

March 2008

SOUTHERN



TIDINGS

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



Ministerium '08

Leading the Way...Impacting the World

The Big Picture

On Sunday afternoon, March 14, 1858, James and Ellen White attended a funeral for a youth held in the schoolhouse at Lovett's Grove, Ohio. After James White preached, Ellen White shared some comments. She writes, "As I was led to speak upon the subject of the coming of Christ and the resurrection and the cheering hope of the Christian, my soul triumphed in God" *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 2, p. 265.

Suddenly she started looking upward and the people heard in a rich, musical voice, the shout, "Glory to God!" The vision, given 150 years ago this month, lasted for two hours, after which they finished the funeral and carried the coffin out for burial. On Tuesday the Whites traveled to Michigan and stopped to visit their friends, the Palmers, in Jackson. As Mrs. Palmer and Ellen White chatted, Ellen White stopped in mid-sentence, feeling a strange sensation in her mouth. She could not pronounce the words. She tried to lift her legs and couldn't and for a while thought she would die. As people prayed she began to feel sensation in her arms and legs and the next day was able to talk.

The Whites, with much effort, made the 50-mile train trip to Battle Creek, and on arrival Mrs. White was carried up the steep stairs to the front bedroom in their Wood Street home. She had been told to write the vision, known as the "Great Controversy" vision, and now she realized that Satan had tried to stop her. So, Ellen White began immediately to write out what she had seen. At first she was so weak she could only write one page a day, then rest for three days.

Through this vision God helps us understand the macro theme of Scripture — the struggle between Christ and His angels on the one side, and Satan and his angels on the other. Understanding the great controversy theme helps us see that history is not simply the random activity of men and women resulting in chance or natural developments; rather, everything that happens is in the context of the war going on between good and evil, Christ and Satan.

In harmony with Scripture, Ellen White emphasizes repeatedly that the focal point of the great controversy is Satan's aim to misrepresent the loving character of God — to portray God's law of love as an arbitrary law of selfishness. She further emphasizes that the foremost demonstration of God's love was the sending of His Son Jesus Christ who came not only to portray God's character of love in the face of Satan's accusations, but also to die for the human race. To me the most exciting benefit of understanding history in the context of this great controversy theme is the great news that we have full assurance that Christ will be completely victorious over Satan, and good will supplant all evil!

Eventually the great controversy vision formed the basis for the five-volume "Conflict of the Ages" series. What a blessing to the church! I invite our readers to read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Acts of the Apostles*, and the *Great Controversy*. In fact, in all the Adventist Book Centers in the Southern Union, the hardcover, five-volume "Conflict of the Ages" series is available for a special subsidized (by conferences and the Southern Union) price of only \$29.99. Praise God for the Spirit of Prophecy. Praise God that Jesus is victorious!



Gordon Retzer
Southern Union
President

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Cover Caption: *These end-time pastors are headed to the cities of the Southern Union with the Word, preaching to every kindred, nation, tongue, and people: Mike Hill (left), Statesville, N.C. (Carolina Conference); Sung Ho Jang, Columbia, S.C., Korean (Carolina Conference); Juan Reyes, Charlotte, N.C., Emanuel Hispanic (South Atlantic Conference); and Carl Nesmith, Charlotte, N.C., Berean (South Atlantic Conference).*

Leading the Way... Impacting the World

BY JACQUELINE ROSS



How can we lead the way in the effort to impact the large cities and small towns in the Southern Union territory with the Gospel of Christ? This urgent concern was the focus of the pastors and their families who attended the Southern Union Ministerium, January 6-9. The theme was "Leading the Way, Impacting the World."

This experience, which occurs once every five years, helps pastors remain on the cutting edge of pastoral ministry. For four days they sharpen their pastoral skills and renew their spiritual commitment to God. The seminars, devotions, and plenary sessions focus on the importance of pastors and administrators

being spiritual leaders for God.

The meetings began on Sunday, January 6, with a prayer conference conducted by Ruthie Jacobson, North American Division prayer coordinator. Derek Morris, D.Min., Forest Lake Church senior pastor, presented the "radical" prayer. Jacobson's pastor, David Wright, Blairsville and Cleveland, Georgia, churches, presented dynamic thoughts on



Carlos Martin, Ph.D., director for the School of World Missions and Evangelism, presented the "Evangelization of the Religions of the World" seminar.

the power of prayer to change lives. Prayer was the undergirding and spirit of the Ministerium. Persons who desired to spend time with God in prayer and meditation prayed in the prayer room. Women prayed together for their families. Pastors and their wives prayed for their ministry.

Mark Finley, General Conference vice president for evangelism, gave the keynote message for pastors, challenging them to be spiritual men and women for God, and to be intentional with their devotional life through the reading of His Word and prayer. Each morning and evening the devotions were filled with biblical and spiritual messages by speakers such as Ron Clouzet, North American Division ministerial secretary; Ron Smith, Southern Union executive secretary; Barbara McCoy, Forest Lake Church associate pastor; and Dennis Ross Jr., Southern Union ministerial secretary and evangelism coordinator.

Each evening's program began with a concert. Wintley Phipps, pastor of the Palm Bay, Florida, Church, inspired the attendees during the opening night, and the next evening the King's Herald Quartet followed with a concert. Many were filled with adoration and gratitude to God as they listened to the heaven-born talents of the musicians. Rick Greve, song leader, and his praise team,

accompanied by Gale Murphy, blessed the congregation as they led the morning and evening congregational singing.

Borrowing from the theme, "Impact" concerts were presented. Sherilyn Saaman, a harpist and the wife of Philip Saaman, D.Min., professor at Southern Adventist University, performed on the first morning. Other concerts included Dave and Marlene Colburn, a piano and violin duo; Gale Jones Murphy, pianist/vocalist; and Cantabile, a small group from Forest Lake Academy, under the direction of Mark Becker.

Ministerium 2008 also provided programming for children, ages birth to 13. The children had a blast! Rhoda Burrill, Florida Conference children's ministries director, and her staff were right on target as they welcomed more than 200 children to the "Let's Explore the Ocean," a program for children ages birth to four; and "CSI: Christian Scene Investigation," for children five to 13. The children were cared for and



Ruthie Jacobsen, North American Division prayer coordinator; David Wright, pastor of the Blairsville and Cleveland, Georgia, churches, representing the pastors; and Don Jacobsen, Adventist World Radio (AWR) past president; offer the blessing prayer for pastors and their families.

provided fun activities on the final evening while their parents attended the banquet.

Harold Cunningham, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ministerial secretary, hosted the banquet. He was humorous, serious, and well received by more than 2,020 individuals. The performers included Al Freeman, Dave and Marlene Colburn, Beloved, Grace Dorsey Landy, and Cantabile. Dennis Ross expressed gratitude to Carol Hollie-Tsede, administrative assistant for the ministerial department, for her contribution in coordinating Ministerium 2008, as well as to the ministerial secretaries of the eight conferences in the Southern Union who helped plan the event. Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president, was the speaker. He challenged the men and women to go and find souls for the Kingdom of God. Retzer stated that we are put in place to seek souls, to win souls, and to nurture them. With that mandate comes not unbearable pressure, but unspeakable joy. With a commitment for this vision, the pastors and their families returned to their churches ready to lead the way in impacting their portion of God's vineyard with the Gospel and His power unto salvation.



More than 200 children attended the children's meetings. Judy Smith (left) from Lakeland, Florida, performed as "Buzz the Bumbling Professor," while Michael Bonner, 12, Tampa, Florida; Matthew Davis, 10, Charlotte, North Carolina; Suzie Lee, 10, Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Melanie Figueroa, 5, Florida Spanish, looked on.

Blessed Wives Seminar



There was standing room only at "Will the Real Pastor's Wife Please Kneel Down" seminar, presented by Janice Johnson Browne, Ph.D.

The Ministerium convention was a family affair, highlighting pastors, wives, and their children.

The Blessed Wives Seminars, planned by the shepherdess advisory team, was more than expected. Janice Johnson Browne, Ph.D., wife of Benjamin P. Browne, South Central Conference president, presented the keynote message. She spoke to the women on the subject "Will the Real Pastor's Wife Please Kneel Down." Browne's admonition was illuminating, spirit-filled, and down-to-earth. The women appreciated the powerful message of the do's and don'ts of being "The Wife,"

of "The Pastor." She stressed the importance of praying through every situation and circumstance.

Monica Reed, M.D., and CEO of Florida Hospital's Celebration Health in Celebration, Florida, took the women on a much-needed tour of their physical, spiritual, and mental needs for experiencing fullness in Christ. Her presentation was spiritual, funny, and authentic.

The final presenter was Carol Johnson, business owner, healthcare professional, and wife of Larry Johnson, Th.D., South Atlantic Conference treasurer. She spoke on the topic "Ouch! The First Lady, A Pillar

and Crumbling." Johnson spoke about the door of ministry that has been opened to the pastor's wife, and that her main focus of ministry is to her husband first. God's Spirit filled the room from the first meeting to the last one.

Cheryl Retzer wanted the more than 400 women to know how much they are appreciated, and presented a gift card and shepherdess bookmark to each woman who attended the banquet on Wednesday evening.

Jacqueline Ross, ministerial and evangelism associate for the Southern Union Conference.

Ministry Opportunity

Help Your Pastor Lead the Way and Impact the World

To lead the way and impact the world pastors need the support of praying members. Will you commit one morning each week to praying for your pastor and his family? Will you ask God to show you how you can personally impact your neighborhood, school, or workplace with your Christian witness?

Florida Hospital DeLand Supplies “Recovery Rascals” to Local Police and Fire Departments

Florida Hospital DeLand presented the DeLand Police and Fire Departments with 500 teddy bears as part of the Recovery Rascals program.

Emergency workers use the bears to help comfort children involved in rescue or medical incidents. During the years, the bears have become standard equipment on many emergency response vehicles.

“These Recovery Rascals will be used anytime an officer responds to an incident where a child is involved. The bears assist officers with the difficult task of ‘breaking the ice’ with frightened children at emergency scenes,” said

Sharron Blais, DeLand Police Department victim advocate coordinator.

The Fire Department will use the bears in much the same way, according to Fred Link, DeLand Fire Department division commander. “Our goal is to calm the children, and these bears help take the children’s minds off of the accident or medical situation,” said Link.

The hospital has been donating bears to emergency responders since 2001.

“It’s unfortunate when children are involved in an emergency situation, and it is our pleasure to assist the first responders in calming and comforting them,” said



DeLand Police Department Victim Advocate Coordinator Sharron Blais; DeLand Fire Department Division Commander Fred Link; Florida Hospital DeLand President and CEO Daryl Tol; and DeLand Police Officer Rod Hancock Jr.; pause for a photo opportunity after loading Recovery Rascals into emergency vehicles.

Daryl Tol, Florida Hospital DeLand president and CEO.

The Recovery Rascals program is only one of

several community service projects that is supported by all three organizations.

Gordon Hospital Installs High Definition MRI System

High-definition (HD) technology isn’t only being used for television. It can be used to save lives. Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, GA., recently completed a major upgrade to its magnetic resonance (MR) imaging capabilities, including the addition of HD software. The software produces dramatic, highly detailed pictures with clarity reminiscent of high-definition television. The images are used to evaluate a wide range of conditions including stroke, musculoskeletal, heart disease, and cancer.

“This technology enables us to obtain more precise images with amazing

clarity to diagnose health problems, while patients experience a shorter, more comfortable exam,” said Raina Sanford, director of radiology.

The new technology allows Gordon Hospital to offer breast MR scans to patients, a procedure that women have had to travel to Atlanta, Ga., or Chattanooga, Tenn., for in the past. Breast MR serves as a supplemental tool in detecting breast abnormalities sometimes recommended to patients with dense breast tissue or breast implants.

“The wonderful thing about breast MR is that it is very good at detecting

invasive breast cancer,” says Courtney Perez, M.D., a Gordon Hospital radiologist who completed her fellowship training in women’s imaging and is qualified to read breast MR scans. “It allows us to monitor our patients who have had

breast cancer, and for newly diagnosed patients, to look for other cancer sites.”

“With this technology we know that we’ll get superior images even in the most difficult cases,” says Sanford, “and that means better care for our patients.”



Tryon Member Wins Caring for Carolinas Award

It was just a couple of years ago that Sherry Carney was at death's door, but friends say you never heard a whimper from her, and she continued to live her life to help others, regardless of her own pain.

Now Carney has been given the Caring for the Carolinas Award by News Channel 7 in Tryon, N.C., for her efforts in helping the community.

Carney and about 30 of her friends and church members gathered at the Tryon Church on Wednesday for the awards ceremony, presided over by Jack Roper of WSPA-TV.

Roper said the news station received lots of mail about Carney and her contributions to the community.

"You are indeed the lady we came to see," said

Roper. "Hopefully, our viewers will contribute to your cause."

He mentioned that Carney sends monthly care packages to soldiers in Iraq and organized an effort that raised funds to build a coffee shop in Iraq for soldiers.

Carney has been raising money relentlessly, her friends say, to send needed items to soldiers since last Christmas.

Roper, Carney, and her friends were positioned around stacks of items to send the soldiers. Carney's current project is sending bi-monthly care packages to soldiers. This shipment included a variety of items ranging from general toiletries to boxes of crackers. "The biggest need of soldiers," Carney says, "is white socks." Carney says it takes \$5,400 to provide one package of socks each for 500 soldiers.

"We have been fortunate enough, God has blessed us enough, to get that done," said Carney.

Carney said the care packages are sent to soldiers through her contact with two chaplains. The chaplains relay to Carney the soldiers' needs and Carney raises money, purchases the supplies, and sends the packages to troops. She is in contact with the chaplains weekly to get a list and tries to ship out packages twice monthly.

"Sherry is the most caring person that I have ever met," said friend Amy Wil-

liams. "She is particularly special in my eyes because she has been in a battle with cancer and is doing so good, yet never have I ever heard her say she needed anything. She is always helping others in the community and taking care of our soldiers."

Carney was diagnosed with myeloma cancer a couple of years ago, but now she says she's doing well.

Kim Eckman, another friend, said she met Carney through the Seventh-day Adventist Church 19 years ago. She told Roper that telling about Sherry and her good points could take all day.

"Every year she comes up with new projects to help the community," said Eckman. "She does as much as she's able to work for the Lord."

Kaye Essey said Carney is "tireless in her efforts, she has never complained. When she starts, she never lets up. It is a blessing to see Sherry do the things she does."

Anyone interested in helping with the soldier project can send donations to Tryon Adventist Church, 2820 Lynn Road, Tryon, N.C. 28782, marked "soldier fund."

—BY LEAH JUSTICE,
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TRYON DAILY BULLETIN



Sherry Carney and her brother-in-law, U.S. Army Chaplain Michael McCawley, display the United States flag she was presented with at the Tryon Church. The flag was a gesture of appreciation from some of the servicemen she has helped.

Moises Sauza Ordained into Pastoral Ministry



[Above] Jorge Mayer (left), Southern Union Hispanic ministries coordinator; Rick Russell, Conference treasurer; Armando Miranda, General Conference vice president; Moises Sauza; Jim Davidson, Conference president; Samuel Romero, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator; and John Sweigart, Conference ministerial director
[Right] Moises Sauza Jr., Priscila Sauza, Moises Sauza Sr., and Susana Sauza



Moises Sauza, pastor, was ordained to the gospel ministry at a special service held in the historic assembly hall in Mt. Olive, N.C., on Sabbath, January 19.

Five hundred members celebrated this official recognition of God's call to pastoral ministry. Members of all of the churches he serves: Mt. Olive, Wilson, Greenville North, and Dudley Spanish, were present, along with members from three other churches he has pastored: Burlington, Hilton Head, and Hard-eeville Spanish in the Carolina Conference. A fellowship dinner was held at the

nearby Southern Academy gymnasium to provide seating for all who attended.

Jim Davidson, Carolina Conference president, welcomed the members and guests to the service, explained the importance of the occasion, gave the prayer of ordination, and led in the laying on of hands.

The special guest speaker for the occasion was Armando Miranda, General Conference vice president. Using John 1:1-18, he explained that a pastor is a man given a life, a message, and a call. He is, like John the Bap-

tist, called to pray, to preach, and to prepare members for ministry.

After the sermon, Samuel Romero, Carolina Hispanic ministries coordinator, delivered the ministerial charge and, along with his wife, Mary, welcomed the Sauzas to the ranks of the ordained Seventh-day Adventist ministry.

The Hosanna Singers from San Diego provided several special songs during the service and a concert in the afternoon.

Also present were

Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator; Rick Russell, Conference treasurer; and John Sweigart, Conference ministerial secretary. Mayer also served as translator for elders Davidson, Sweigart, and Russell.

—BY JOHN SWEIGART

Merlin Kretschmar — A Warrior Has Fallen

March 8, 1931- December 5, 2007

"If God is telling you to do something for Him, do it with all your heart!" challenged Merlin Kretschmar at the end of his last sermon, given December 1 in the Key Largo, Fla., church. Four days later he died in Marathon, Fla., of a massive heart attack.

Fueled by the hours spent on his knees imploring God's will, Merlin's life was surrendered in service to his Maker, whether it was in the jungles of South America, the concrete "jungle" of New York City, or the party atmosphere of Key West. He spent 42 years working as God's warrior in the Adventist Church, holding pastoral, evangelistic, and administrative positions.

Upon retirement in 1994, Merlin and Juanita, his wife, felt led by God to the Florida Keys, where he pastored churches on two stints of duty over the past 13 years. Then, in 1996, the Kretschmars began a faith-based tourist attraction ministry in Key West with creation as the theme of a nature theater, A Key Encounter, located a few hundred yards from cruise ship docks. In 2003, in honor of George, their deceased pastor son, a planetarium was

added with the Ultimate Encounter portraying the second coming of Christ.

"We retired from our work at the Conference," he stated in an interview with Sandra Blackmer of the *Adventist Review* in 2007, "but we never plan to retire from doing God's work."

On Sabbath afternoon, December 1, Merlin was asked to conduct a baptism in the ocean waters of a woman who heard his morning sermon and wanted to walk in newness of life with her Savior. Dizziness came over Merlin, and he earnestly prayed throughout the baptism for the Lord to come to his aid so nothing would detract from the joyous occasion. Faithful at his post until the end, he now rests in the Southern Keys Cemetery at mile marker 10 awaiting the call of his Savior.

"Elder Kretschmar was viewed as a spiritual hero by those who worked with him," says Michael Cauley, Florida Conference president. "I was so deeply inspired by his dedication and complete commitment to doing God's will. The memory of his life serves as an inspiration to all who want to be known as faithful followers of Jesus."

"A Key Encounter/Ultimate Encounter will continue, by God's kindness, through prayer," says Juanita Kretschmar. Volunteers to help on site and/or send donations for the ministry are welcomed. Contact Juanita Kretschmar at PrayingKs@aol.com.



Merlin Kretschmar's friends, Maxine, Rainbow, and Sir Jack, helped him draw visitors to A Key Encounter and see God's creation in the Florida Keys.

George Merlin Kretschmar

Born: March 9, 1931 in College Place, Wash.

Died: December 5, 2007 in Marathon, Fla.

Member: Marathon Church

Denominational Employment:

1953-1960 — Pastoral/Evangelism, Oregon Conference

1960 — Department Director, Espirito Santo Conference, Brazil (six months)

1960-1969 — President, Bahia Sergipe Mission, Brazil

1969-1974 — Pastor, Upper Columbia Conference

1974-1994 — Department Director (three years) and President (16 years), Greater New York Conference.

Developed the Community Services Van Ministry along with Juanita, his wife.

1994-1996 and 2006-2007 — Pastor, Florida Conference

1996-2007 — Co-founder, A Key Encounter and Ultimate Encounter

Survivors:

Wife — Juanita, Big Pine Key, Fla.

Son — Dr. Joseph Kretschmar, Paradise, Calif.

Daughter — Suzanne Land, Conyers, Ga.

Brother — Norman Kretschmar, Condon, Mont.

Sister — Joyce Reiswig, Redlands, Calif.

Seven grandchildren

Eight Florida Conference Pastors Ordained

Jorge Figueroa
December 8, 2007



Yaritzta, Melanie, Emely, and Jorge

Associate Pastor: Forest City Spanish Church

The former Kissimmee/Shuler Memorial (St. Cloud) district pastor says, "Yaritzta and I have decided we will dedicate the rest of our lives to ministry wherever God leads."

Douglas Osorio
September 8, 2007



Ailen and Douglas

Pastor: Kissimmee Spanish Church

Just like Samuel, he was dedicated by his mother before he was born. She wanted him to serve in the temple, so she named him Douglas de Jesús.

Glenn Aguirre
August 4, 2007



Celena and Glenn

Pastor: Miami Springs Church

Aguirre attributes everything that he is to God's amazing grace, his family, his special relationship with his brother, and all the amazing experiences God has given him.

David Achata
September 8, 2007



Ana, David, and Amy

Associate Pastor: Florida Hospital Church

At the age of 17, God spoke to him saying, "This is not the life I have planned for you, but the life I have for you is so much better." Achata knew God was seeking him out.

Alex Schlusser
July 21, 2007



Anjanette, Joshua, and Alex
Pastor: Boynton Beach Church/House of Praise and Hope

Raised in a Jewish home, he later accepted Messiah Yeshua and became a Messianic worship leader in Colorado where he also planted and led a Messianic congregation. Moving to Florida, his family was introduced to the Adventist message and baptized in 2002.

Brad Hyden
December 1, 2007



Brad, Sadie, and Angela
Pastor: Lakeland Church

Hyden, a former Marine, never heard of an Adventist before he began Bible studies with an elderly woman and was baptized. God spoke to him and answered the desire of his heart to impact the lives of people in a significant way by introducing them to Jesus.

David Labrador
August 25, 2007



David, David, Yalyn, and Merlyn

Pastor: Hialeah Springs Spanish Church

Coming from Cuba, Labrador first had to learn English before he could attend Southern Adventist University to fulfill his dream of being a pastor. He started several mission groups in Tennessee before coming to work in the Miami area.

Eliezer Diaz
January 5, 2008



Eliezer, Roger, Iliana, and Maritza

Pastor: Indiantown Spanish/Treasure Coast Spanish Church

Instrumental in starting several churches in Cuba, Diaz has started work in the Vero Beach and Indiantown areas and continued the work in Fort Pierce. This Treasure Coast district now has more than 300 members — 90 were baptized in 2006.

Bulletin

The theme of the **GCC Women/Teen Girl's Retreat**, March 28-30 is "The Art of Knowing You...Jesus." It will be held at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. For details call women's ministries at 800-567-1844.

The **Standifer Gap Church** collected a LIFT (Let's Invest For Tomorrow) offering in November. This church of 225 members gave \$17,419.22. A donor then matched the funds, with over \$34,838 given on one Sabbath. "It just shows what we can do with the Lord's blessing when we all work together," said Bill Wampler, retired minister.

This past holiday season **Collegedale Academy and Spalding Elementary** collected 39,324 canned goods. They packed 848 boxes, setting a new record. The boxes were delivered to 300 area families.

The **Standifer Gap Pathfinders**, and over 1,000 other participants, marched around Collegedale in the annual Collegedale/Ooltewah Spirit of Christmas Parade on December 2, 2007. Their float featured a campsite with trees, a tent, a "fire," and greenery. They sang Christmas carols on the float, and the night before they packed boxes with goodies for soldiers in Iraq.

Pathfinders Hold Christmas VBS

If you thought that Vacation Bible School was only held in the summer, the Auburn, Ga., Ambassador Pathfinders Club would quickly prove you wrong. After searching and praying for a service project that would really touch others,

the club decided to host an old-fashioned Vacation Bible School teaching children about the true meaning of Christmas. They named their program "The Great Bible Adventure," and it was held December 14-16, 2007.

Participants found themselves transported back to the time when Zacharias spoke with an angel, an angel visited Mary and Joseph, and Jesus was born. Helpers whispered texts for the costumed children to repeat as they acted out the events.



GARY FRUSTAD

The Auburn Ambassador Club decided to hold a Vacation Bible School telling the story of Jesus at Christmas.

They also learned through crafts like angels and edible scrolls of pretzels and fruit leather, "stained glass" cookies, and playing games led by the Pathfinders.

During the entire program, the children were full of smiles, but they weren't the only ones! Parents, children, and church members were all blessed. The Pathfinders became more confident each night as they led out the program, practicing public speaking and leadership skills. Their leader, Linda Burke, is already making plans for next year with the hopes of inviting children from the community to join in the fun in learning about Jesus and the love He has for everyone.

—BY MINDY ROBERTSON

Wimbish Road Emphasizes Prayer

The Wimbish Road Church in Macon, Ga., hosted "Christ's Way to Pray," an all-day seminar, on December 8, 2007, presented by Philip Samaan, D.Min., professor of religion and spirituality at Southern Adventist University.

"It was so relevant to my life," says Kimberly Camp, a nursing student and assistant youth leader of Wimbish Road Church. "Dr. Samaan was so interesting and practical that my family stayed the whole day to hear more!"

On Sabbath morning, 180 people attended to

learn how Christ prays with and for each person. More than 60 stayed through the afternoon presentations, which included Samaan's testimony and a Vespers harp and piano concert by Sherilyn Samaan.

"Since Samaan's presentations, people have been telling me how their prayer life is changing," says Marius Asaftei, associate pastor. "I'm thrilled to see more of our church family experiencing personal prayer in a powerful way!"

The prayer seminar was



SARAH ASAFTEI

Philip Samaan, D.Min., presents "Christ's Way to Pray" at Wimbish Road Church.

part of a multi-event emphasis on balanced Christian lifestyle and increased outreach by the Wimbish Road pastoral team.

—BY SARAH ASAFTEI

CA Orchestra to Perform at Carnegie Hall

Baseball's field of dreams is the World Series, Tennis has Wimbledon. The Collegedale Academy Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Richard Hickam, will travel to New York to perform on their "stage of dreams," Carnegie Hall this month.



BARRON WILLIAMS

The Collegedale Academy Chamber Orchestra will take part in the New York Band and Orchestra Festival this month.

The journey to Carnegie Hall began last year when Hickam submitted a recording of the CA Chamber Orchestra in concert to World Projects, an International Music Production promoting the exploration of the world through music.

The orchestra will be participating in the New York Band and Orchestra Festival March 23-27.

"The opportunity to perform in possibly the greatest symbol of classical music, to expose the orchestra to a music educational intensive

experience, and to mingle with other student musicians from Asia, London, and across the United States just couldn't be passed up," says Hickam.

Collegedale Academy senior violist Josh Morales says, "I couldn't imagine a greater way for Collegedale Academy to expand my educational experience than by sending our orchestra to perform at this world renowned venue. This trip will challenge and expand my performance skills and leave a lasting impact on my academy experience."

It was after the Civil War that the United States be-

came transfixed with music, there was no suitable concert hall in New York. Carnegie Hall opened its doors in 1891, and during the last century world renowned artists like Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Ravel, Isaac Stern, and George Gershwin have graced her stage.

Now the Collegedale Academy Chamber Orchestra can be added to this illustrious list of very capable musicians.

—BY JEAN DICKINSON

Gospel Reunion Unites Friends

Imagine individuals of different religious faiths coming together for a wonderful meal and gospel music. Imagine former church members and friends reuniting.

This is exactly what

happened at the Standifer Gap Elementary School in Chattanooga, Tenn., on December 29, 2007. Ninety individuals came to a Gospel Reunion program sponsored by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. The program included a meal and a gospel concert.

"Who doesn't like good gospel music? Certainly the words and music bring back memories of

the past. Gospel music has been a means of inspiration from the very beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," says E.W. Dempsey, Conference personal ministries director.

A date close to the New Year was chosen so attendees could consider how the Lord had led them in the past year and how He would be with them in 2008.

This type of program is an ideal way for a church to reach out and bring together former members and friends in an informal spiritual setting.

—BY E.W. DEMPSEY



LISA CALLOWAY

Featured musical group The Master's Call encouraged the audience to sing along during the gospel concert held at the Standifer Gap Elementary School.

Howes Celebrate 60th Anniversary



Irwin and Ruth Howe recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family at their home in Chattanooga, Tenn. They met at Pisgah Academy in 1946 and were married on October 21, 1947, before Irwin served in the Air Force.

The Howes have been members of the Chattanooga First Church for 50 years. Irwin served as a deacon for 35 years and Ruth has been a church greeter.

New Education Superintendent Chosen



Rita Henriquez-Green has accepted the position of superintendent of education for the Gulf States Conference.

Henriquez-Green began

her career teaching third and fourth grade in the public school system in California. After teaching in California, she taught in the Florida Conference for 11 years. Her service there included six years teaching grades one to four, three to four, and ninth grade English; three years working as teacher/administrator for the Pioneer Adventist School in New Smyrna Beach; and two years serving as the vice principal of Greater Miami Academy. Then she accepted a call to work as associate superin-

tendent of education for the Southern Union Conference.

After getting married she and her husband accepted calls to Southern Adventist University where she spent two years as associate professor, School of Education and Psychology.

She comes to the Gulf States Conference from Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica, where she was associate professor of education and chair of the department of graduates studies in education.

Henriquez-Green was born in Panama, raised in Costa Rica, and attended school in Trinidad, England, France, and the United States. She speaks three languages fluently — English, French, and her native Spanish, and enjoys teaching and training on a variety of topics. She holds a master's degree in French from California State University, in San Diego, and a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Pathfinder Leaders Meet to Plan Year



Jeff Wood (front row, center), Conference youth director, is surrounded by members of the Pathfinder Council.

On a bright January weekend, the 26-member Pathfinder Council met at Camp Alamisco to plan Pathfinder and youth events for the next calendar year, events which the council not only plan, but lead-out or assist in.

Jeff Wood, Conference youth director, said to the council, "You are the

banner holders for youth ministries. Without your leadership, many of the things happening in this Conference for the youth and Pathfinders could not continue."

The Pathfinder Council has divided the Conference into four geographical districts plus a Hispanic district. An area coordi-

nator oversees each area and attends the council meetings along with two couples who are selected from each district. One teen from each district also serves on the council.

The council chairperson, Bob Kimbro, and the assistant chairperson, Jeanne Sudduth, have served for more than 10

years and have been a part of the council from its conception more than 15 years. Other couples have also served for a number of years.

Why do they keep on going? Their answer is simple, "It's for the kids of our Conference."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

God Leads with Ugly, Orange Tie



Barker shared the story of the ugly, orange tie at the literature evangelist year-end retreat.

Tim and Lila Barker felt impressed to totally commit every minute of their lives to God. Working as a literature evangelist, Tim Barker realized the importance of God's guidance in his

ministry, and so the couple asked God to take control of everything they did.

One morning, not long after their commitment, Barker was getting dressed for work. "I always wear

a nice looking shirt and a tie that matches my suit," explains Barker. But as he reached for a matching tie, he felt a strong impression to wear the ugly, orange tie hanging in his closet. At first he continued putting on the tie he had chosen previously, but the impression came back stronger than ever. It was as if God was saying, "Wear the orange tie." "This doesn't make any sense," he thought.

"Didn't you commit to letting Me guide your steps, Tim?"

"Yes, Lord," Barker replied as he put on the ugly, orange tie.

One of the referrals Barker called on later that day was just across the Mississippi state line in Louisiana. The couple who had requested information on the books were big

Louisiana State University (LSU) football fans. They were getting ready to watch an important bowl game, but agreed to let Barker show them his books. "I like the color of your tie," the woman said as Barker sat down. He was startled. "Is she color blind and thinks the tie is purple and gold—LSU's football team's colors," he wondered.

After his presentation, the couple decided not to purchase the set of books. Barker prayer with them and started walking back to his car when he heard the woman say to her husband, "Let's buy them. He's got on a pretty tie." And so, because of an ugly, orange tie and letting God lead, another family has a set of books containing precious truths in their home.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Conference Elects Prayer Coordinator

Amy Mapp has accepted the responsibility of Gulf States Conference prayer coordinator. "I have a passion for God, which means I have a passion for communion with God through the gift of prayer," explains Mapp. Her desire is to see three things take place in Gulf States this year. They are for every member to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, for every church to become a house of prayer, and for every person to become involved in Kingdom work.

To this end, the Conference prayer committee will begin to pray unceasingly. They are continuing a grassroots initiative to bathe the work of the Conference in prayer. A weekly tele-prayer conference is planned for each Sunday morning where prayer for the needs of the Conference is offered, and they plan to begin praying for the Conference staff and pastors.

Plans are to dedicate a week of prayer for each pastor and to encourage the church members to join in this endeavor. Mapp invites

prayer warriors to join the prayer committee each Sunday for the tele-prayer conference.

For more information, please contact Mapp via e-mail at amymapp@bellsouth.net.

Mapp, a member of the Montgomery, Ala., First Church, is a retired educator and an adjunct instructor at Alabama State University and Auburn University Montgomery. She is a motivational speaker and writer, and is currently completing an inspirational book. Her hobbies are Bible studies



and Scrabble. She is married to C. Bernell Mapp, and they have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

New Radio Station Opens in Pulaski

The Pulaski, Tenn., Church borrowed money from the Business and Professional Foundation in August 2006, to purchase a building in town for their Community Services Center. While still paying for that building, the church was presented with the opportunity to establish a low-power radio repeater station in southern middle Tennessee.

The station would

rebroadcast the signal from WDNX, an Adventist-owned station operated by Louie Dickman in Savannah, Tenn., at Harbert Hills Academy. After tests were done to confirm that the signal from WDNX was strong enough, the church members agreed to pay for purchasing the equipment and installing the tower on the church's property.

The application was

then submitted to the FCC. By the time the message of approval was received, there was only one month to make the financial arrangements, prepare the site, purchase the electrical equipment, pour the concrete foundations, build a building for the equipment to be housed in, and raise the tower.

With the help of Louie and Steve Dickman and their crew of workers, along with support from the local church members, the deadline was met. Now W234AW 94.7 FM is broadcasting Lifetalk Radio to the whole city of Pulaski, reaching out for an approximate five-mile radius from the tower.

When Mitch Hopper, a long-time member and leader at Pulaski, passed away last fall, an anonymous donor outside the local church and district agreed to pay off the loans on the community services building



and the radio tower. The gift was given as a tribute to Mitch's leadership and friendship.

Pulaski church members burned two mortgages on Sabbath, January 12, 2008—one on the Community Services Center and the other on the low-power FM radio station. Lin Powell, Conference trust services director, was present for the occasion and preached during the worship service.

—BY TOM MCCORMACK



James Brown (left), Lloyd Schomburg, Peggy Hopper, Madge Brown, Betty Fogg, Pauline Woodhouse, Lin Powell, and Tom McCormack

Louisville First Gets New Lighting

In preparation for upcoming evangelistic meetings and to provide better lighting for making videos for shut-ins, new stage lighting has been installed at the Louisville, Ky., First Church. Mike Sommersell Sr., local elder, records the Sabbath morning church services to share with shut-ins using available light.

"This is fine on cloudless days, but not good when clouds cover the sky," says Sommersell.

The shut-ins are sometimes disappointed when the videos are dark because of poor lighting.

Evangelistic meetings are scheduled for later this year. The lighting will also enhance the quality of videos made from the meetings. The need for better lighting reminds us, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden," says Sommersell.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER



Mike Sommersell Jr. (left); Mike Sommersell Sr.; Jon Weigley, assistant pastor; Vernon Taylor (kneeling); and Steve Hamilton stand in front of the 30' lift used to install new lighting in Louisville First Church's ceiling.

Ingathering Alive and Well in Shelbyville

The Shelbyville, Ky., Church exceeded its Ingathering — Hope for Humanity goal by 29 percent, raising more than \$1,900. After setting a goal of \$1,250 for 2006 and exceeding the goal, the church raised the goal to \$1,500 for 2007 because church membership had grown in the past year. Also, each member was asked to set a personal goal of \$25 with the understanding that the money could be either contributed or solicited.

The church used all the free materials provided by AdventSource to conduct the campaign. More than 200 Bible studies (both English and Spanish) were given away.

The Hispanic members of the congregation meet separately in the church, but they were vigorously involved in the fundraising effort. Rafael Alonso and Maxiél Reyes, along with

others from their group raised 18 percent of the total. Their bags and containers of coins and currency from going door to door gave Gloria Fryman, church treasurer, plenty to do.



Rafael Alonso (left) and Maxiél Reyes

Fryman's husband, Russell, is also very active in annual Ingathering events and looks forward to the annual campaigns.

One member reached her \$25 personal goal by visiting her neighbors homes. Another mem-

ber sent letters to his neighbors, and received contributions from four of them, plus donations from his doctor and bank.

To promote the Shelbyville Ingathering campaign, segments from the Hope for Humanity DVD were shown, and Hope for Humanity bulletin inserts were placed in the bulletins every week for the entire period. Members were given offering boxes and pins, and were encouraged to share the Hope for Humanity brochures and Real Hope CD's with their friends and contacts.

A display board with totals was placed in front of the church to chart progress on a weekly basis, and by Christmas the church had reached its goal.

To involve the community, news releases were prepared for the local



Russell Fryman

newspaper to run in the "Faith and Family" section during a four-week period. Two advertisements were placed in the local newspaper as well. Also, the members told the community that part of last year's funds were returned to the community to conduct a Depression Recovery Seminar at the local hospital. God truly blessed, and many people will be helped from the accomplishment.

—BY DARWIN FOLEY

Gifts for Highland Academy Students

For many years the Portland, Tenn., Church has made up gift bags for the young men and women in the dorms at Highland Academy. The women of the church generally do the ones for the girls' dorm in late September and the boys' dorm in late October.

This year, however, the men of the Portland church decided that they would like to make up the bags

and deliver them to the young men.

The men spent one Saturday night assembling the bags with school supplies, hygiene supplies, socks, a plastic glass, pens, a dollar bill wrapped around a pencil, candy, chewing gum, miscellaneous items, and a tin of homemade cookies.

—BY JEAN MILLER



Ian Hinckson (left); Bob Miller, pastor; Joe Sinclair; Steven Briley; and Steve Adams prepare baskets for the young men in the dorm at Highland Academy.

Ted R. Smith Retires

Ted R. Smith, affectionately known as “Uncle Teddy,” retired — again — from active duty, December 31, 2007, after 55 years of dedicated service to Seventh-day Adventist ministry. During his long and distinguished career, he was privileged to work in several conferences, and proudly served under the leadership of 11 conference presidents.

Smith’s career began June 15, 1952, in Chattanooga, Tenn., where He served for nine years as a literature evangelist, local elder, associate publishing director, and speaker for a radio ministry. From there he accepted a call to the Southwest Region Conference as publishing director. While there he was instrumental in reviving the church in Corsicana, Tex.

South Atlantic Conference extended a call to

Smith, and he served admirably for nine years. It was while in the South Atlantic Conference that he organized and directed the Family Health & Education Service (FHES). In February 1981, he accepted a call to the Southern Union Conference as the associate publishing director and director of FHES. He was at this post for 18 years and experienced his first retirement in 1999.

Shortly after retiring from the Southern Union Conference, he was invited by Vanard J. Mendinghall, president of the South Atlantic Conference, to come out of retirement to start a new church in the Stone Mountain, Ga., area. From a small group of 39 members who came from



the Decatur, Ga., Church, a full congregation was born. Eight years after its inception, Mountainside Church is a growing, working church of more than 400 members — a monument to the glory of God.

Looking back over his long career, “Uncle Teddy”

says the things he is most proud of are the hundreds of students he has helped from around the world to get an education, the hundreds of souls won to Christ, and the churches he started in Cleveland and Decherd, Tenn.; Corsicana, Tex.; and Decatur, Ga.

When people ask him if he is really retired, his response is, “You never fully retire from the ministry.

One thing about it: I will not go home and sit down. I know that

the two most dangerous years of a person’s life are the two years after retirement. I intend to die with my boots on — yes, ‘I have miles to go before I sleep.’”

—BY PENNIE LISTER-SMITH

Atlanta-Berean Pastor Makes History

History was made on Monday, January 21, 2008, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service in Atlanta, Ga. Carlton P. Byrd, D.Div., senior pastor of the Atlanta-Berean Church in Atlanta, stood behind the podium of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, to offer the invocation. He is the first Seventh-day Adventist to be invited to participate in this annual event.

The service is held annually on the day King’s

birthday is celebrated, and is televised worldwide. Many public dignitaries were in attendance, including former U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Republican presidential hopeful Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. It was also the honor of the north Georgia Pathfinders to post the colors at the beginning of the service.

The commemorative service was held in the new “Horizon” sanctuary

since the historic “Heritage” sanctuary where King pastored was closed for much needed renovations.

This opportunity for

Byrd is a part of an initiative of South Atlantic and Georgia-Cumberland conferences to bring the name of Seventh-day Adventist to

the forefront in Atlanta as preparations are made for the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta.

—BY LOIS PITTS



Mattie Ford Celebrates 100 Years

The Mt. Olive Church in Hemingway, S.C., gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mattie Sumpter Ford on Sabbath, October 20, 2007. Community members, family, and friends were present for this momentous occasion.

Ford is the last surviving charter member of the church, which was organized in 1915 under the leadership of her father, David Sumpter. She was 8 years old at the time.

Ford has a legacy of leading out in contributing and soliciting funds for the Hemingway Church for

decades. The church and community recognized her soul-winning passion. She always stresses the importance of faithfulness to the Lord and to the Church. She is always willing to help others in need, and she encourages the youth to go excel academically.

Mattie Ford and her husband, George, now deceased, have three children: Delcencia F. Gordon (her caregiver), and twin sons Ed and Jess. She is blessed to have all three children members of Mt. Olive.

Gordon Retzer, president of the Southern Union

Conference, was the guest speaker. He preached a powerful sermon and ended the service by dedicating a piano rendition of "Amazing Grace" to Ford.

Other guests from the Southern Union were Cheryl Retzer; Ward Sumpter, executive secretary emeritus, and his wife, Mary; and Carlos Salazar, associate treasurer, his wife, Ester, and their daughter, Kevyn.

Mt. Olive is thankful for the leadership of their pastor, John T. Boston II, and his wife, Karla, who took an active role in the success of this grand celebration. As



Mattie Ford would say, "To God be the glory, for great things He hath done."

—BY CYNTHIA BREWINGTON

Ephesus Youth Conducts Sabbath Service

The Ephesus Mighty Eagle Adventurer Club, under the leadership of Barbara Grier-French, "fell into something wonderful" on October 13, 2007. The club held its first Adventurer Sabbath service at the Ephesus Church in Gastonia, N.C. Children, ages four to eight, led out in the entire worship hour with the help of the Pathfinder club members, under the direction of Will Sterling.

The Lord used four

young men Andre' Archer, Thomas McNeal, Kamron Lawson, and Raphael Sterling—to deliver His message on the prodigal son and how it applies to the members, as well as the wrong choices we make and their consequences. Each young man delivered his message in his own unique style. Many were blessed by their message and rededicated their lives to following Jesus and letting Him lead them.

Following the fellowship meal, the Adventurers and Pathfinders went out in the neighborhood, flooded with flyers the week before, to collect blankets and warm clothing for the homeless shelter. To see the children in their uniforms was a sight to behold as they knocked on doors and collected the items people had prepared for collection.

Some homes that were not prepared to donate items were so impressed with the children that they gave cash donations, not wanting to send them away empty handed. This community outreach filled the youth with pride and the wonderful feeling of helping others.

—BY BEATRICE BANKS



In Transition

Patrick Carter

From: Anderson/
Greenwood, S.C.

To: Atlanta-West End
(associate pastor)

Sherwin Jack

From: Macon, Ga.

To: Decatur, Ga. -
Mountainside

John Nixon, Jr.

From: Greenville/
Travelers Rest, S.C.

To: Durham, N.C.

Keith Woodard

To: Burlington/Reidsville,
N.C.

Oakwood Adventist Academy Receives 32-Acre Gift from Oakwood University

Oakwood University gave Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) a generous gift of 32 acres of land to build a brand new K-12 facility. The new building will be constructed on Millennium Drive in Huntsville, Ala. The historical deeding of the land took place on December 19, 2007, in the President's Dining Room at Oakwood University. Delbert Baker, Ph.D., Oakwood University president, representing the Oakwood University Board of Trustees, signed over the deed for the property to South Central Conference Association on behalf of OAA.

Present for the signing were Benjamin P. Browne, president of South Central Conference; Dana Edmond, South Central executive secretary; Phillip Palmer, South Central treasurer; Olivia Beverly, OAA senior principal; Delma Harvey, OAA K-8 principal; Ivy Starks, board chair; as well as other

Huntsville Area Seventh-day Adventists (HASDA) school board members. HASDA manages OAA.

OAA continues to make significant marks in history. Since 1896, OAA's goal has been to press forward in the areas of spiritual, academic, and physical growth. These advancements are made possible through various partnerships involving the community, constituent churches, parents, students, and a devoted and committed faculty and staff.

In keeping with OAA's mission statement, "To Develop, Nurture, and Affirm (DNA) students for an eternity of service to God and a lifetime of service to humanity," they continue to have tremendous growth in students making commitments to follow Jesus Christ. Systematic Bible studies and week of prayer sessions have been conducted at the school by constituent pastors, Bible instructors,

and theology students from Oakwood University. This has resulted in record-breaking baptisms each year.

The curriculum continues to promote academic excellence, and many



FRED PULLINS

Delbert Baker (front row, left), Oakwood University president; Delma Harvey, Oakwood Adventist Academy K-8 principal; Olivia Beverly, Oakwood Adventist Academy senior principal; Ivy Starks, Huntsville Area Seventh-day Adventists (HASDA) school board chair; Benjamin P. Browne, South Central president; Rachel Williams (back row, left), HASDA school board member; Alfred Hill, First Church associate pastor; Hattie Mims, Oakwood University notary public; Aline Dormer, assistant HASDA school board chair; Philip Palmer, South Central treasurer; Amanda Harris, Oakwood Adventist Academy business manager; Ben Jones, First Church senior pastor; Sabrina Cotton, Oakwood University vice president for finance; Dana Edmond, South Central executive secretary; Harold Goodloe, New Life Church pastor

have received awards and recognitions. These have included National Merit Scholars, President's Education Awardees, and numerous scholarships to colleges and universities all over the United States. Additionally, OAA alumni have moved on as worldwide missionaries in many careers, including as doctors, engineers, teachers, pilots, and pastors.

OAA continues to value its partnership with Oakwood University, and weekly trains and mentors more than 100 practicum and observation students from various departments of Oakwood University.

While the OAA currently holds the North American Division Denominational

Certification, it looks forward to applying for the Southern Association of Colleges (SACs) accreditation, and also to becoming an Adventist EDGE School of Excellence in the South Central Conference.

OAA would like to thank the following individuals for their outstanding efforts in assisting the Academy to reach this point in history: Joseph McCoy, former president of South Central Conference; and Gilbert Cooper, former OAA senior principal.

OAA will continue to press forward with initiatives that will advance students to the Kingdom.

—BY OLIVIA BEVERLY AND
DELMA HARVEY



FRED PULLINS

Delbert Baker (right), Oakwood University president, signs the documents to transfer the 32-acre property deed to the South Central Conference for Oakwood Adventist Academy, while Benjamin P. Browne, South Central Conference president, looks on.

Officers' Conventions Draw Record Registration



MICHAEL A. HARPE

Benjamin P. Browne, South Central Conference president, and his wife, Janice Browne, gave unique New Year's greetings to hundreds of worshipers at each convention site.

More than 1,900 people registered for three annual officers' conventions in January. The weekend events sponsored by the South Central Conference, where held in Nashville, Tenn., Jackson, Miss., and Montgomery, Ala.

On January 12 and 13, 900 to 1,000 church officers, their families, members, and friends were present in Nashville. Divine worship was held at the Baptist World Center, and Benjamin P. Brown, Conference president, preached an inspiring Sabbath message, "Made for a Noble Use." Workshops were full

and in some cases overcrowded.

Attorney James D. McWilliams, former reporter for the *Huntsville Times* newspaper, reports, "The Nashville Convention taught laypersons how to work effectively in dozens of areas of Christian and community service, from music ministries to children's ministries to online ministries."

"I'm very excited being here," said attendee Deborah James. She converted to Adventist Christianity two years ago and was elected personal ministries secretary for the Long View Heights Church in Memphis, Tenn.,

in December 2007. "I've had Bible classes in my home before, but I've never facilitated. I'm in training now."

The convention theme was "Laborers Together With God 2008."

Christopher M. Hill, Faith Temple Church, Batesville, Miss., reports, "The Jackson Convention was held at Jackson State University, nestled in the heart of Jackson, on January 19 and 20. In the midst of inclement weather ... 500 to 600 still attended.

"With a plethora of workshops planned, and a program designed to empower and uplift, the church officers of Mississippi sat at a buffet of spiritual nutrition The transformable sermon, 'The Judgment Hour,' was preached by Washington Johnson II, D.Min., *Message Magazine* editor.

"As an officer in the audience, I was personally impressed with the ergonomics and organization. This was a big event, but personal in its reach. The teaching was informative, the singing was inspirational, and the preaching was exhilarating The event was edifying and motivating."

"State of the Union," was the title of the sermon preached by Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union executive secretary, at the convention in Montgomery, Ala., on January



MICHAEL A. HARPE

Michael E. Crutcher Sr.'s presentation portrayed and recounted Frederick Douglass' human aspects of passion, humor, courage, fury, and faith at their best.

26. His topic dealt with the state of the Christian's union with Christ: "How's your relationship with Jesus? Are you ready for His coming? Are you helping to prepare a people for His coming by sharing His love?" Hundreds rededicated their hearts to the Lord and recommitted themselves to service that day. Between—800 and 900 were in attendance for the two-day event.

On Saturday evening at all three convention sites, many were enthralled by Michael E. Crutcher Sr.'s, "Experience the Spirit" presentation. This was a dramatization of Frederick Douglass' life. It was an excellent representation and tribute to a great African American.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE



MICHAEL A. HARPE

Ron Smith (left), Southern Union executive secretary, and Washington Johnson, editor, Message Magazine, delivered moving messages.

Students Minister at Patten Towers

Patten Towers, home to low-income individuals and families, has become a central focus for student outreach at Southern Adventist University.

Students from several on-campus organizations have been reaching out to Patten Towers' residents since early last year, visiting and conducting Bible studies. Student Jeff Tarchuk envisioned an outreach program that would meet residents' physical, spiritual, and mental needs. Thus was born the Patten Project, an effort aimed at transforming the lives of residents from the inside out.

Members of Southern's Pre-med Club were especially interested in Tarchuk's vision and chose Patten Towers as the venue for their 2008 health expo.

With the help of around 70 student volunteers and approximately 30 faculty and community professionals, this combined vision became a reality on January 27.

The expo incorporated physical and psychological assessments as well as health and lifestyle education for the estimated 115 residents who attended. Upon completing the expo, residents were given a warm meal.

"They are needy people open to getting help," says student Jon Miller, who organized the expo. "Underneath it all, we want to reach these people's

souls. If we connect with one person, we've accomplished our mission."

Members of Southern's Bible Workers Club will be following up with the 51 residents who requested

Bible study as a result of the event, and local medical professionals have agreed to follow up on the residents' health needs.

—BY MELISSA CECHOTA AND
ASHLEY CHENEY



A Patten Towers resident discusses her health with a volunteer.

Adventist Team Recommends Reaccreditation

In January, an on-campus administrative review team from the Adventist Accrediting Association — one of seven organizations that extends accreditation to Southern — recommended that the University

receive another five-year accreditation term.

Team chair Gerald Winslow, vice president for spiritual life at Loma Linda University, described Southern as a "place on the move."

This was reaffirmed by the number of students enrolled this semester. With 2,407 students taking classes (20 more than the winter 2007 semester), Southern has broken yet another enrollment record.

The recommendation for reaccreditation will go to a committee vote on March 30, at which point it is expected Southern will receive continued accreditation to 2012.

—BY LORI FUTCHER

Southern Legend Passes

K.R. Davis, 86, who devoted 50 years of his life to serving Southern Adventist University, passed away on January 16. Davis' service to Southern included working as a dean, counselor, recruiter, Student Association sponsor, professor, and handyman.

Though Davis officially retired from Southern at the age of 65, he continued working in the role of assistant to the president until this past November, when he was hospitalized with pneumonia.

"K.R. felt coming to Southern was one of the

best things that ever happened to him," says School of Religion Dean Greg King, "but we think that he was one of the best things that ever happened to Southern."

—BY LORI FUTCHER



Giving of Herself

BY NATALIA LÓPEZ-THISMÓN AND LORI FUTCHER

"Would you like to sign up for the bone marrow donor list?" Carla Lewis of the National Marrow Donor Program asked Southern nursing student Jenny Blanzky, who was filling out paperwork for a routine blood donation.

Why not? thought Jenny, who made it a habit to give some of her in-demand O-negative blood every time the bloodmobile came to campus. Joining the more than 6 million donors in America, Jenny figured her chances of getting called were slim.

Chosen

Yet only a few months later, Jenny received a call from Lewis telling her about a 50-year-old male with leukemia who needed stem cells harvested from bone marrow. Jenny had been chosen as one of six potential donors for this man.

At first, Jenny was most concerned about the pain it would cause. Though she didn't know exactly what to expect, she had heard that donating marrow was much more painful than the blood donation she was used to.

But then she thought, *If I have the opportunity, why not just do it?*

After having her blood drawn, not even a week passed when Jenny received a call.

"We'd like to inform you that you've been selected as the best match," the coordinator told her and proceeded to schedule for Jenny to attend an informal meeting where she would learn more. "We recommend that you bring someone with you as an extra set of ears. There will be a lot of information for you to take in."

Jaclynn Huse, a professor in the School of Nursing, was teaching about bone marrow transplants in one of her classes and agreed to accompany Jenny.

Jenny and Huse traveled to Van-

derbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, several times before Jenny's bone marrow stem cells could be harvested.

"The whole experience was so incredible and humbling as we realized that her bone marrow could really save someone's life," says Huse. "We talked a lot and got to know each other really well. I have always enjoyed getting to know my students, but I feel like I have gained a sister out of all of this."

Ready

As Jenny went through many tutorials, consent forms, and options, she says she didn't feel scared. She was prepared to face the pain, knowing that someone's life was on the line.

Someone out there needs something I have, Jenny would remind herself. If I say no to that, it's wrong.

But the night before the surgery, Jenny began to feel fearful.

"I wasn't scared because of the pain level," says Jenny, "but I burst into tears that night when I started imagining all the worst-case scenarios. All I could do was pray for the man who would receive my donation."

After her surgery months passed, and Jenny didn't hear anything. Meanwhile, because she hadn't rested as much as the doctors had recommended, the pain, which Jenny describes as like being kicked by a horse, continued.

She became annoyed as the nagging pain on her right side reminded her of her donation and of the man she knew nothing about.

Finally Jenny received a phone call from the bone marrow coordinator.



Jenny Blanzky (left) and Jaclynn Huse

"Hi Jenny," said Lewis. "I wanted to let you know that the man has just been released from the hospital and has gone home to his family."

About an hour after talking to Lewis, Jenny grabbed her purse and went shopping. As she bent over to get something, that pain on her back returned, but this time she wasn't irritated.

"I'd never been so happy to have pain in my life!" she says with a smile. "The first thought that came to me is, 'I saved someone's life, and this pain is so worth it!'"

Natalia López-Thismón is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University. Lori Fletcher is the SAU communications manager.

SAU Sabbath

On March 15, Adventist churches across the Southern Union will recognize Southern Adventist University students like Jenny Blanzky who are giving back through selfless acts of service by showing a short inspirational DVD that highlights the attitude of service throughout campus.

Have You Herd What a Goat Can Do?

BY KIM ALLAN JOHNSON

This past holiday season, the Florida Conference office staff focused on serving others rather than entertaining themselves. To help some of the poorest people overseas, the employees were invited to save their coins at home for one month and then pool them all together.

The goal was to purchase goats at \$120 each because a goat can literally revolutionize the life of a family at the lowest rung of society. Ultimately, more than \$3,000 was raised—enough to purchase a herd of 25 goats for hurting, hungry families in third-world countries!

The staff also enthusiastically participated in “Random Acts of Kindness,” a mission-driven outreach initiative. A large portion of the social committee’s limited budget, along

with some financial assistance from the evangelism department, provided each participant with \$25 to help needy people in their communities.

More than 50 employees signed up, and the blessings began to flow in creative and inspiring ways.

After prayerfully considering how to use his \$25, one employee told a coworker of an unusually vivid dream about a mutual friend who was in financial trouble. Neither knew how to contact this friend. Remarkably, within a few days, the coworker met that very person at a mall neither of them visited often. In the end, four employees were impressed

to pool their money and send it to this individual.

Seven employees gave their \$175 to a young man with a life-threatening disease. In addition to this amount, they each chose to also give him \$20 a month from their pay for one year to help defray the high cost of his medication.

Eleven workers spent many hours



LEONARD FERNANDEZ

Elizabeth Bence was among 11 employees to cater four events, raising \$1,300 for needy families.

catering four events to multiply their funds. They raised more than \$1,300 and were able to help several families, including a struggling immigrant from Cuba and a woman whose apartment was destroyed by fire.

Another staff member doubled his money and gave it to a single mother who had moved to Florida to escape an abusive husband and later lost her job due to surgery.

These heartwarming stories and others like them were captured in interviews that were videotaped and shown to the staff during a luncheon.

Kim Allan Johnson is the under-treasurer for the Florida Conference.



KATHY FAIRCHILD

A store manager (center) discounted the price of clothing purchased for the Dress a Child nonprofit ministry in Miami. Employee Kathy Fairchild’s grandchildren, Tyler (left) and Kaitlyn Connatser, made their own contributions and solicited additional funds from family, friends, and businesses, turning Kathy’s \$25 into \$195.

One Child at a Time

BY JACK NEHER

Picture children watching — petrified and crying — as their parents are handcuffed and led away by police for cooking methamphetamine in their home.

The children are removed from the home and, because of the chemical contamination, cannot take anything with them — not a special blanket, not a favorite toy, no pictures, not even their toothbrush.

When Barbara Neher watched the above scene on a television newscast, she was impressed by God to do something for these children. Discussing the problem with her daughter, Tereasa Ingle, at a Thanksgiving gathering, the two of them decided what needed to be done. With the help of Jack, Barbara's husband, *It's My Very Own – Bags of Love* was born.

When these children are placed in foster care, they most likely end up with only a black plastic garbage sack to carry whatever belongings they might acquire during the next several days, weeks, or months. It is at this point that the *Bag of Love* is presented to the child and they are told, "This is your very own."

Bags of Love is entering its fourth year, and has spread beyond expectation. The 600 inquiries from around the nation, Canada, and from other countries such as Germany, United Kingdom, India, Thailand, South Korea, and the Caribbean islands have been overwhelming. Manuals and DVDs have been distributed to 239 locations in 43 states, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Other denominations have also requested information about using the program.

Each 22" x 30" bag contains a large stuffed animal, two new gender- and age-appropriate toys, personal care items (toothbrush, toothpaste,

shampoo, soap, etc.), and a brand new handmade 48" x 60", high-loft comforter. The bag is constructed of durable, brightly colored material. The comforter top is also of bright colors, well-matched in distinctive, easy to sew patterns.

The goal is not to provide for the child's every need, but to remove the stigma of their present situation, lift their spirits, give them some feeling of self-esteem, and provide them with a possession at a time when they are left with nothing. And, maybe, just maybe, they will realize that in their community are

people who really care about what happens to them.

For more information, visit www.imvo.org.



Barbara Neher (left), Tereasa Ingle, and Jack Neher

Making a Difference

Police had been called to a home for a drug bust. As they looked through the small, dirty home they found a baby girl, so small and listless they weren't sure she was alive.

Child Protective Services took the infant, wearing only a soiled diaper, wrapped her in a blanket they took from a bag in the trunk of their car, and rushed her to the hospital. This child was grossly malnourished and had been severely abused, sustaining brain damage that left her blind and with seizures.

When anyone touched her she stiffened and cried, with one exception. If the blanket that had been wrapped around her when she was removed from her home was wrapped around her, she stopped crying. A neuropsychologist determined that blanket must have been the first warm, loving thing to touch her in months, and wrote an order that the blanket was to always be with Summer (not her real name) while she was in the intensive care unit. When she went to the foster home two months later, the blanket went with her.

I listened as the foster mother said, "I am sure that the lady who made the blanket prayed with every stitch that it would comfort the child who received it. She made it with love, and because of that blanket, Summer is able to accept our love." I thought, "Normally, blankets aren't associated with the person who makes it, though quilts are; and people don't speak of the stitches in a blanket."

I asked to see this blanket. She took me to the bedroom and held up a handmade quilt with cheerful colored blocks. I touched the quilt and gently looked at the corners. There it was, an *It's My Very Own* decal declaring that it had been made by the Women's Ministry of the Apache Junction Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With tears in my eyes, I told the foster mom that she was correct. This quilt was made with love. Prayers were offered by the one who made it and by those who placed it in the *Bag of Love*. Silently, I thanked God for allowing me to see that my church family's ministry did make a difference—one child at a time.

— Written from Apache Junction, Arizona

A Child's Faith

BY BRENDA MAYS

When it comes to language, it's hard to draw from the memory bank when we haven't practiced what's deposited there.

At first, our daughters, Megan, 17, and Moriah, 12, found it difficult to practice Albanian except in the shops and marketplace. Their Albanian friends speak English and prefer to practice it than to speak Albanian. Now, however, Megan and Moriah have found a unique way not only to improve their language skills but also to change lives by helping those in need. God has put the Roma (gypsy) children of Albania on their hearts, and they have responded in a big way.

Our girls tried various ways of providing help to Roma children, such as bringing food to their families and treating minor health problems like infected cuts and skin funguses, but there were challenges. Their visits began to create small mob scenes, and some villagers would grab more than their fair share of whatever they were offering. Sometimes fights would break out. Even with Sean and me accompanying them, their offerings of help were beginning to create new problems.

Megan and Moriah backed off for



Sean (right) and Brenda Mays and their daughters, Megan and Moriah, hail from Tennessee and have been serving as Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) missionaries to the Tosk people of Albania since January 2006.

a while to pray about a better way to help these desperate children. They came up with a plan to set up their work in a small building near our home where women and children could come one or two at a time for food and help. This approach was largely successful.

As time went on and our daugh-

ters spoke with more and more Roma mothers and children, it became apparent that there was a great need for basic education. For a number of reasons, almost all the Roma in our area are completely illiterate. Girls especially are prevented from attending school with boys because of cultural restrictions. Also, there is a lot of discrimination against Roma children in public schools.

Megan dreamed of a center that would house a girl's school that would teach reading, writing, and math, as well as manners, health, hygiene, sewing, cooking, gardening, and housekeeping skills. Most importantly, it would teach girls about Jesus.

Also, she envisioned a band-aid clinic; a kitchen to serve meals; and a place to have health programs for women and girls and provide showers, clothing, and shoes. Most of the children have no warm coats or shoes in the winter. The center would bring hope to a forgotten people.

These were big dreams for a young girl, but when it is God's will, there is always a way. Still, we cautioned our daughters about the realities of such an endeavor. "This is a huge project," we said. "Perhaps you



Megan Mays (top) with her class of Roma girls

don't understand the difficulties of the situation. You don't speak much Albanian, so how can you communicate or teach people to read? What's more, these are wild, undisciplined children who have no respect for authority or rules. How can a couple young girls get them under control when the police can't even keep their brothers out of the stadium?" Roma youth openly defy the police, staying just out of reach, laughing and taunting the frustrated men.

Interestingly, those same boys

respect our girls because they've watched them ride galloping horses inside the stadium. Here, only Roma men and older boys and a few brave Albanian men ride horses. Women and girls never ride. The Roma boys called Megan and Moriah "the horse girls" long before they knew their names.

Megan began to do cultural research about the Roma. "God made it clear that we are to reach the Tosk people," Sean reasoned with her. "But Dad, what if God has called *me* to help the Roma?" she replied tearfully. Sean and I decided to allow a trial project, but we cautioned that we parents would only be able to be involved minimally, mostly just to insure safety and to provide transportation and advice.

Well, to make a long story short, God has blessed abundantly. Megan and some friends raised funds to rent a building and open the center. The girls' school has 26 students and an



An elderly Roma woman

Albanian teacher who has a heart for these disadvantaged children. Although our girls are very happy to have the school, it has been a lot of hard work. They have been blessed with the help of four Albanian teens and some Peace Corps workers who volunteered to cook, clean, and assist however they can. Moriah has become a big sister and role model to the schoolgirls.

The results so far have been nothing short of miraculous. As an unexpected bonus, some of the helpers have asked if they can come and worship with us. The students have responded well to the love and even the discipline. They love their school and their teachers, and their families have welcomed our family into their homes and hearts. The elder of the Roma village is very pleased and encourages fathers to allow their daughters to attend the school.

There has been a lesson in all of this for Sean and me, and maybe for you, too. If we know that God wants to use us to accomplish His big plans, we mustn't let doubts discourage us. Dare to have a child's faith and to act on it!



Moriah Mays holds a little Roma girl.

Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian lay-ministry dedicated to establishing church-planting movements worldwide among people groups with no Adventist presence. AFM currently works with 18 unreached people groups in 16 countries.



Nutrition: It's a Matter of Fact

BY MARTA SOVYANHADI AND STACIA WHITTAKER

Noted attorney and much-published author Oliver Wendel Holmes put it best when he said, "No two hemispheres of any learned professor's brain are equal to two healthy mammary glands in the production of a satisfactory food for infants." Human milk contains the ideal balance of nutrients, enzymes, and anti-infective and immune supportive agents, making it species specific for the newborn baby.

There are countless benefits that can be derived from the breast milk that God has naturally provided in lactating mothers and even from the very act of breastfeeding. Essential fatty acids such as docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in breast milk promote brain development and visual acuity, whereas the large quantity of lactose contributes to the development of the central nervous system. Breast milk aides in reducing the risk of infections of the middle ear, digestive system, and respiratory track by providing natural antibodies while promoting healthy growth, brain development, and digestion in babies.

Nutritional benefits aren't the only advantage to breastfeeding; developmental benefits are an added plus.

The jaws of a baby taking breast milk get more action than bottle feeders. The baby has to move its jaws strenuously back and forth, and also exert pressure with the gums to squeeze milk out of the breast. In addition, breastfed babies suck longer and more often. Many dentists believe that because of this action in feeding, breastfed babies have stronger jaws, resulting in better speech development. This breastfeeding action also helps the baby to grow straighter teeth. Moreover, there is no risk of overfeeding from breast milk, and the newborn can gain weight naturally and healthily. Breastfeeding fosters the development of a strong maternal-infant bond. Many psychologists believe the breastfed baby enjoys a sense of security from the warmth and presence of the mother.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians recommends that it is important that children receive breast milk for the first year of life. Health experts have proven from their longitudinal studies that there is significant increase in later cognitive development in 10- to 18-year-

olds. This group of breastfed individuals showed that they have a higher intelligence quotient, reading comprehension, mathematical ability, and scholastic ability assessed during the period of 10 to 18 years of age.

Other research also shows that an increase in breastfeeding would save consumers money spent both on infant formula and on health care—there are no bottles to sterilize, no formula to buy, measure, or mix.



Marta Sovyanbadi believes that breastfeeding her son, Zetha Sovyanbadi, 24, for 22 months was conducive to his educational success. He will be graduating from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) with a master of science degree in computer engineering. He is the recipient of the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence from the White House, and UAH's Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Promoting Strong Development

Celestine Robinson is the mother of one-year-old Matthew Robinson. She is also a full-time administrative assistant and student missionary director for the Office of the Chaplain at Oakwood University.

"I believe that breast milk has been a key factor in stabilizing our son's immune system and in promoting strong development. Even though he has had colds and ear infections in daycare, they have not been severe.

"Matthew's problem-solving skills are also beyond what we could have imagined. One case in point can be drawn from Matthew's love of looking out the bedroom window, which my husband and I allowed Matthew to do during the day. This particular evening (then 8 months old), he wanted to look out the window, but the sun had set, so we would not allow him to do as he was accustomed. After removing him several times from the window,



The Robinsons are proud of Matthew's growth and development.

we decided to block the pathway to the window with his crib. Approximately 15 minutes had passed, and to our amazement, Matthew had crawled underneath our bed to avoid the blocked pathway in order to get to the other side and look out the window. He made it! Full of laughter, we could not believe how Matthew processed how to get around the blocked pathway to accomplish his mission.

"At 10 months, he can identify several things and their functions, one of which is his brush. Each morning, he helps comb his hair, and tries to put on his shoes by himself. He feeds himself with a spoon and has the motor skills to coordinate holding his own cup without a cover while drinking water or juice. These are just a few of several developmental skills that I think are a result of breastfeeding. I pray I am able to continue lactating until he is about 18 months to ensure his brain cells are receiving the necessary nutrients."

Best for You and Your Baby

Esther Selman, M.P.H., LD, is an alumnus of the dietetics programs at Oakwood University and Loma Linda University in California. She is a full-time clinical dietitian and health educator at Huntsville Hospital in Alabama.

"Giving birth and becoming a mother are awesome gifts from God.

Of the many responsibilities of parenting, breastfeeding is a wonderful experience of growth and bonding—both for mother and child. During my junior year as a dietetics major at Oakwood University, my son Paul was born. Knowing the importance of optimum nutrition in the first months of infancy, I planned to breastfeed for six months. However, I participated in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program for my nutrition care. WIC had an incentive program to encourage pregnant mothers to breastfeed for one year, and the reward was a certificate at the completion of the program. I was one of the awardees.

"I truly believe that breast milk is the ideal baby food: it provides immunological properties and lowers the risk for allergies. It has psychological benefits, it saves money, it's convenient and nutritious. Breastfeeding allows the sucking reflex to develop—Paul did not suck



Paul, 15, attends Oakwood Adventist Academy, sings in the Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir, and loves to play the piano. He wants to be a music producer.

his finger or a pacifier. Breastfeeding at night was also convenient. I didn't have to get up and make a bottle; it was already prepared. Another beautiful experience was the time spent together where my baby and I both could relax.

"Today, Paul is 15, and an "A" student in school. He participates in several extra-curricular activities, including school choir, playing the piano, and basketball, and is a very kind and loving young man. His analytical and cognition skills are superb, and he seldom gets sick, due to a strong immune system.

"One added benefit to moms is that breastfeeding allows the tummy to contract naturally, hence reducing baby fat which made it easier for me to lose those pounds after pregnancy.

"The experience was awesome, and I would encourage all pregnant women to choose breast milk as the ideal baby food. There are many advantages to choosing this lifestyle for your infant. I breastfed my son Paul for two years, and I would do it again. Breastfeeding—it's best for you and your baby."

Marta Sovyanbadi, Ph.D., RD, LDN, is the dietetics internship director and associate professor in dietetics and nutrition in the family and consumer sciences department at Oakwood University. Stacia Whittaker is a sophomore studying dietetics at Oakwood.

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Greysville, TN (45 miles from Southern Adventist University) has room openings for seniors. A 25-acre mountain estate with many walking trails and gardens is located near 3 local SDA churches. Our licensed home is clean and updated with 11 rooms, 3 ABN TV, healthy menu, social activities and other amenities. Call RN Administrator, Laura Morrison 423-775-7658 or e-mail quietoaks@comcast.net or www.quietoak.com [3]

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

INVESTMENT DUPLEX. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN. Excellent rental history (retirement and/or income). Prime location (within walking distance to University/ market/ paved walking park/ Little Debbie Bakery). Large, very private lot (approx. 2 acres at end of paved road). Recent remodel/ paint - inside/out. \$150,000.00 firm. 276-579-4215. [3]

FLORIDA LIVING: Where the Living is Easy! Senior community near Disney/Daytona Beach; apts/rooms for lease; 13.5 acres of flowers and trees; transportation/housekeeping available. Church/pool/shopping/activities; 3ABN, Hope TV. **Vacationers-** Short-term furnished rentals, \$30, \$45, \$75/per night. **Snowbirds-** 2BR/2BA for two- \$300/wk. For 3+- \$400/wk. Call 800-729-8017; or 407-862-2646, x24. Website: floridalivingretirement.com Email: JackieFLRC@aol.com [3]

SOUTHERN COUNTRY LIVING-Johnston Estates -92 acres to develop. 130+ Lots and homes for sale. Lots priced at \$45K+, homes at \$175K+. Spec and owner homes available- all utilities, low taxes, flexible financing. 4 miles from Southern Adventist University, SDA churches, schools, and ABC available. 15 mins to mall and stores. Moderate climate, great people, and great place to live. Call David Job, 770-601-6356; or Herman Harp, 423-315-2661. No Saturday calls. [3,4]

FOR SALE. Beautiful Country Setting! Bushnell, FL. 2661 sq.ft., pool home, 1 acre, large oaks, hickories and magnolias. Large family room, living room, dining room, large eat-in kitchen. Main house 2/bdrm/2 baths. Swimming pool screen enclosed surrounded by office, mother-in-law apartment. M.L.A. features: kitchen and full bath. Detached 3-car garage, paved driveway. Call Roy McCann, 352-568-5262. \$299,000. [3]

FOR SALE. Spectacular estate, equestrian area, custom-built home: 3,804 sq.ft., 5.2 acres, w/ detached building/pool, Sorrento, FL. \$998K. Dorina Green, Realtor w/Exit. 407-489-4724. [3]

FOR SALE. Beautiful Mountain Land, near Murphy, N.C., approximately 22 acres in quiet area with good road access, electricity, spring water, pond, and garden area. Great property for secluded living. SDA church and school are in the area. Asking \$11,000/acre. Call owner at 828-835-9117. [3]

FOR RENT. Spacious Condo with 3 bedrooms/2 full bathrooms available for rent immediately! The condo is 1½ years old, and comes with washer/dryer and 2 huge garden tubs. Conveniently located in a developing community in Decatur (off of Flat Shoals Pkwy) just 2 minutes from I-285 and 5 minutes from I-20. It's easily accessible to Atlanta Airport (15 minutes) and downtown Atlanta (7 minutes). \$950.00/month. Interested, please call Sharna at 678-516-9668. [3]

HOUSE FOR RENT in Kissimmee, Florida. Only 15 minutes to Orlando, Disney World. Single residential home. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, nice pool, huge backyard, tile floors, loaded; quiet neighborhood. Rent \$1,100. Call Hans Tank 407-301-8292 or 407-933-0711. [3]

BOOKSTORE/PUBLISHING COMPANY looking for future owner/partner; over 200,000 SDA titles. Includes 25 acres, office/warehouse buildings, two homes, and garden/orchard. Visit www.star-of-the-north.com OR contact Matt 303-810-2145. [3-5]

FOR SALE. 50 Pristine acres nestled inside the Cherokee National Forest in beautiful east Tennessee. Large creek, cleared land, and mixed forest. Fronts on good road with utilities on site. 50 miles to Collegedale. 60 miles to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Near scenic rivers, lakes, trails. Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. 301-854-0849 or Kathyr7@verizon.net. [3,4]

ROOM FOR RENT. Looking for a room to rent in Orlando area? Share home of SDA couple. Inexpensive rent in exchange for minimal assistance and occasional transportation for disabled woman. Perfect for female student or person with day job. Will

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need own car. To discuss call 407-889-4575 or e-mail stilltrustingpj@yahoo.com [3]

HOME FOR SALE. Two acres only 4 miles from Southern Adventist University. Built in 2003, this 3-bedrooms/2-bath home features hardwood floors, wood cabinets, stainless steel appliances, plus a washer/dryer. It has an open floor plan with a very large master suite, vaulted ceilings throughout with a decorative gas fireplace. \$230,000. Call Wendy Dixon, Crye-Leike Realtors 423-883-0654. [3,4]

FOR SALE. One mile from Southern Adventist University. 3-bedrooms/2½ baths. Garages. Large basement game room. Plus: Basement apartment (rented). New heat/air and appliances. Lots of extras: hot tub, gas fireplace, blueberries, figs. Call 615-849-5547. [3,4]

HOME FOR SALE. Older 2-bedroom home on approximately 3 acres. Riverfront property in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Roan Mountain, TN; eight miles from church. Oil or wood heat, spring water by gravity. Several outbuildings, nice garden spot, apple and walnut trees. Call 423-725-2117. [3,4]

GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY FOR SALE. 4-unit apartment building close to Southwestern Adventist University. For details, call Dan Zacharias at 817-239-6856 or email dan_d_zacharias@yahoo.com. Tomblinson Real Estate, Keene, TX. [3]

FOR SALE. Forest City, Florida, 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, large screened porch, new landscaping, sprinkler system, ½ mile from FLEC. All redone. Fenced back yard. \$160,000. 352-406-9681. [3]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

OB/GYN – North Georgia: Overwhelming practice needs BE/BC OB/GYN for partnership or an associate. New building will be complete in summer, 2008. Local Adventist Hospital, Churches, and Academy. Community of 50,000 is a wonderful place to raise family and practice medicine. For more information contact Debbie at 706-629-7380, or email: dowens@4womenscare.com. [3-5]

COLUMBUS, NE, OB/GYN PHYSICIAN NEEDED. Solo Ob/Gyn physician in Columbus, Nebraska, is seeking a committed and compassionate partner to join rapidly expanding practice. Please submit CVs and/or questions to cwhc@frontiernet.net. www.columbuswomenshealthcare.com [3,4]

BLACK HILLS HEALTH and EDUCATION CENTER is seeking a Registered Nurse who has interest in non-drug treatment of disease and has phlebotomy skills. Contact 605-255-4101 or e-mail cheryl@bhhec.org [3]

ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS is praying for a recruiter who will invite people to share the Gospel with the unreached. Qualifications: an ability to uplift Christ in public and good communication skills. Good benefits. Requires travel. Position based in southeast. Submit résumé: jbxter@afmonline.org [3]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a director of Marketing and Enrollment Services. The director is responsible for collaboratively developing and implementing the graduate programs marketing and recruiting strategy for the university. The successful candidate will have a Master's degree and be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send resumes to Vinita Sauder, VP for Marketing & Enrollment Services, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370 or sauder@southern.edu. For more information about the position visit the NAD Education web page at www.nadeducation.org/employment/higher_education.html [3]

COUPLE NEEDED to assist in managing a resort in beautiful western North Carolina. Must be honest, dependable, flexible, in good health, meet public well, and have supplementary income. Apartment, utilities, DSL, cable TV provided. Wages based on abilities and performance. See website at www.lakemontcottages.com; 828-693-5174. [3]

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of PSYCHOLOGY. Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL, invites applications for a non-tenure track Assistant/Associate Professor of Psychology to begin July 2008. A Doctorate in Psychology from an accredited institution is required. The appointee will be expected to teach undergraduate courses in Biological Psychology, Statistics, Research and Experimental Psychology. Integration of Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship is essential. See www.oakwood.edu for more information. Send employment application, CV, Statement of research and teaching interest, and three letters of recommendation to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, 7000 Adventist Boulevard, Huntsville, AL 35896 by April 1, 2008. [3]

TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Fundraiser (experienced in researching and writing grant proposals); Lifestyle Counselor (fully trained and has a heart for recovering addicts). New Beginnings Lifestyle Center is a supporting ministry outside Atlanta that uses NEWSTART to help addicts recover. Visit www.newbeginningslc.org or call 888-958-9994 for details. [3]

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY'S Division of Humanities, a new program in the School of Religion, seeks applicants in both history and literature. Persons with a PhD and an interest in research and creating new humanities initiatives in a health-care setting are sought. Contact Jim Walters, jwalters@llu.edu [3]

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miles from SAU. Housing and stipend provided. Many positions open in healthcare and agriculture as well as Science, English, and Math teachers. Call Roger Westfall at 423-775-0771; or email: chsape@cs.com ©

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FOR SALE. For the first time in book form, "The 30-Day Diabetes Miracle" guides diabetes sufferers through a three-part program of lifestyle medicine that addresses and corrects lifestyle behaviors at the source of this disease. It's a real world solution that offers patients benefits often described as nothing short of "miraculous." "The 30-Day Diabetes Miracle" is currently available at your local ABC or favorite online bookstore. [3]

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SINGLE AND OVER 40? Stay home and meet new friends in USA interracial group for all singles over 40. For information, send large self-addressed stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479. ©

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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 missionsmp@aol.com [3]

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MISSION AVIATION SUMMER CAMP ages 14-18. Spiritual mentoring, ground school, flights and hands-on aviation projects conducted by experienced missionaries. Join Adventist World Aviation, Brigade Air, and Oklahoma Conference Youth Department June 22-29, 2008 at the Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Oklahoma. Cost: \$1260.00 (some scholarships available). Call 405-721-6110 for registration. [3]

EXCLUSIVELY FOR HOME SCHOOLERS. You are personally invited to preview Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, during Home School Sneak Peek, April 17-20. It's FREE (call for details). Experience Union's unique spirit. Reserve your place today. Call 800.228.4600 or email preview@ucollege.edu or visit www.ucollege.edu/sneakpeek [3,4]

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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 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. ©

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

MPA Spring Break – March 1-9.
Pathfinder Work Bee – March 14-16. Nosoca.
Men's Retreat – March 22-24. Nosoca. Details: 704-596-3200.
Women's Retreat – April 4-6. Nosoca. www.carolinasda.org to register.
MPA Academy Days – April 6, 7. ShareHim Lay Evangelism Festival – April 10-13. Phoenix, AZ. www.sharehim.org
Adventurer Fun Day – April 12, 13. Nosoca.
Outdoor Ed – April 15-18.
Hispanic Camp Meeting I – April 18-20. Nosoca.
Pathfinder Council – April 25, 26.
Elders' Retreat – April 25-27. Nosoca. 704-596-3200 to register.

Florida

Complete calendar online—
<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>
Florida Pathfinder Events—
<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.
Forest Lake Academy Alumni Golf Tournament—March 28. Timacuan Golf and Country Club, Lake Mary. Details: <http://www.forestlakeacademy.org/>, osorioc@forestlake.org, or 407-772-3729.
Forest Lake Academy Alumni Weekend—March 28, 29. Honor classes: 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1998. Details: <http://www.forestlakeacademy.org/>, osorioc@forestlake.org, or 407-772-3729.
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
 March 29. West Palm Beach.
 March 30. Midport Road in Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay)
 April 5. Maranatha in Miami.
 April 6. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Jupiter.
 April 12. Jacksonville Southpoint.
 April 13. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
 April 26. Naples.
 April 27. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers

Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Lakeview, Winter Haven.
Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars
 March 29. Sebring.
 March 29. Palmetto.
 April 5. Port Charlotte.
 April 5 and 13. Markham Woods in Longwood.
 April 19. University in Orlando.
 April 26. Brazilian Temple in Oakland Park.
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.
Just Do Something [Youth community service event.]—April 11-12. Central Florida area. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online —
www.gccsda.com
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.
Medical Missionary Convention – March 27-29. Southern Adventist University.
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.
Youth Festival – March 29. Dalton, GA.
Southern Union ASI – April 3-6. Cohutta Springs

Pastor-Teacher Team Ministry Meeting – April 3. Atlanta, GA.
Festival of the Family – April 5. Harrison, TN.
Crisis Intervention Training – April 7, 8. Atlanta North Church.
Pastor-Teacher Team Ministry Meeting – April 8. Knoxville, TN.
Regional Health Rally – April 12. Morristown, TN.
GCC Pathfinder Camporee – April 18-20. Cohutta Springs.
Regional Health Rally – Harriman, TN.
Kids in Discipleship Training – April 20-23. Collegedale, TN.
Collegedale Academy Day – April 22. Collegedale, TN.
CSDA Retreat – April 25-27. Cohutta Springs.
Regional Health Rally – April 26. Athens, GA.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online
<http://www.gscsda.org>
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.
Bass Memorial Academy Alumni Weekend – March 28-30.
Executive Committee – Conference Office April 1.
Disaster Response Training March 7, 8. Piedmont, AL, Church.
 March 28. Cullman, AL, Church.
Pathfinder Spring Flings
 April 4, 5. Gulf Coast.
 April 11-13. Alabama.
 April 18-20. Mississippi.
Adventure Fun Weekend – April 25, 27. Camp Alamisco.

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. 21. April 10.
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 for more information.
Soul Impact Prayer Conference – April 11-13. Indian Creek Camp and Conference Center
 Speakers: Jerry and Janet Page.
Pastors and Elders Conference – April 18-20. Indian Creek Camp and Conference Center

Southern Adventist University

PreviewSouthern – March 20-22.
SonRise – March 22.
Gym-Masters Home Show – March 29, 30.

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

Sunset

	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28	Apr. 4	Apr. 11
Atlanta, GA	6:38	7:43	7:49	7:54	7:59	8:05
Charleston, SC	6:21	7:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
Charlotte, NC	6:23	7:29	7:35	7:40	7:46	7:52
Collegedale, TN	6:40	7:46	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:08
Huntsville, AL	5:46	6:52	6:58	7:03	7:09	7:14
Jackson, MS	6:02	7:07	7:12	7:17	7:22	7:27
Louisville, KY	6:41	7:48	7:54	8:01	8:07	8:14
Memphis, TN	5:59	7:05	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28
Miami, FL	6:25	7:29	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:42
Montgomery, AL	5:46	6:51	6:56	7:01	7:06	7:11
Nashville, TN	5:46	6:52	6:58	7:04	7:10	7:16
Orlando, FL	6:28	7:33	7:37	7:40	7:44	7:48
Wilmington, NC	6:12	7:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:39

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ENTERTAINMENT

Gale Jones Murphy
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