucson, AZ. He was the beloved pastor of churches in Indiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Ohio, and California. At the time of his death he was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He is survived by five daughters: Charlene Scott, Corinne King, Billie Jewett, Natalie Dodd, and Regina Nestell; two sons: John and Michael; 25 grandchildren; and 47 great-grandchildren.

**FRITH, Roy K.**, born February 1925 in Selma, AL, died June 2006 in Orlando, FL. He taught in the Southern Union Adventist school system until retirement. He is survived by his wife, Miriam B. Frith; one son, Roy Frith, Jr.; two daughters: Tanya McClellan and Karen Emde; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

**FRITH, Miriam B.**, born February 1927 in Selma, AL, died August 2007 in Orlando, FL. She is survived by one son, Roy Frith, Jr.; two daughters: Tanya McClellan and Karen Emde; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

**GRIFFITH, Connie H.**, 86, born Sept. 25, 1921 in Ft. Worth, TX, died Oct. 30, 2007 in Winter Park, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL. She is survived by one son, Daniel Griffith of Marietta, GA; two daughters: Darlene Winter of Longwood, FL, and Denise Griffith of Winter Park, FL; and one grandchild. Her husband, D. K. Griffith, and one son, Dorlin Griffith, predeceased her.

**HENRY, Dorothy Lorraine**, 85, born July 15, 1922, died Oct. 28, 2007. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. She was an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years.

**HICKS, Ruby Lois Walters**, 98, born March 14, 1909 in Mill Creek Community, Jones County, MS, died Aug. 5, 2007 in Ellisville, MS. She was a member of the Laurel, MS, Church. She is survived by one son, Robert Hicks; one daughter, Janna Farmer; one granddaughter, Vickie Sledge; two grandsons: Dirk and Kevin Farmer; and three great grandchildren.

**HINTON, Craig**, 59, a native of Alexandria, VA, died Sept. 30, 2007 at his residence in Collegedale, TN. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Whidden Hinton; one stepdaughter, Dr. Stacy Spaulding of Baltimore, MD; his mother, Nan Hinton of Orlando, FL; his father, Dude Hinton of Palm Harbor, FL; one sister, Paige Hinton of Orlando, FL; one brother, Mark Hinton of Asheville, NC.; mother and father-in-law: Chuck and Jewel Whidden of Collegedale.

**HOWELL, Donita Lynn**, 33, born in 1973 in Chicago, IL, died Jan. 26, 2007 in Phenix City, AL. She was a member of the Huntsville Central church.

**HUDNALL, Dewey**, 87, died Oct. 3, 2007 in Owensboro, KY. He was a member of the Henderson, KY, Church.

**KELLY, James Raymond**, 83, born Aug. 12, 1924 in Huntingdon, TN, died Dec. 6, 2007 in Jackson, TN. He was a member of the Leach Church in Cedar Grove, TN.

**LEE, Cory Wilma**, 78, born Oct. 24, 1929 in Eldorado, IL, died Nov. 13, 2007 in Eldorado, IL. She was a member of the Henderson, KY, Church.

**LOGAN, James Raymond (Ray)**, 94, born Nov. 8, 1912 in California, died Feb. 2, 2007 in Florence, MS. He was a member of the Florence/Pearl, MS, Church.

**LOGAN, Louise Everett Waggoner**, 82, born Aug. 7, 1924 in Florence, MS, died March 20, 2007 in Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of the Florence/Pearl, MS, Church.

**LYLES, William Blount**, born Sept. 18, 1921, died Nov. 21, 2007. He was a Literature Evangelist for more than 17 years, and an Elder for 50 years. He was a member of the Coalfield, TN, Church since 1951. Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Thelma; one son, Gary; four daughters: Charlotte Ann Isbell, Jeannette Cox, Regina Kay Cross, and Karen Sue Lyles; one son-in-law, Eddie Cross; eight grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

**MADER, Bernice**, 82, born July 6, 1925 in Carlyle, PA, died Nov. 13, 2007 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park church. She was employed for 30 years at Walker Memorial Hospital as a baker from 1961-1991. She is survived by her son, Larry Mader of Longwood, FL.

**MARTIN, Edward F.**, 88, born Oct. 15, 1919, died Oct. 20, 2007 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, TN. He was a member of the Memphis First Church in Cordova, TN.

**MCALEXANDER, Kenneth Jackson**, 82, born on July 1, 1925 in Carroll County, TN, died Nov. 22, 2007 in Memphis, TN. He was a member of the Leach Church in Cedar Grove, TN.

**MIZHER, Nassry S.**, 91, born June 27, 1911 in Fall River, MA, died Nov. 20, 2007 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL. He was employed by the denomination for 37 ½ years as a Pastor in Vermont, Maryland, Ontario, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Upon his retirement, he tutored seminary students in Greek. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy Mizher; one son, Michael Mizher of Keene, TX; one daughter, Rebecca, Madison of New Jersey; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

**PERSIS, Essie C.**, 92, born July 23, 1915 in Cairo, GA, died Sept. 8, 2007 in Bradenton, FL. She was a member of the Palmetto, FL, Church. She is survived by two sons: Melvin and A.W. Persis, Jr.; two daughters: Linda Hayden and E. June Turner; 17 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. Her husband of 70 years, A. W. Persis, Sr., predeceased her. The service was conducted by Pastor Clarence Pillsbury at the Toale Brothers Bradenton Chapel. Interment was at the Gillete Cemetery in Bradenton.

**PETTIBONE, Ruth**, 86, of Collegedale, TN, died Nov. 12, 2007 in a local health care center. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. She is survived by her daughter, Darlene (Clifford) Williams of Collegedale; three sons: Dennis (Carol) Pettibone of Collegedale, Don (Susan) Pettibone of Kenya, Africa, and Dale (Carol) Pettibone of Walla Walla, WA; one brother, Clarence Nicholas of Michigan; two sisters: June Lewis of Alabama, and Grace DeLong of Ohio; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**SHEFFIELD, Leslie**, 88, born Sept. 11, 1919 in Hinsdale, IL, died Nov. 10, 2007 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Imogene; two sons: Gary Lee of Orlando, FL, and Curtis of Apopka; one daughter, Patricia of Cleveland, TN; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. The graveside service was conducted by nephew, Frank Sheffield, at the Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

**SZMANDA, Charles Andrew**, 82, died Oct. 27, 2007. He was a retired chaplain of Takoma Adventist Hospital and Adventist Living Centers in Wisconsin. He served his country as an infantryman in the Second Infantry Division under General George Patton during World War II. He was a member of the Greeneville, TN, Church.

**VIVODA, Juan Carlos**, 59, born June 7, 1948 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, died Aug. 20, 2007 in Spartanburg, SC. He was a member of the Spartanburg Church.

**VOGT, Floyd J.**, 88, born 1918 in Davy, WV, died May 29, 2007. He was a member of the Gulf States Conference Church and a long-time teacher and deacon at the Anniston, AL, Church.

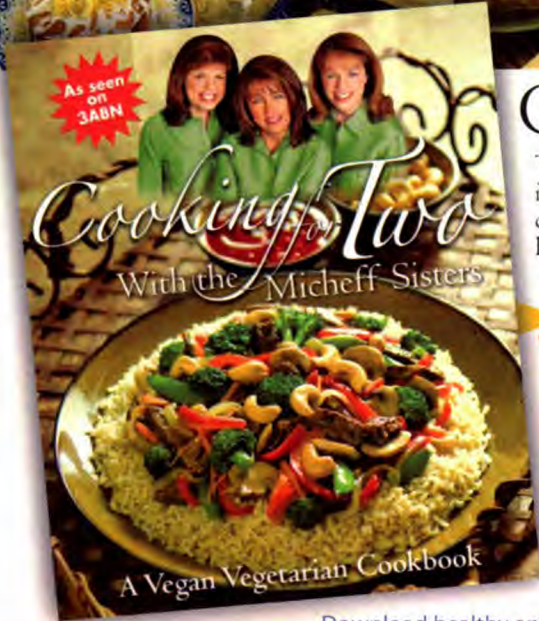
**WALKER, Serena**, 41, born June 12, 1966 in Huntsville, AL, died Aug. 3, 2007. She was a member of the Huntsville Central Church. She is survived by her husband, Keith Walker; one daughter, Sarah Walker; her mother and father: Bob and Betty Myers; and one brother, Darren Myers.

**WILHITE, Mary Kate**, 66, born May 6, 1941 in Limerick, Ireland, died Sept. 25, 2007 in Jackson, TN. She was a member of the Jackson, TN, Church.

**ZAIN, Joseph Blaney**, 3½, born Dec. 8, 2003, died Oct. 4, 2007 in Maryville, TN. The son of Matthew and Ashley Blaney; grandson of Mike and Durienda Blaney and Joseph and Julie Low; great grandson of Hugh and Imogene Shepard and Jean Elizabeth Blaney. He and his parents attended the Maryville-Alcoa Church.

**ZERVOS, John George**, 52, born Aug. 12, 1953 in Takoma Park, MD, died May 30, 2006 in Orlando, FL. He was the youngest radio engineer in Maryland when he began working at WGTS-FM at the age of 12. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Forest City, FL.

**ZERVOS, Mark Gregory**, 46, born April 4, 1961 in Takoma Park, MD, died April 15, 2007 in Forest City, FL. He is best remembered for giving up his place in the Junior Olympics in observance of the Sabbath. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Forest City, FL.



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PreviewSouthern—Feb. 18.

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Meet the Firms—Feb. 21.

Spring Break—Feb. 29-March 9.

### Announcements

**Forest Lake Academy Alumni Weekend - March 28, 29.** Golf Tournament; Rededication of remodeled McClure and Memorial Halls. All former deans are invited. Call 407-772-3729; OsorioC@forestlake.org; www.forestlakeacademy.org

### 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 details, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, or alumni@ucollege.edu

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of SVA. Details: 540-740-2202 or go to [www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org)

### Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend — May 2-4.

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**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) [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) [2,3]

**EIGHT NATURAL REMEDIES** with James

Johnson, M.D. Phone/fax 615-523-2136. Also online instructor-led NCLEX-RN® review nursing courses every month. [www.geocities.com/jjohnsonmd/nclex.html](http://www.geocities.com/jjohnsonmd/nclex.html) [2-4]

**2008 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR – July 10-24 with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University.** See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax 269-471-5172; email [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com). [2]

**WOMEN'S RETREAT AT SEA – August 3-10.** Deluxe Alaska cruise with-a-purpose! Inspirational seminars and music. Mission outreach at three ports of call. Sponsored by NW Adventist Women's Ministries. Visit [www.npuc.org](http://www.npuc.org) Women's Retreat at Sea. Call 800-869-6903, x202. [2]

**WANTED: CAMPERS for once-a-month weekend fellowship with God** and friendly people in the quiet outdoors away from the hustle/bustle of life. Great fellowship, food, and relaxation. Central Florida area. For details, contact Les Randall, 407-774-8945; or email [lesrandall@juno.com](mailto:lesrandall@juno.com) [2,3]

**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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[www.adventisthealth.org](http://www.adventisthealth.org)

### The Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the 9th regular session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Mt. Calvary SDA Church, 3920 E. Osborne Avenue, Tampa, FL, on Sunday, April 27, 2008. The first meeting is called for 9:00 a.m. The session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the Conference is entitled to one delegate for the organization and an additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof.

*Willie L. Taylor, President  
Hubert J. Morel, Jr., Executive Secretary*

### The Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 9th regular session of the Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. will be held at the Mt. Calvary SDA Church, 3920 E. Osborne Avenue, Tampa, FL, on Sunday, April 27, 2008. The first meeting is called for 9:00 a.m. The session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. The delegates to the Southeastern Conference Session are the constituency of the corporation.

*Willie L. Taylor, President  
Hubert J. Morel, Jr., Executive Secretary*



# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**Lay Pastoral Assistant Training** – Feb. 8-10. NPR.

**Romance at the Ranch** – Feb. 15-17. NPR.

**Hispanic Marriage Retreat** – Feb. 22-24. NPR.

**Panama Mission Trip** – Feb. 27-March 10.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online—**  
<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>

### Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Feb. 23. St. Petersburg.

Feb. 24. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.

March 1. Sunrise.

March 2. Plantation, Lauderhill, Temple Adventiste in Deerfield Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

March 8. Tallahassee.

March 9. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

March 15. Port Charlotte.

March 16. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

March 29. West Palm Beach.

March 30. Midport Road in Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)

### Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars

Feb. 23. Apopka Spanish.

March 1. Lake Wales.

March 1. Bonita Springs English and Spanish.

March 8. East Pasco in Zephyrhills.

March 15. St. Petersburg.

March 29. Sebring.

March 29. Palmetto.

### Stop Smoking Clinic—Feb.

25-March 31, Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Orlando Central Church Hillcrest Community Center. Facilitator: Jack McCaskill, formerly with the American Cancer Society. Details: 407-841-7510.

**North Florida Cowboy Camp Meeting—Feb. 29-March 2.**  
Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.

Speaker: Jim Gilley. Music: Mark Trammell Trio, Driven Quartet, Joe Pearles, Andrew Ishee, Robert McGuire, and Buddy Liles. Cost: to be announced. Details: <http://www.cowboycampmeetings.com/>, <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>, or 386-454-1351.

**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.

**14th Annual Retired Denominational and Hospital Workers' Retreat—**March 9-11. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Speaker: Jack Harris. Reservations required. Details: [rhshepard@netzero.net](mailto:rhshepard@netzero.net) or 407-331-3249.

**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.

**Vacation Bible School Workshops.** Details: [rburrill@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rburrill@cfl.rr.com), 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

March 15. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland.

March 22. Miami Temple church.

**Spanish-language Family Ministries Directors Training Convention—**April 4-6. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 407-644-5000, x138.

**Spanish-language Children's Ministries and Vacation Bible School Convention—**April 4-6. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 407-644-5000, x138.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online—**  
[www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)

**Hispanic Elder's Certification** – Feb. 8-10. Cohutta Springs.

**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 Leader's Training** – Feb. 29-March 2. Cohutta Springs.

**"Connect" Adventist Christian Fellowship Conference** – Feb. 29-March 2. Knoxville, TN.

**Lay Evangelism Rally** – March 1. Moultrie, GA.

**Festival of the Family** – March 1. Austell, GA.

**Crisis Intervention Training** – March 2,3. Collegedale, TN.

**Regional Health Rally** – March 8. Cookeville, TN.

**GCA Days** – March 14,15. Calhoun, GA.

**Conference-wide Exercise Workshop** – March 16. Collegedale, TN.

**Precision Drill Team Day** – March 16. Ocoee, TN.

**Kids in Discipleship Training** – March 16-19. Collegedale, TN.

**Adventurer Family Fun Day** – March 16. Cohutta Springs.

**Hispanic Evangelism (ShareHim)** – March 21-April 5. Atlanta, GA.

**Hispanic Women's Retreat** – March 21-23. Cohutta Springs.

**Regional Health Rally** – March 22. Carrollton, GA.

**Youth Festival** – March 28,29. Dalton, GA.

**South Georgia Camp Meeting** – March 28-30. Norman Park, GA.

**Teen Girls' Retreat** – March 28-30. Cohutta Springs.

**Spring Women's Retreat** – March 28-30. Cohutta Springs.

## Gulf States

**Family Ministries Ministers' and Wives' Retreat**—Feb. 12-14.

**Elders' Training #3**—Feb. 15-17. Camp Alamisco.

**Executive Committee**—Feb.19. Conference Office.

**ShareHim Boot Camp**—Feb. 22-24. Camp Alamisco.

**Education Mission Adventure**—Feb.26-March 4. Nicaragua.

**Spring Break**—March 1-9.

**Teen Invitational Back Packing**—March 7-9.

**Family Ministries Singles' Retreat**—March 14-16.

**Bass View Academy Days**—March 15,16.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board

March 11. May 13. July 22.

Conference Executive Committee  
March 11. May 13. July 22.

**Highland & Madison Academy Boards**

March 20. May 8.

**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 details.

**Camp Meeting**—May 23-31.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting**—June 6,7.

	Sunset					
	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22	Feb. 29	Mar. 7
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17



When **Jesus** arrived at Bethsaida, the people brought  
a **blind man** to Him, begging Him to **touch** him.  
**Jesus** took the man **by the hand** and led him from the village.  
After **touching** him **once**, the man began to **see**.  
**He** touched him **again**, and his **vision** became **clear**.

— MARK 8:22-25 —

When Jesus was on Earth, the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed found comfort and renewal in His outstretched hand, regardless of means or status. He established a ministry centered on the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people who were desperate for a healing touch.

With Christ as our example, Adventist Health System employees and physicians reach out to touch the hearts and heal the lives of more than 4 million patients each year. We pray that the compassion of His hand will be felt in the touch of ours.



One  
Voice  
One  
Vision



**Hyatt Regency Atlanta**  
265 Peachtree St., NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Speakers:**

Ginny Allen  
Deborah Harris  
Jo Ann Davidson  
Dick Stenbakken  
Raquel Arrais

**Musician &  
Entertainer:**

Gale Jones Murphy  
Valerie "Tyger" Hazlett

**Other Activities:**

Intensive Prayer  
Community Outreach  
Fellowship  
Food and Fun!

Registration/ 2 Easy Steps:  
(1st.) [www.Plusline.org](http://www.Plusline.org)  
or 1.800.732.7587

Early Bird Discount  
before June 26, 2008

Hotel Registration:  
(2nd) 404.577.1234

Exhibitors:  
[www.AdventistMeetings.com](http://www.AdventistMeetings.com)  
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**SOUTHERN UNION WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2008**

Union-wide Convention for Women 18 years and older

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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**

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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.

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

**\*ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

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