

December 2008

SOUTHERN



TIDINGS



Virtual Tour to Wellness

All People

Whatever one's political views, it is important to recognize the historic import of America's recent election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. I know somewhat of the difficulties and unwarranted treatment that African-Americans have experienced, not only in decades past, but in my own lifetime. In the territory of the Southern Union, battles of mind and body have been fought. And many, not all, but many, believed that because of the color of one's skin, one could be declassified and dehumanized. It is not Christ's way. It has never been Christ's way.

In times past, and not so distant in the past, even Christian Adventist schools refused admittance to qualified students only on the basis of color. Unfortunately, sometimes the Church mirrors society and we must ask God for forgiveness. Some have been excluded from Church membership and fellowship just because of skin color. While we are doing much better as a Church, this election reminds us how things have changed in our country. Not so long ago, blacks and women were excluded from voting and now a woman runs for Vice President, and a black leader is elected President.

The Gospel of Jesus is very clear — all have sinned and need a Savior. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28. Jesus Himself said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations" Mark 11:17. That is — "for all people." How did some of us Adventists miss that? All people. No one is better or smarter or holier. All people.

I praise the Lord for certain progress through the Holy Spirit's nudging, and for recent developments that show we are desiring through the grace of God to be one as Jesus implores us to be. Conferences and churches are working together. Pastors of different races are coming together to pray and plan and fellowship. I encourage us to do even more. Couldn't churches in our major cities come together from time to time for fellowship and prayer meetings? We want to be like Jesus. We want to be sensitive to each other. The Lord is glorified when we set aside prejudices and narrowness.

We need to look to the future but check the rear view mirror from time to time. This is a time to recognize the mistakes and prejudices of the past, seek to always be in a spirit of reconciliation, and learn from the pain of the past. And while it seems so inconceivable that exclusion would be the norm in times not so far distant, what other blindness is God wanting to deliver us from? What practices that may seem normal today may be revolting tomorrow as we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit?

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, with a mandate from Jesus to share the Three Angels' Messages with all people, we will pray for our President-elect and for all who lead our country. And we will pray for forgiveness, grace, and eye salve to see every person as a child of God.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

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Cover Caption: *Hulseley Wellness Center strengthens Southern Adventist University's wellness program.*



Virtual Tour to Wellness

BY NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON

Have you heard about the newest addition to Southern Adventist University's campus? The new state-of-the-art Hulsey Wellness Center has more than doubled the size of Southern's wellness facilities while providing a place for wellness majors to improve their skills and all majors to improve their health.

Students, faculty, alumni, and community members were able to preview the Hulsey Wellness Center on October 26, prior to its opening on November 4. Here's your own private tour through Southern's newest facility dedicated to health and wellness.

① As you approach the Hulsey Wellness Center, you will notice Southern's signature white columns holding up the second floor balcony, where students will be able to overlook the campus as they eat, chat, or study.

② Enter through the main floor glass doors and you will be able to view the lobby area which houses

our 30-foot climbing wall. Hand-painted to look like a natural climbing wall, it offers an automatic belay system that recognizes when climbers have fallen, catching them before they reach the ground.

Around the corner, you'll find a smoothie bar, a childcare area, massage rooms, and a therapy pool with a whirlpool and saunas.

③ Next we find the fitness floor. It houses 60 aerobics machines, including treadmills, bikes, and stair masters, and 30 pieces of strength-training equipment. About half of these machines are able to act as digital personal



trainers with a record keeping system that documents a user's progress and goals. The machines can tell you how many sets and repetitions you've done and what you should do the next time you come in. Taking the stairs, we make our way to the second floor where we find the circular walking track that overlooks the fitness area.

On the third floor of the Hulsey Wellness Center, we'll find

the academic part of the building, including offices for faculty, a conference room, a library, and new classrooms.

④ Here is our 160-seat classroom, our largest on campus. It is equipped with a demonstration kitchen for food preparation and cooking classes offered to students. Beginning in January, the community will also be able to benefit from healthy living classes in our brand

new classrooms. The classroom is wired for television cameras so that it can be used for satellite broadcast, if needed.

As we descend the grand staircase back into the main lobby, we conclude our tour where we began and where the Southern community has already begun their journey toward becoming fit for eternity.



MERLIN WITTENBERG

MERLIN WITTENBERG

Renewal

BY SUZANNE OCSAI



Students and community members worship together at Renewal.

Students and church members make the Bible — not format — the focus of their worship.

The Collegedale Church stage is set for a wedding. Curious whispers spread through the room as heads turn this way and that, unaware of what will take place on this Sabbath morning. Soft background music begins to play as through the doors come bridesmaids and groomsmen linked arm in arm. A lovely bride soon follows. All appears to be going well until one of the bridesmaids is shamefully pulled from her place in line. The audience notices she is not dressed in acceptable wedding attire and it is clear that this is not just any wedding; instead, it is a visual illustration for Matthew 22:11-14, the verses that John Nixon, D.Min., senior pastor of the Collegedale Church, has chosen to build his sermon around.

Meeting the Need

This scripturally-centered and innovative approach to worship is what students and church members can expect to find at Renewal, which debuted on August 2, as Southern Adventist University's new student-led worship service.

Prior to Renewal, many students were having a difficult time finding a church to connect with and be their "home church" while at college.

Recognizing this need, the Collegedale Church and the student-led Southern Missionary Church joined to create Renewal as a place where



One of the many ways that students can become involved in the Renewal worship service is through leading the song service.

the growing student body could corporately worship in a setting that was designed with them in mind.

Changing the service to be more student-focused didn't come without



The sermons of John Nixon, D.Min., senior pastor of the Collegedale Church, are appreciated by old and young alike.

its share of growing pains. Some church members were uncomfortable with the change to an unpredictable format, but Nixon and his team continued down the path they felt God was leading.

Shortly after the change to the new style of service, Nixon received the following email from one of these members:

“First, let me say that the idea of changing the worship service went against the grain of my selfish nature. At first I resisted, but as the Holy Spirit worked on my heart, I realized just how selfish my motives were. ... As my spouse and I discussed the issue, I came to the conclusion that God could not be pleased with my attitude. It was just like the Pharisee’s attitude when Jesus cleared the temple of the moneychangers and filled it with children whose worship style was too “irreverent” for their taste. Needless to say, I was appalled with the comparison. ... Thank you so much for allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you into this new area of service despite much resistance from many of us.”

“We are right in the center of a college campus with an opportunity to have an influence on students at this critical stage in their lives,” says Nixon. “It would be irresponsible for us not to make this church about college students.”

Worshiping by the Word

To foster Renewal’s spiritually charged yet creative aspect,

there is no standard format to the service. Every week, students and pastors meet to plan the services completely from scratch. One Sabbath, members might witness an illustration, like the wedding; enacted by students, while other services will follow a more traditional arrangement. But Renewal isn’t focused on style. The goal of the service is to point the audience back to the Bible.

The ability to meet this goal comes from hours of long and dedicated work by the planning committee. Members meet several times each week to plan and prepare the program. Throughout the process, they keep each other accountable on every detail of the service, making sure that the meaning and message of the verses portrayed are kept in their true and original context.

“Renewal is an intentional approach to scripturally-based worship,” says Anthony Handal, senior religious education major and member of the planning committee. “The services are defined by the text and then modeled after it.”

Students have taken notice of the new way worship is planned and appreciate the focused atmosphere Renewal provides.

“I think it is a good approach that they are taking so that the services are more focused toward the themes,” says Donella Smith, a



Renewal opens doors for student involvement in many aspects of the church service.

junior nursing major. “You get what the service is pointing to — there’s a goal.”



Edward Cornejo, student pastor of Renewal, leads students in songs of praise on Sabbath morning.

Creating Today’s Leaders

The planning committee isn’t the only student involvement that can be seen in the new worship format. Students have been quick to step in and take ownership by greeting guests, ushering, collecting offering, helping with the children’s ministries, and much more.

“Worship Renewal is an amazing opportunity for students to get directly involved,” says Hilary Prandl, freshman public relations major. “The best way to experience God is through first-hand service.”

While Renewal is strengthening young people as leaders in the church, it is also inspiring these leaders to share their faith as they seek to serve outside church walls.

“Our ultimate goal is that we don’t just want Renewal to be a worship service that takes place on Sabbath,” says Nixon. “We’re hoping for this worship service to open up young people to greater involvement in the ministry and mission of the Church.”

CURED AND HEALED

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN



MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT CONNECT.

John Guarneri, M.D., poured over the test results of a patient who came to him feeling very ill. Although he found no physical explanation for her malady, he could not deny the fact that she was not well.

Feeling prompted from within to inquire about her personal life, he asked about her relationships and learned that her husband was seeking divorce. He discovered that it was her emotional trauma over the situation that was making her body ill. So, he arranged for her to receive counseling. Within weeks, her physical health improved dramatically.

Similar experiences with other patients led Guarneri to explore the intimate relationship that exists between the mind and body, for he had witnessed how one sympathizes with the other, and that the mind influences the health to a far greater degree than people realize. Many physical diseases are created by depression, stress, grief, discontent, remorse, guilt, and distrust because they tend to break down the life forces, thereby inviting illness into the body.

Beginning in July of 2000, Guarneri, who currently serves as the president of the medical staff at Florida Hospital, felt driven to incorporate the spiritual aspect of patient care into his medical practice, and started addressing the mind-body-spirit connection.

Along with the customary medical history his patients filled out, he

now politely requested their spiritual history, too, and made an exciting discovery: 70-85 percent of his patients wanted their spirituality to be addressed during their medical treatment, and 98 percent accepted his invitation for prayer before leaving his office.



John Guarneri, M.D., currently serves as the president of the medical staff at Florida Hospital.

Florida Hospital's vision for whole person health has grown during the years, leading to the recent establishment of the Department of Spirituality and Health.

"A national movement is taking place," says Guarneri, who graciously challenges his colleagues by saying, "If you believe in the mind-body-spirit connection, then shouldn't we address the patient's needs spiritually within the context of their religion?"

Spirituality — trusting in God — is a powerful tool for disease management and prevention because illness is sometimes created and often greatly

aggravated by the imagination; many people suffer under a crushing load of stress that fractures their relationships, career, and health.

The Foundation for Integrated Research in Mental Health, and the American Psychological Association, report the following:

- More than three out of five doctor visits are for stress related problems.
- Stress is linked to the six leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, and suicide.
- Approximately 85 percent of diseases have stress-related factors.

The Department of Spirituality and Health has a twofold approach, the first of which is being a constant source of spiritual encouragement to the physicians, empowering them to address the spiritual needs of the patients effectively. The second is partnering with the chaplains for the patients' ongoing medical and spiritual journey while at the hospital and then connecting them into a faith community upon discharge.

The goal is simple: to be an instrument in the hands of God that extends the healing ministry of Christ to the whole person — mind, body, and soul — so that he or she may claim and experience the abundant life promised in John 10:10.

Lynell LaMountain is sales and marketing manager for mission development at Florida Hospital in Orlando.

A Special Place for Prayer

BY STAN DOBIAS

This fall, the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) campus family participated in a student-led Week of Prayer. Annual Week of Prayer activities are a spiritual highlight at the College, with the fall series led by students and the spring event conducted by a guest speaker.

Student speakers featured the team that spent their summer break in El Salvador with the Southern Union Executive Committee. The team held 30 evangelistic meetings in and around the capital city of San Salvador. Taking part were four nursing students, two occupational therapy assistant students, and a graduate from the radiography program.

Many of these students participated in the young adult program during the Florida Conference camp meeting and helped with the *Go-Encounters* prayer room, "The Boiler Room." Students wanted to transform the quiet FHCHS Campus Center Chapel into a dynamic prayer room where fellow students, faculty, and staff could rotate through various prayer stations. The idea was

welcomed by College administration, and the students went to work transforming the chapel into a special place for prayer.



Throughout the day students could stop by to read prayer journals.

As students entered the Chapel, they were asked to take off their shoes because they were entering into a holy place. Participants could write on the prayer wall, use various forms of art as expressions of prayer, place stick pins on a world-map identifying specific countries they were praying for, grasp worry stones — signifying casting away their cares, and even participate in communion.

The opening of the prayer room

and Week of Prayer were designed to coincide with mid-term exams. For students in intense healthcare programs, this can be a time of excessive stress. "What better way to relieve stress, than to stop and pray?" stated Ashley Skinner, sonography student and a campus ministries leader.

Friday evening, prior to Week of Prayer, students filled the chapel for a prayer chain until early Saturday morning. The response to the prayer room experience was so overwhelming that a request was made to keep it open for a second week.

The mission of Florida Hospital is to "Extend the Healing Ministry of Christ." In harmony with that mission, FHCHS wants to graduate students who are not only practitioners who have clinical excellence, but also healthcare leaders who can be ministers in the clinical setting — the skill to heal, the spirit to care. Another way to say this: excellence combined with compassion!

Stan Dobias is college chaplain at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences.

Prayer Room

Entering the prayer room, visitors read the following:

All Are Welcome

Stay as long as you need to, leave quietly, respect this space and the people in it, listen to God, be blessed and come back quickly!

Students share their hearts' desires on the prayer wall by writing:

"God – without you – I am not me."

"Lord – I love you. Thank you, because even though I may feel alone, you remind me you are there."

"You are the reason I strive for excellence. My very existence is to glorify you. You are my maker and best friend. I will love, serve, and adore you all the days of my life."

"Lord – If I wrote everything there would be no room for others. Watch over my friends and family,

touch them, and keep an arm around them. Watch over me – I am yet still unsure of my purpose – but I know you know why I was created. Give me faith to trust my everything with you. Without you, I am nothing. Bless FHCHS, there are many people (here) trying to spread your word, protect us, keep us, and bless us. Amen."

Truly, the presence of the Lord has been felt during Week of Prayer.

A GIFT OF LIFE

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



At the age of 11, Lisa Swafford was diagnosed with type I diabetes. She asked God, "Why?" and couldn't imagine giving herself shots for the rest of her life. During the years diabetes took a toll on her body, and when she was 30, Lisa was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease and four years later began dialysis.



Father and daughter John and Lisa Swafford have a new outlook on life since Lisa received a pancreas and kidney transplant.

TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Blessedly, at the age of 36, Lisa no longer has to give herself insulin. An amazing six months after being placed on the transplant list, Lisa received a pancreas and kidney transplant that has changed her outlook on life.

"I feel so much better, mentally and physically. I had really gotten bad off," says Lisa. "I feel like a whole new person. Daddy calls me his new daughter. I am also doing things I haven't done in years, like cooking and cleaning." And for the first time since Lisa was 11, she can eat anything she wants (except grapefruit because it reacts to the anti-rejection medication).

"Overall in timing, she was getting sicker and sicker, and did not have a lot of time," says Lisa's father, John Swafford, Georgia-Cumberland Conference's children/junior youth ministries director. Swafford has worked at Georgia-Cumberland for almost 40 years. "They tell you it could take nine months to two years on the transplants list. Lisa was on from January to June."

"God's timing was in this," said Lisa. "You never know when you could get the call for the donor and you had to be ready to go 24/7. We had two bags packed, one in the car and one in the house. Dad was supposed to be in Montana with

Pathfinders, but felt impressed at the last minute that he shouldn't go."

On June 8 they got the call that a donor match had been found for Lisa. John called relatives and everyone drove to Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. The donor match call came during the same time that John was scheduled to be in Montana. "Dad would have had a hard time getting back, and I don't know if I could have had this surgery without his support," said Lisa.

"Just in the last three weeks we have really adjusted to what we expect to be normal," says John. "Post transplant, we had to drive to Emory twice per week. It is nice not have to worry about former things of being a diabetic, like dialysis three times per week. It is a new routine, a new way of life, a new way of looking and thinking of things. It's a freedom and a joy."

"I went on that operating table for the transplant, I went in their saying, 'If I die, I am fine with that,' and 'If I live, praise the Lord.' It was such a feeling of peace like I had never experienced that before."

"Just before being wheeled to surgery she whispered to me 'I hope

you are okay. Whatever happens I am at peace, and I want you to be,'" says John. "It helped me. At earlier times I was worried, even as she said if she lives or dies or if the organs last a short time it will be worth it. At least we enjoyed the time we had. I think that's a real thing to keep in mind: We don't know what the future holds, let's use the time we have for the Lord. With her peace it helped me have peace as well. As a parent I needed that double sense of peace."

"It is important to note that transplants are not a cure," says Lisa. "On average transplants last 10-12 years. They are called a treatment, not a cure."

Lisa's transplant surgery took five hours. She and John have really appreciated all the support from their family, Pathfinder family, church family, Conference family, and members throughout Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Lisa's training as a social worker also helped her and John through the process. "It helped - I knew better how to handle things, I had studied and seen it. I worked in Chatsworth at a nursing home as their social work director and had also worked with hospice in Dalton," said Lisa.

Three years earlier the Swafford family lost a wife and mother, Evelyn, to cancer. She was able to be an organ donor, and this deeply impacted Lisa in her decision to have transplants.

"We both are organ donors and encourage others to do that," says John. "Evelyn thought that with the spread of cancer they would not accept her organs. After her death, four people were helped by her eyes."

GIVE IT TO GOD

BY REBECCA GRICE

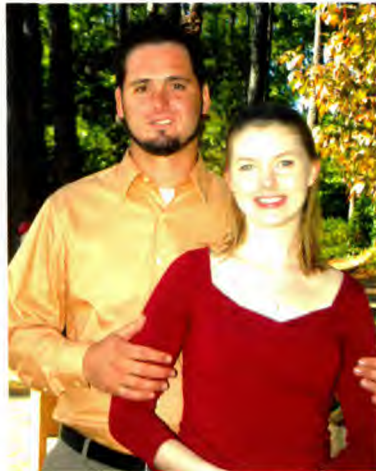
TWO COUPLES OVERCOME THE STRUGGLE TO WITNESSING.

For more than two years, Richard Reyes ignored God's calling to do more to witness for Him. At the same time, Jerod Hauffe was excited about what God was doing in his life, and he felt the desire to share his experience with others. "I wondered if God was calling me to be a pastor," Hauffe explains. Both Hauffe and Reyes attend the University Parkway Church in Pensacola, Florida. After talking with their pastor, James Mangum, they decided, with the support of Richard's wife, Kayna, and Jerod's wife, Heather, that they could do a ShareHim evangelism series together.

Immediately they began to recruit others to help. Soon the whole church was talking about preparing for the ShareHim meetings.

A place to hold the meetings was rented. Prayer walks were organized. Neighborhood surveys were taken. Brochures and invitations were mailed. Young, old, children, men, and women worked.

On the first night, a Friday, the room filled with members, but only two visitors — and they were ones who came because a friend who was a member had invited them. The pastor was concerned. "They are laypeople and they've put their all into this. What if they get discouraged?"



Jerod and Heather Hauffe were excited when the church members came together and helped make the ShareHim series a success.

On Sabbath morning, an appeal was made. More prayers were offered. More brochures and invitations were delivered. Then each night the number of visitors grew. "We found that God blessed our efforts, but not necessarily our method," Reyes says. "The thing that was happening was our members began inviting their family and friends."

At the end of the series, four people were baptized, but the witnessing didn't stop. A ShareHim class for visitors was held every Sabbath. One Sabbath Reyes got tired of waiting for the greeters to send someone to his class. He walked into the sanctuary, spotted two visitors, and invited them to his class. Now, one of them has become a member of the Church.

The pastor learned to be humble. He says, "Reyes suggested that I needed to preach more sermons on evangelism and make more altar calls. He was right. I changed my sermons, and we began making plans for the next year."

The meetings ended in November of 2007, and plans were made for another series in 2008. Reyes and Hauffe recruited Leon Henderson, another member, and this time, not one series, but three laity-led series were to be held. In addition, Ralph Ringer, Southern Union church growth/evangelism

training director, would also conduct a series. All were held at different locations during the same time.

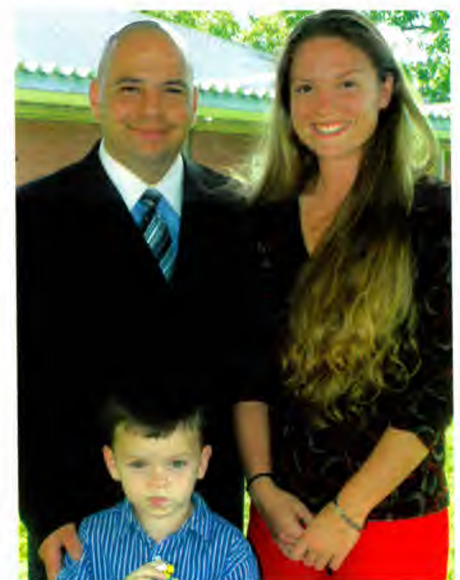
Training sessions were held on Sabbath afternoon to prepare the people. On many Sabbaths, teams of 35 to 40 people would go out visiting.

Bible study interest cards were mailed, and at one time more than 200 Bible studies were being given by the members.

At the end of these series, eight people were baptized and two more were studying.

Hauffe, who is a builder, and Reyes, who is a salesman, agree that if they could preach an evangelistic series, then anyone can.

"Don't look to yourself or your abilities, just give it to God. He'll provide, and you'll be amazed at the blessings," says Hauffe.



Richard and Kayna Reyes with their son: Richard's enthusiasm for evangelism helped ignite excitement in others.

Mission in Motion: Manchester Memorial's Care Extends Beyond Hospital Walls

Manchester Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Ky., is reaching out to meet the health needs of its local community. A new wellness program, Mission in Motion — Connecting You to Good Health, is bringing Christ's ministering touch to people's lives in the form of a mobile health unit.

Located in rural eastern Kentucky, at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the community's access to healthcare and health education is often restricted by hazardous weather conditions, mountain roads, and high fuel costs. This makes mobile health outreach a necessary component of



Manchester Memorial staff begin a day of screenings.

healthcare.

Serving Clay, Owsley, and Jackson counties, the 28-foot Mission in Motion mobile health unit provides free health screenings to assess cholesterol, blood glucose, body mass index, weight, height, and blood pressure. Anyone whose results indicate potential health issues is directed

to further medical care, helping them to reverse, eliminate, or treat their symptoms and disease.

Screenings with the mobile health unit are made available at centrally located churches, health fairs, commu-

nity meetings, and schools. Through timely screenings and community health, Mission in Motion will truly be able to connect all parts of the local community to good health and allow more people to encounter the ministry of Jesus wherever they are.

"It is exciting to know that we are creating a way



Local community members receive free health screenings in the Mission in Motion unit.

to interact and reach out to more and more individuals in our community with the promotion of wellness," said Dennis Meyers, CEO at Memorial Hospital, "I am pleased that our hospital is able to bring our mission beyond hospital walls and to people in need — truly extending the healing ministry of Christ."

—BY REBEKAH KLAVE

Florida Hospital DeLand Gives Hope to Stroke Survivors

Florida Hospital DeLand has launched Saebo Arm training — a breakthrough treatment in upper extremity stroke rehabilitation. This new therapy is providing stroke survivors with a brighter outlook for their future, helping them to regain arm and hand use as well as improve dexterity. Florida Hospital DeLand is the first hospital in West Volusia County to offer such innovative programming with a Saebo-trained technician.

Saebo Arm training includes SaeboStretch,

SaeboFlex, and SaeboReach. SaeboStretch is a revolutionary hand splint used for recovery after a neurological injury such as a stroke. SaeboFlex is a custom-fitted dynamic hand orthosis designed to increase arm and hand move-

ment for the same type of injuries, while SaeboReach



Saebo products are demonstrated, showing improved dexterity.

is an extension piece on the SaeboFlex, which gives the elbow more range of motion.

According to the Stroke Association, approximately 780,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

This means,

on average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds.

"Saebo products are an exciting new option for stroke patients," said Nicole Scheiman, occupational therapist at Florida Hospital DeLand. "They are a great treatment option, in conjunction with other stroke rehab services that give hope to patients who suffered a stroke years ago, and to those who have lost hope."

This treatment is changing lives, providing stroke survivors with a new-found mobility and hope.

—BY ERIN HUNTER

SAC Holds 19th Annual Convention in Denver, CO

The 19th annual Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention was held October 9-11, in Denver, Colo. With so many innovative individuals in one place, it's no surprise that the event was packed full of creative collaboration, cutting-edge technology, and inspiring seminars for the 170 attendees. The



theme, "The Communicator's Edge: Taking it to the Peak," resonated throughout the convention, as participants explored ways to expand their communication effectiveness.

The convention kicked off with an opening reception on Thursday evening. Attendees enjoyed a 'meet and greet' before the evening program where a new feature, the Communication Showcase, was introduced. Six individuals shared the creative process behind recent campaigns, as well as fresh approaches to tackling potential setbacks. Following, a business meeting was held to address various organizational issues, including a new membership structure.

A new paid membership program was introduced to help the Society's continual growth. The annual membership fee of \$25 (\$10 for students) will pro-

vide members with a wealth of resources, including on-line podcasts of convention seminars, an online learning center, membership directory, and professional development resources that include resume and career postings.

The evening concluded with the SONscreen Showcase. The best films of the 2008 SONscreen festival were presented, highlighting young adults using film and video as a mode of communicating social awareness, community outreach, and inspiring entertainment.

The second day began with a keynote address by the Small Family Associates LLC. The seminar, "Free Your Effectiveness for Peak Communication," explored an innovative concept: by understanding one's natural God-given thinking patterns, one can unleash their full potential as a commu-

nicator. Breakout sessions provided attendees with the opportunity to focus on their individual interests and job requirements. The day's program ended with the concluding chapter of the keynote address as an inspirational evening Vespers program.

Attendees congregated on Sabbath morning for a prayer breakfast and Sabbath School. A panel held a discussion on "Living the Adventist Mission." The Union College Golden Chords String Quartet performance set the tone for a moving worship service. The message for Sabbath was Richard Stenbakken's dramatic presentation of Nehemiah.

The success of the convention continued into the night at the awards banquet and farewell. Comedian Taylor Mason dazzled the audience with a witty and engaging performance. Indi-

vidual efforts were awarded during the ceremony: the Student Award, winner Natalia Lopez-Thismon; Young Professional Award, winner Marnel N. Niles, Ph.D.; Award of Excellence, winner William Armendaris for PCJovenes.com; and Lifetime Achievement Award, winner Jeff Wood. The late Reger C. Smith (served as the

General Conference associate communication director for public relations) was recognized for his years of service and contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to his wife, Delores, in his honor. As a tribute to Smith, the Cutting Edge Award was introduced as a new awards category, acknowledging forward-thinking individuals and projects.

The convention proved to be a time to explore, hone, and celebrate the many talents with which God has blessed. As gifts from Him, they should be used *for* Him. The attendees carried home the theme's core message: "In everything we do, we should commit to excellence — we should *take it to the peak.*"

Save the date: SAC '09 will be held October 15-18, in San Diego, Calif.

—BY JULIE ZAIBACK

Five Oaks Holds International Festival Weekend



Traditional music and food from around the world was the order of the day during the 2008 International Weekend held at the Durham Five Oaks Church on August 3 and 4, 2008.



foods and displayed cultural items. Epicurean tastes were satisfied as many visitors and church members sampled and enjoyed traditional foods from the array of cultures. The festival was



The International Weekend Festival is a celebration of the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of the Five Oaks Church. It was the brain-child of church members Godfrey and Beverley Briscoe. More than 20 ethnic or national affinities were represented at the event, hosted by individuals interested in focusing on the church's diversity. Some of the countries represented were Haiti, Brazil, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Korea, Lebanon, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, India, Zimbabwe, Romania, Tanzania, Denmark, Trinidad, Russia, Philippines, Uganda, Germany, Columbia, and the United States.

Flags and traditional dress portrayed stories of members' ethnic heritage. Many offered authentic

designed to nourish the body, mind, and spirit with tempting foods and educational experiences, not to mention an informative Spirit-filled sermon.

The Sabbath service began with a march of the countries, each person carrying a flag representing their country. The sermon was delivered by Nikolaus

Satelmajer, pastor, who is originally from Germany and during his life also spent time in Yugoslavia. He said that as a Church, we are scattered, yet united, referencing Acts 2:1-13, which speaks of the oneness experienced on the Day of Pentecost. Satelmajer also referenced Revelation 19:1, and invited everyone to come into unity with the Holy Spirit, to see the person but not origin, to consider the needs of people, and to see the need to forgive.

On Sunday, all the countries' representatives showcased their beautiful garb as they modeled the traditional dress of their native lands. Dexter Richardson, pastor of the New Life Church, served as the master of ceremony for this segment. There was also a rousing musical selection by a group of drummers.

The festival successfully introduced the community to the Five Oaks Church and fostered congregational unity.

—BY DORIS COOMBS



Eight Weeks to Wellness Benefits Monroe Members

Making healthy choices can be a puzzle for most people. But nearly 25 members of the Monroe Adventist Church family “stepped up to the plate” and took on the Eight Weeks to Wellness health program.

Each week the participants gathered to learn more about the way their bodies work, and how to make healthier choices in eating and exercise. Topics included identifying and developing a healthy lifestyle, becoming more physically active, choosing meals low in saturated fat and cholesterol, protecting their health by eating fiber-rich foods, achieving and maintaining a healthy weight, recognizing and avoiding dependencies, coping more effectively with stress, and focusing on the prevention of diseases.

There were moans and groans as Monroe members

helped each other, through the power of prayer, to make some life-changing decisions. Questionable food items were shunned and replaced with water bottles as a constant companion. Pedometers were snapped onto belts as the new health enthusiasts began hitting the pavement. It was a grand and glorious kick-off to a better life.

There were many success stories: pounds lost, blood levels improved, and a general overall improvement in their feeling of well-being. For many it meant making changes in habits that were quickly becoming life-threatening.

Understanding that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we as Christians desire to improve our relationship with our Creator by strengthening our minds and spirits. Strengthening our body is a very important part of that process.



BECKY CARPENTER

Monroe member Bobby Carpenter demonstrates the confusion people seem to be in when it comes to food and stress.

The Monroe health ministries team hopes that with the Master Designer's help, this is only the begin-

ning of a permanent lifestyle change and a closer walk with Jesus for all.

—BY DEANETTE MILLS

Canadian Emphasis at Asheville North Church

Members at Asheville North Church were greeted by a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman, also known as church member Ned Frazier, as they arrived at the church for worship in early September.

As part of the monthly World Sabbath mission emphasis, this special program featured good

neighbor Canada. The spotlight was on Canada's radio outreach program, which includes VOAR, a Canadian Christian radio ministry owned and operated by the Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Pictured right, Frazier greets member Mary Powell as she arrives with her weekly bouquet of beautiful roses. Powell shares

these with the church and then sends them home with a member or visitor.

Many church members received photos of themselves with the “Canadian Mountie” in exchange for giving to the Canadian mission fund.

—BY FLORIE ROGERS



Book Proceeds Benefit Church Plant Congregation



While Hazel Henry taught her grandchildren Ayianna (left), Frank, and Annika, to pray more effectively, she wrote *Transform Your Child's Prayer Life In Thirty Days*, now available in Adventist Book Centers.

"Mother, you did so well teaching me to pray, would you please do the same for my children?" requested Hazel Henry's son, Kirk. As she met with her grandchildren for worship and prayer sessions, the idea of writing a book that shared the concepts she used, grew stronger.

Henry was not a writer, so she took advantage of every opportunity to learn the secrets of good writing. More importantly, She had a good talk with God about writing the book. God's word to her was, "If I allow you to write, will you give the proceeds of the first book to Me? The proceeds from any future book will

be for you. Do you agree?"

Henry agreed and began to write her first book, which is designed to help parents and grandparents conduct meaningful worships with their children and grandchildren. Proceeds from her book, *Transform Your Child's Prayer Life In Thirty Days*, will benefit the Frostproof Mission, a church plant sponsored by the Avon Park, Fla., Church.

Parents will appreciate how this book helps teach children to have a close relationship with God.

Hazel Henry may be contacted at hazel.p.graham@gmail.com

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK

LAMB Program Helps Children of Prisoners



Women's ministries members of the Lady Lake, Fla., Church have been involved with the Love a Mother's Baby (LAMB) program for the past three years, responding to incarcerated moms who request surrogates for their children

while they are in prison. The women of the church, under the direction of Elaine Seiden and her assistant, Patsy Crawford, meet on Thursday mornings in intercessory prayer, asking God to open new doors for them to help children.

One opening led them to a family of four children, ages 8, 10, 12, and 14, who were staying with their grandparents. Food and supplies were brought to them, a memorable Christmas was provided, and the children were given new Bibles on their birthdays.

After the mother was released from prison, she was hired at McDonald's and worked her way up to become the assistant

manager. When her family moved into their own apartment, the women's ministries group provided furniture for the kitchen and living room, and outfitted the bedroom with linens. The family thought it was Christmas! Members from women's ministries continue checking in with the family to see how they are doing.

Another adopted family to receive help has a father who works at a minimum-wage job and tries to support his four children while his wife is in prison. Donations of food have made it possible for the father to save money for gas and utilities. A new washer and dryer provided by donations

has meant the world to this dad. Through the kindness of the Lady Lake pastor, Donald Shaw, a purple bicycle fulfilled the 10-year-old child's birthday wish.

In this same household, family members were sleeping on the floor when God intervened and helped the Lady Lake team provide beds and linens in an extreme home makeover. "I didn't mind the floor," said the father, "but it's so good to be sleeping in a bed."

As the women's group from Lady Lake plans a surprise for the family this Christmas, they already know that new Bibles will be among the presents given to the children.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Forest Lake Academy Upgrades Dorm Facilities

The boys' dormitory at Forest Lake Academy (FLA) housed young men for nearly five decades before it was leveled by demolition crews in October. Built during the 1963-1964 school year with strong rebar and a sturdy foundation, McClure Hall was renovated in the 1970's with electrical and air conditioning improvements.

Named in honor of Principal Warner McClure, who served at FLA from 1929-1937, the dormitory holds nostalgic memories for past residents and those who helped build it. Steve Patrick, history teacher at FLA, recalls a dorm stay in 1965 and being impressed with a luxury provided by an electric shoe polish machine in the hallway.

Rooms are available for future FLA students in the remodeled girls' north/south wing (Memorial Hall) and the newly constructed boys' east/west wing (McClure Hall). With construction completed during the 2007-2008 school year, the remodeled Campus Chapel separates adjoining dorm areas on the first floor, while a solid wall separates second and third floor rooms. Both wings house up to 60 students and include an elevator, apartments for the dean and assistant dean, kitchenettes, and game and workout areas. Currently, 26 boys and 22 girls live in the dorm, leaving room for additional students to enjoy FLA's new residence halls.

—BY CAROLYN JENSEN



CAROLYN JENSEN

Demolition workers clear away 44-year-old McClure Hall.



MARTIN BUTLER

The old girls' dormitory east/west wing was converted into McClure Hall (pictured with expansion) for male residents. The renovated north/south wing still serves as Memorial Hall for female residents.

Meet the Announcer



LEE BENNETT

Even though Dennis McKenzie makes a living with his voice, his position as announcer on Families By Design is a contribution to the ministry.

Dennis McKenzie, a member of University Church in Orlando, Fla., is program announcer for Families By Design, a new talk show soon to air on the LifeTalk Radio Network.

"His perfect timing and wording make him an excellent announcer," says Dan Forbes, program co-host and University Church pastor.

McKenzie's expertise comes naturally as he is a professional announcer at a sports venue in Orlando, where he signed a contract seven years ago that allows him to not work Sabbaths.

—BY MARTIN BUTLER

Fort Lauderdale Honors Volunteers



DENISE THOMPSON

Three Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church members were honored in a special Sabbath School program, October 18, by the Community Services Department for helping feed 150 needy people every Tuesday in Broward County. Pictured with the pastor, Jeffrey Thompson, and holding plaques: Owen Flynn (left), Beverly Smith, and Albert Shaw. The recognition program was coordinated by Fay Reynolds.

Atlanta Literature Evangelists Break Record

Literature evangelists have been working in Atlanta in preparation for the 2010 General Conference Session. This summer, one group broke records for a team their size — 24 students and five leaders — by earning a total of \$180,000 and distributing more than 20,000 health and religious books throughout Atlanta and the surrounding area.

Rene Metz, associate publishing director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, set a goal of \$160,000 for the Atlanta program to earn by summer's end. But a few weeks later, after seeing their success and praying with the team leaders, he moved the previously set

goal to \$180,000. To reach the new goal, they had to average about \$25,000 per week during the remaining five and a half weeks.

Once the goal was restated, Atlanta literature evangelists began to see a transformation within the group as their faith in God grew to levels it had never reached before.

"It was amazing to see God work. Every day we would go out and pray, and literally, I've never experienced this before, but God answered all our prayers," says Nigel Francois, co-leader of the Atlanta program. "If we prayed for a seven-book set in a business strip — it happened. It came to a point in the summer

where we just knew that we would reach our goal. There was no doubt."

Students also observed how the economy and natural disasters were influencing peoples' search for God.

"During times of trouble people draw back to God," says Rhina Urdaneta, a student in the Atlanta program. "With gas prices rising and the tornado that had just passed through Atlanta, we thought it was going to be a hard

summer to canvass, but people had such a thirst for the message. Money wasn't an issue to them because they saw the spiritual importance of the books and longed to have them."

—BY SUZANNE OSCAI



Ruth Urdaneta shares a personal testimony of how she saw God bless during the summer.

Groundbreaking Held for Collegedale Middle School

As the bucket on the backhoe pierced the roof and pushed in a wall,

cheers and clapping came from many in the crowd. Although it was a perfectly

good house, and had been a home for many years, with its demolition it brought hope for the future...the future of a new middle school.

The groundbreaking on October 26 was, unfortunately, just

a ceremonial program. To begin actual construction on the middle school, one hundred percent of the construction budget needs to be pledged. As of October 25, more than \$225,000 was still needed.

The program included remarks from Don Duff, school control board chair; Murray Cooper, A.W. Spalding principal; John Turner, mayor of Collegedale; Wolf Jedamski, Collegedale Church administrator; Gordon Bietz, Southern Adventist University president; and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president. The Collegedale Academy Caroliers sang "A

Cannon of Praise" in celebration of the memorable day.

With 439 students enrolled at A.W. Spalding for the 2008-09 school year and 16 on the waiting list, the need to expand is obvious according to Cynthia Gettys, Conference vice president for education.

Murray Cooper, A.W. Spalding principal, says, "The new building will allow for significant growth of the middle school and give additional space in the existing AWS building for growth in K-5 grades as well."

—BY SHERRIE WILLIAMS



SHERRIE WILLIAMS

Demolition of this house took place at the groundbreaking ceremony, clearing the way for construction of the new middle school for the Collegedale area.

Adventists Hold Health Expo at Islamic Meeting

Imagine having the opportunity to interact with the largest annual Muslim gathering in the United States. Imagine being able to share basic health principles in a group of nearly 30,000 Muslims and initiate spiritual conversations revolving around living in preparation for the Day of Judgment. Imagine having positive responses and invitations to do more. In a world of fragmented prejudices — splitting people from side to side, color to color, religion to religion, and country to country — imagine having a group of Adventists and Muslims crossing those gaps and working together to build a bridge between these two groups who have much in common.

God has already begun to make this dream a reality.

During Labor Day weekend, a small group of

Adventists and Muslims were given the opportunity to hold a Health Expo at the annual meeting of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) in Columbus, Ohio. The expo featured eight stations identifying basic health principles and offered a free health screening directly in front of the main Bazaar.

The Adventist volunteer team included a small group from the Atlanta chapter of the Adventist-Muslim Fellowship Association (AMFA, amfaatlanta.com), some friends from Alabama, students from Southern Adventist University, and volunteers from Ohio.

The Muslim attendees shared their joy and surprise at Adventists being at



Adventist volunteers share messages about healthy living with Muslims at an Islamic meeting.

the expo, coupled with a genuine interest as to how the group were invited and who Adventists are. With the mounting positive responses and the interest in the group returning next

year, AMFA realized that this was only the beginning of what God may want to do. The fact that the Adventist group was participating in this kind of interfaith activity was even talked about in some of the larger breakout meetings, extolling the wisdom of ISNA in allowing the group to be there and the Adventists being willing to come. Imagine!

What would

happen if more Adventists realized their unique opportunity to build relationships like this? What if more knew how to describe their faith in a way with which Muslims could resonate? What if more were willing to cross the ethnic, religious, and even patriotic barriers in order to live out real, godly love? What if the support for this kind of foundational work grew to such a level that Muslims across the country (even the world) would learn that Adventists could be some of the "People of the Book" that the Qur'an identifies as being true in faith? Imagine!

To learn more, contact amfaatlanta@gmail.com. Please pray and join AMFA in this work of which only God knows the full extent.

—BY AMFA ATLANTA



The health expo provides the opportunity for conversations that build relationships.

Bass Students Help Hurricane Ike Victims



Seniors spent what should have been their senior retreat, helping the victims of Hurricane Ike. Four days later, another group of students from Bass arrived to continue the disaster response assistance.

When Hurricane Ike hit the Texas coast recently, the senior class at Bass Memorial Academy had been planning for its annual class retreat.

The retreat was to be a fun weekend of camping in the north Alabama mountains, white-water rafting, and a trip to the Tennessee Aquarium. But when

confronted with the need for disaster relief volunteers, the students unanimously voted to forego the retreat and go to Texas instead to help. On September 16, the first group of students traveled to Bridge City, Tex., where they spent the next four days living out the Gospel with their hands and their actions.

"We cleaned their houses and yards, packed what they could save, gave them things they needed, and prayed with them. I had never seen people who have lost everything be so happy. They weren't happy because of their loss, but because 'kids' that they didn't know stopped and

showed them that someone cares," explained Bass senior Erica Love.

The following week, a second group from Bass spent another four days doing the same kind of things: serving in a community kitchen, working the emergency distribution line, taking water and ice to communities, cleaning out houses and yards, helping people pack up belongings, removing fallen trees, lending a listening ear, and prayed with anyone who gave them an opportunity.

The consensus was that the students received as big a blessing as those they helped.

—BY KIM TWOMLEY

Panama City Church Sponsors Community Fun Day

The family life department of the Panama City, Fla., Church, sponsored its first Community Family Fun Day on October 14. The event was coordinated by Anita Pembleton, family life director.

The goal for the free, fun day was to build an awareness in the community of resources available, and to create a non-threatening witnessing tool for the church. From the interaction, and responses of those attending, the day was an overwhelming success.

Activities consisted of visits from the Panama City Fire Department and the Naval Coastal System's mascot, Coastie, as well as a presentation from a repre-

sentative from Bay County's Emergency Management Division. The biggest hit was the giant waterslide, which was enjoyed by children of all ages. The dunking booth was home to court jester Clayton Abbott who enjoyed lots of baths in the cool water.

Other activities included bobbing for apples, puppet shows, face painting, craft sales, food, and a health booth, which focused on weight management in children as well as adults. Aracelia Bernier, M.D., Andrea Moore, and their team, conducted blood pressures and cholesterol checks for the adults. Numerous displays and handouts to aid the public in making healthy

life choices were available. *Your Friends*, *the Adventists* pamphlets and *Happiness Digest* books were given to those attending, a donation from Francine Holley.

Ninety percent of the attendees were not Adventists. Many members saw this as a wonderful way to introduce their friends to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Fun Day was the first for the church, but will not be the last. Representing the views of all present, one young mother



Activities included a visit from the City Fire Department, which parents and children enjoyed.

said, "Thank you for having this Fun Day because my husband has finally found an activity in our church in which he feels comfortable in attending with me and my children."

—BY ANITA PEMBLETON

Good Food Highlights Week of Health Emphasis



Four student volunteer chefs from the sixth to eighth grade classrooms prepared Special K casseroles.

The grocery bag game was one of the activities students at Pensacola, Fla., Junior Academy participated in during Health Empha-

sis Week, September 8-12.

Students categorized all the groceries a parent had purchased based on sugar, fat content, and nutritional

value. They learned the longer the ingredients list on the label, the unhealthier the product.

Daily activities included sampling healthy snacks, participating in physical activity, and watching demonstrations by health professionals. John J. Lanza, M.D., director of the Escambia County Health Department, gave a presentation on children's health issues at an evening meeting attended by students, parents, and visitors. He emphasized the alarming increase of type II diabetes among children, and its relationship to their diet and lack of exercise.

Ann Pittman, R.N., demonstrated fat content

in popular fast foods. Kim Rushing, a naturopathic physician, spoke to the students about the importance of fresh air, sunshine, pure water, eating an abundance of fresh fruits and raw vegetables, and getting plenty of rest. While the concept of sharing the health message is not new, according to Jan Hussong, school board chairperson, "We hope that we have in some small way made a positive impact on our students, and ultimately their parents and guardians, to become more health conscious." Health Week was sponsored by the Home & School Association, led by Brenda Siverio.

—BY GLENDA HASS

Murriel Peterson Celebrates 100th Birthday



What is the secret to long life? That is what friends at Murriel Peterson's 100th birthday celebration wanted to know. Peterson didn't think she could attribute her long life to any one thing, but she did point out that when she was growing up in Minne-

sota, nearly everything she ate came from the family's garden. "We didn't have all of the processed and packaged foods that are available today," says Peterson.

She was born on September 14, 1908, in Pine City, Minn.

Peterson has enjoyed traveling, having visited England, France, Belgium, and Japan, as well as many historic locations in the United States.

She was living in Olympia, Wash., when she joined the Church on March 3, 1984. She then moved to Enterprise, Ala., in 1985, and transferred her membership to the Dothan, Ala., First Church, where

church members took turns transporting her to and from church. She now lives in Milton, Fla., where she is assisted by her close friend, Peggy Grantham, who helped plan the birthday celebration with friend Gerald Flynn and church member Brenda Boutin. Peterson's membership remains with the Dothan First Church.

In 1991, when Peterson began taking art lessons, friends discovered her hidden talent. Her paintings now decorates the church fellowship hall, and the homes of members and friends. In keeping with this willingness to try new things, Peterson went for

a hot air balloon ride with her son, George, when she was in her 90's. Then, on her 98th birthday, George took her for a helicopter ride.

She has survived three husbands and three sons. She continues to touch lives with her wisdom, affection, and zest for life. The secret to her long life is most likely a combination of good health that comes as a result of honest labor, a pure lifestyle, her sense of adventure, and desire to keep learning, plus the way she gives herself to others and the blessing of God in whom she puts her hope and trust.

—BY ANN MARIE BATES

Christopher Rollins Ordained

Christopher Rollins was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sabbath, August 16, 2008, at the Murray Church. Officiating from the Conference headquarters were Richard Hallock, president, who gave the ordination address; Douglas Hilliard, treasurer; and John van Zyl, ministerial director.

Rollins, a native of Indiana, grew up spending summers in central Indiana and winters in



southeast Georgia. In 1996, Rollins enrolled at Southern Adventist University where he earned a B.A. degree in

theology, and graduated in 2001. He took a year off to serve as an English, science, history, and Bible teacher at a mission school on the island of Yap. While at Southern he met Anne Rasmussen.

In 2001, he enrolled at the Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich. On May 19, 2002, the couple were married in Modesto, Calif. He received his M.Div. degree from the Seminary in 2003.

In January 2004, Rollins began his internship with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at the Madison Campus Church in Madison, Tenn. Since April of 2005, he has served as the pastor of the Paducah-Murray district in Kentucky.

Anne Rollins recently finished course work to become a registered nurse. She has passed the state boards and currently works at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Ky.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Pathfinders Discover More Than Scrapbooking

“This is more than scrapbooking,” says Dee Lovejoy. She has been teaching the basic and advanced scrapbooking honors to several Pathfinders of the Tullahoma, Tenn., Club, and considers it her mission project. “I call it ‘Memories of God Moments.’ It’s an autobiography of their lives with a spiritual focus.”

This summer, Lovejoy devoted her craft room to teaching Pathfinders how to use pictures, embellishments, embossing, and matting, as well as their Bibles, concordances, quotes, and journaling to creatively express their life experiences. She prefers to call it “faith-booking,” as the process

helps the students record their experiences with God.

Esther Chung, 13, who completed the basic and

of what God has given or shown you in those times.” She learned a lot through the process and enjoyed

ers learn how to keep a journal and use it to give more details of their experiences. Chung thanks



Five Pathfinders show their scrapbooking work: Jannai Arellano (left), Esther Chung, Jasmine Arellano, Erin Son, and Sarah Luthringer.

God because He has given her the special moments highlighted in her scrapbook. “Learning this honor,” she adds, “has brought me closer to God because I have a new perspective in looking at my past.” She definitely plans to continue scrapbooking her “Memories of God Moments.”

Shyann Durham and Sarah Luthringer completed the basic scrapbooking honor.

Jannai Arellano, Jasmine Arellano, Esther Chung, and Erin Son completed both the basic and advanced honors.

—BY OLIVE BREECE

advanced honors, says, “Scrapbooking helps you remember the past because when you’re older, you may not remember what you did. It reminds you

creatively expressing her feelings in decorating the page.

Pictures and decorating, however, don’t tell the whole story. The Pathfind-

Lebanon Hispanic Church Organized

Richard Hallock, Conference president, and Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, officiated in the organization of the Lebanon Hispanic Church on Sabbath, September 27.



MARVIN LOWMAN

Nine members who were the original core group who started the Hispanic group in Lebanon

The congregation has its roots in the Hispanic Church in Madison, Tenn., from which the founders emerged. Near the end of 2003, the Valdes and

Suarez families, who had been traveling from Lebanon to Madison to worship, guided by God's will, decided it was time to begin a group in Lebanon. There

was also a growing Hispanic community in Lebanon.

Despite some obstacles, these families continued towards their goal and held their first meeting on February 7, 2004. Much of the success of

establishing the Hispanic group was due to the help and encouragement of the English-speaking

church in Lebanon, which opened its doors to accommodate the needs of the fledgling group. Encouragement and support also came from other Hispanic churches.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN



DONETTE LOWMAN

Members sign their names indicating their desire to be charter members of the new church.

Amazing Adventure Held in Ridgetop

Amazing Adventure, a live satellite series for children, was well attended by both children and adults at the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church. The series was produced by Amazing Facts, featuring Doug Batchelor as the speaker. More than 60 children registered and were given study guide packets.

Twenty-one children received certificates for perfect attendance for the nine-day series, and 36, who attended at least half of the meetings, were presented Bibles with their names imprinted on them. Other incentives were T-shirts

with the Amazing Adventure logo for bringing a friend, who also received a shirt, and a nightly drawing

the half-hour parenting seminars, "Raising Kids for Heaven," which followed, were recorded and will be

tized. Follow-up continues with these interests. Church members participated in all aspects of the program



KEVIN BLANKENSHIP

Bob Korzyniowski (left), pastor, with a group of the children in attendance

for a book from the Adventist Book Center.

Bob Korzyniowski, pastor, served as emcee. Doug Batchelor's presentations, along with

duplicated and delivered to the families of those who attended. Thirty-five children made decisions for Christ, and several indicated an interest in being bap-

—organizing, advertising, decorating, greeting, and registration.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Conference President Re-enlists in the “Bookman Army”



Vanard Mendinghall, South Atlantic Conference president, canvasses a perspective buyer for Message magazine.

“A person really can make a living doing this,” testified Vanard Mendinghall, South Atlantic Conference president. He came to this conclusion after selling *Message* magazines in a Publix parking lot and seeing the impact he was able to make in a short period of time.

That afternoon was

43 years in the making. Mendinghall trained to be a literature evangelist in 1965 under the leadership of Clarence Richardson, Southeastern Conference publishing director. The day after completing his training for the Lord’s Army, he was drafted into Uncle Sam’s Army. Thus, his calling to the literature ministry was deferred, but not denied.

Currently in his third term as Conference president, Mendinghall has also served as a pastor, youth director, executive secretary, and education superintendent.

After four decades of doing almost everything else, he has come full circle to march in the “Bookman Army.”

—BY CARL MCROY

Andrew Caban Joins South Atlantic Team

One of the newest members of the South Atlantic team of pastors is Andrew Caban.

Caban has formerly worked with other conferences where he served as an associate pastor, special education teacher, and



district pastor. In those positions, he gained valuable experience in both leadership and ministry, as well as in administration.

He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University with a B.A. in religion. Later he continued

his studies obtaining a master of divinity at Andrews University Theological Seminary.

Caban is married to Mariany, a physician, and they have two children: a daughter, Andrea Beatrice, and a son, Andres.

Caban is a committed Christian, devoted husband, faithful friend, compas-

sionate pastor, fearless evangelist, trustworthy leader, good neighbor, and seasoned veteran in God’s army.

Caban is fluent in both Spanish and English. He will serve the Adairsville, Dalton, and Roswell, Ga., Hispanic churches; and the Rome, Ga., English church.

—BY EFRAIN POLOCHE

South Atlantic Holds First Publishing Summit

Literature evangelists stand on the promise of Isaiah 55:11: “...My word... shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Just a few words from God make an impact.

To take part in such an inspirational impact in the 21st century is the reason literature evangelists convened for the first South Atlantic Conference Publishing Summit in

Orangeburg, S.C., October 17-19. Local church publishing representatives from Georgia and the Carolinas came together for prayer, fellowship, and training. Workshops were presented under the broad headings of “Reports, Results, and Recruits.”

The training provided by pastors William Smith, Carl McRoy, Tabari Brannon, and Kerwin Jones was complimented by a challenging message from William Winston,

South Atlantic executive secretary. As good as the teaching and preaching was, there was a higher goal than personal edification. The attendees put feet to their faith. In just one hour they distributed nearly 100 *Message* magazines, and gained 48 study interests to be followed up by the Christ is the Answer Church in Orangeburg.

The group looks forward to the testimonies that will be heard in Heaven as



Literature evangelists distributed nearly 100 Message magazines in Orangeburg, S.C.

a result of that inspirational impact.

—BY CARL MCROY

Decatur Member Promoted Assistant Surgeon General

Rear Admiral (RADM) Clara Henderson Cobb was promoted to the distinguished rank of assistant surgeon general, October 1, 2007.

RADM Cobb has spent 29 years in the United States Public Health Service (PHS). She has advanced from lieutenant junior grade, lieutenant, lieutenant commander, commander, captain, and now rear admiral. This rank is comparable to that of a brigadier general.

Cobb is often confused with military personnel and takes every possible opportunity to share with others this unique service. She is a member of the uniformed services but not the armed services. She is one of six African Americans who currently hold the rank of rear admiral in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; one of four females of the six; and the only one of the six located in the southeast — representing the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Today, the Commissioned Corps is America's only uniformed service of the seven made up exclusively of public health professionals. The PHS



responds to health needs following man-made disasters, provides health care to underserved populations, and conducts cutting edge medical research. Its members serve on every public health front, delivering clinical and humanitarian care, and protecting national public health security.

Cobb's promotion was formally celebrated during a ceremony on April 2, 2008. On that day, she became a member of a very select group, one percent of the Commissioned Corps who are flag officers, the senior leaders, the counselors, the mentors, and the role models for the rest of the Commissioned Corps. There are more than 6,000 Commissioned Corps officers in the Public Health Service

today and hence, a maximum of only 60 flag officers.

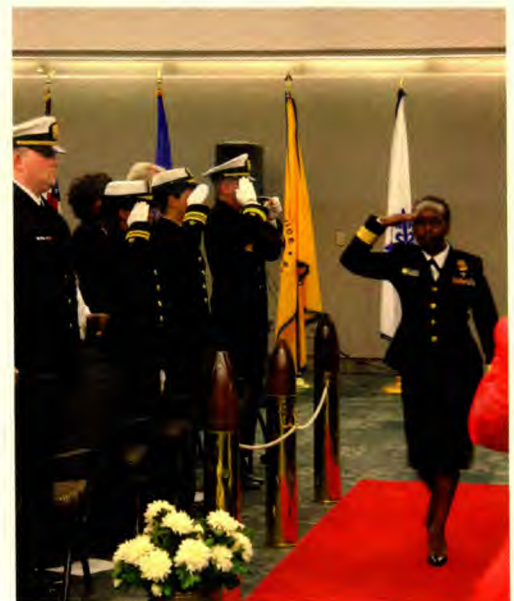
The crowning act came when Cobb received her own flag. In the services, a flag is a visible symbol of officership, authority, and responsibility. Her flag is proudly displayed in her office and at official functions.

RADM Cobb is currently the regional health administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services, Region IV. She serves as the principal federal public health leader, reporting directly to the assistant secretary for health. She provides executive level leadership in policy development, planning implementation, and evaluation of public health programs, and directs five regionally based programs designed to protect and promote the health of all communities within the eight southeastern states. As of May 2008,

she concurrently serves as acting regional director for Region IV, where she serves as a regional representative for inter-governmental affairs. In this role, she represents the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in direct official dealings with state, local, and tribal government organizations; and maintains effective working relationships with governors, mayors, and other key state, local, and tribal officials.

She is based at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center in Atlanta, Ga., and resides in Conyers, Ga., with her husband, Milton, and daughter, Chelsea. For the past 22 years, she has been a member of the Decatur, Ga., Church.

—BY LEE TOWNSEND



Rear Admiral Clara Cobb walks the red carpet at her promotion ceremony.

Flea Market Evangelism

BY NANCY LAWSON

Due to world conditions, people are looking for answers. During a period of 10 to 12 years, sharing truth-filled literature, tracts, has been a special joy of mine. "May I share this with you?" In less than a minute, eternal life can be offered to someone. Asking permission to share this literature is vital and very effective. During the years, only a few individuals have said, "no."

Most people say, "yes" and "thank you" with a smile. Whether at the mall, in the market, or the bank, tract distribution is a vital part of life for me.

Since people are still looking for answers, especially these days, I desired to share more than a small tract. While prayerfully seeking effective ways to witness, a program on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) gave me the answer. Even aging and declining health could not impede this new witnessing idea. Immediately, I began pulling books from my own library, soliciting books from others, and purchasing books. A booth at a large flea market in the area was



MICHAEL HARPE

Jodi says she could never understand the Bible, but this book, Bible Readings for the Home, makes it clear. She wants to share it with friends.

rented, and for the next eight months on Sabbath afternoon and on Sunday, we shared free books in English and Spanish, and children's books were also given away. A turning point came because of a *Southern Tidings* article written by Wayne Phibbs who started flea market evangelism 13 years ago. With the help and counsel of Phibbs and his ministry partner, Joe Sears, we have transformed our booth and greatly increased our inventory. Funding is a challenge, yet some donations from members keep us encouraged. Our most recent addition to the ministry and blessing came when Joyce Williams, a retired nurse, started free blood pressure checks on Sun-

days. This increased visitors to our booth and book distribution by 60 to 75 percent.

Jodi, a 14-year-old, reading *Bible Readings for the Home*, said she could never understand the Bible, but this book makes it clear. She wants to share it with her friends. Visitors, vendors, and the administration are pleased and excited about what's happening in the booth at Limestone Flea Market in Madison, Ala. Some say it's the best booth in the facility.

We know that time is short and soon we could be shut down, but the thousands of books that we've shared will continue to witness because God's Word does not fail. We expect to see many "Flea Market" individuals in God's kingdom.



MICHAEL HARPE

A visitor looks at free truth-filled books, while Nancy Lawson (left), and Mary Jones, booth volunteers, look on.

Madison Church Member Helps Bring Relief to Haiti

Haiti was devastated by two Hurricanes recently. When a Hurricane hit Gonaives, Haiti, more than 4,000 people died. News articles reported a situation so horrifying that some of the poor resorted to eating dirt to survive. "Haiti has grandly served the cause of universal human liberty," wrote Frederick Douglass more than a century ago. Yet, Haiti for too long has suffered from chronic poverty and health problems facing its citizens. "Time is running out if we are to help make sure that the Haitian poor do not die in the silence of history" *The Uses of Haiti*,

by Paul Farmer, M.D.
Severe food shortages and hurricane season are



During an aid project, Simeon Nerelus of Haiti Emergency Relief Organization (HERO) holds a set of twins while their mother looks on.

taking a particularly severe toll on the inhabitants of Haiti. This is nothing less than a crisis. In response to this urgent matter, Churchpond Ministries has joined forces with Haiti Emergency Relief Organization (HERO) to bring hope to Haiti's dying children.

October 2007, Simeon Nerelus, president of HERO, went to Haiti and was able to bring relief to 35 families with scholarships for their children to afford a Christian education. He also donated school supplies and hygiene products to the children, and promised that he would return

October 2008.

A team went to assess the situation and provide food for as many families as possible. What they saw was devastating — death and destruction. While there to aid in relief, they would also lay the groundwork for a joint humanitarian/evangelistic mission project. This event is planned for the summer of 2009.

Haiti needs your continued prayers. The children need immediate access to food, healthcare, and education.

Nerelus serves on the board of elders at the Madison Mission Church in Madison, Ala.

—BY SIMEON NERELUS

South Central Holds First Technology Caucus

Hundreds gathered for the first Technology Ministry Caucus held in the South Central Conference territory. This group included communication, technology, and personal ministries leaders. Bible workers attended as well, and all who had an interest in ways to share and enhance the Gospel. First Church in Huntsville, Ala., hosted this event, September 20, 21. The host and hostess from First Church were Norton Webb, media ministries director, and Lillian Redcross, communications director. Many



Norton Webb, church media leader, and Lillian Redcross, church communication leader, share how the new upgrade and media team at First Church developed, and the blessings it brought to the church and community.

traveled from around the Conference to attend the Caucus.

The two-day event included a continental prayer breakfast, technology workshops, a technology

worship experience, discussion forums, lunch, Adventist Youth Society service, and a tour of First Church's new technology upgrade. Childcare

was provided during workshops.

The purpose of the meeting focused on the importance of utilizing affordable technology in the last days to assist in spread-

ing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Millions of individuals may be reached through web ministry from a single church. Why? Because millions of church people are searching the Internet for another spiritual help.

It was shown how technology may be used for the worship experience through the church's media ministries high tech setup. For divine worship, it was lights, cameras, and worship!

Many shared the blessings received by participating. This event was sponsored by South Central's communication department, and organized by its director,

continues on p.35

Oakwood Pauses for Prayer on Election Day

The administration of Oakwood University authorized the dismissal of classes at 12 noon on November 4, to allow for a time of reflection, affirmation, and prayer in honor of this significant Election Day in U.S. history. Classrooms were vacant for the remainder of the afternoon, marking a day that many will remember as one of the most challenging election days in their lifetime, if not in the entire history of America.

The announcement came at the end of chapel that Tuesday when



Faculty, staff, and students form a human "OU" on the field of Oakwood's Centennial Park.

ment. There, on the field of Centennial Square, in front of Oakwood's

signature Monument to Service, everyone paused for prayer for the nation's leaders and the entire national electoral process. It was also a time to reflect on how providentially

God has led the historically black University for more than 112 years since its establishment in 1896 during equally challenging times.

The Huntsville Fire Department was placed on standby as participants excitedly watched a hovering helicopter take off and land as it carried a videog-

rapher and photographer on separate trips up into the air. First, the two-seater aircraft flew local photographer Danny Sesard to capture still shots of the human OU-formation from a bird's eye view. Landing to let Sesard off, Oakwood communication professor Dwyane Cheddar boarded the helicopter to record moving footage of the momentous occasion. Precisely on the president's cue, everyone released

blue and gold helium-filled balloons given out after chapel as the crowd erupted into exuberant shouts. All eyes watched intently as the Oakwood colors made their way into a perfect fall sky.

University offices also closed their doors at three o'clock that afternoon to allow additional time for the Oakwood community to engage in prayer. Anyone who had not already gone to the polls was strongly encouraged to get out and vote for their candidate of choice. A total of 722 votes were cast that day on Oakwood's campus, which served as one of the official polling sites for the historic general election. Election Day events concluded with an informal ice cream and sparkling cider reception under the breezeway between the Moseley Complex and Oakwood University Church.



Marquis Johns (left), religious vice president of the United Student Movement, and Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., Oakwood University president, lead participants in prayer in front of the Monument to Service.

Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., 10th president of Oakwood University, made the official announcement to faculty, staff, and students in the sanctuary of Oakwood University Church. Immediately following the service, attendees streamed out of the sanctuary to assemble in OU-formation, marked out in advance by the Physical Plant Depart-



Oakwood students gathered at a watch party look on with expectancy as newscasters give election poll updates on the big screen at Wade Hall.

Tent Revival Attracts Record Turnout

InTents, an annual weeklong revival-style tent meeting that features music and preaching underneath a large white tent, drew a record number of students to hear Peter Gregory, director of Iona Missions.

This year, an average of 1,100 students attended



Students attended in record numbers to hear Peter Gregory speak during Southern's revival-style InTents meetings.

InTents each evening. During Gregory's

presentations, he made biblical symbolism easy to understand, and his talks resonated with students like sophomore English major Bethany Iuliano, who appreciated his clear and candid style.

"I really liked the speaker because he just took everything straight out of the Bible, and it was really deep," Bethany says. "That's really what caught my attention the

most. The meetings were a real blessing for me."

Donnie Keele, assistant chaplain, says spiritual growth is an important part of a good education at Southern. "It's like what Pastor Gregory has been saying. Yeah, studying is great and you should get into the books, but if you're not into this book," Keele says, pointing at a Bible, "you haven't got it."

—BY MELISSA SWANSON

Lessons to Learn from Ancient Coins

For the first time at Southern, a collection of more than 50 coins from the Greco-Roman era is on display at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum in Hackman Hall. The "Faces of Power," exhibit, which opened on October 8, showcases the close bond that money and power have shared for centuries.

"They've done an outstanding job of finding ways of displaying coins to show the historical con-

text," says Bob Young, Southern's senior vice president of academic administration.

The exhibit relates the wealth and prosperity shown by the coins to the biblical stories of the widow's mite, the 30 pieces of silver given to Judas for his betrayal of Jesus, and others.

"We're hearing a lot about the economic recession and crisis," says Michael Hasel, director of



The "Faces of Power" exhibit is of interest to young and old alike.

the Institute of Archaeology at Southern, "and, of course, Jesus had to deal with these relevant topics too. This exhibit takes us

back to the beginning of the monetary system to look at what was done in biblical times and how we can apply lessons learned from that era today."

The exhibit will remain open through May 9, 2009. For hours, directions, and more information about the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum visit archaeology.southern.edu.

—BY EMILY YOUNG

One Praise Gospel Choir Holds Benefit Concert

Southern Adventist University's One Praise Gospel Choir raised their voices to help victims of Hurricane Ike at a benefit concert on October 4. The concert attracted about 600 attendees and raised more than \$1,000 for the Red Cross to distribute in the Galveston, Tex., area.

"Our main mission,"

says Alexandria Cooke, choir manager, "is to reach out to people not only with our voices but also with our hands and efforts too."

When One Praise Gospel Choir, which holds an annual choir clinic and concert at the beginning of every academic year, heard about the devastation Hurricane Ike left, they

knew they wanted to help and turned the concert into a benefit.

"The choir members allowed God to be seen through them," says Sean Johnson, student finance counselor and choir sponsor. "They let His light shine out."

Choir members were amazed by the success of

the concert and how God had blessed their hard work in such a large way.

"Through the whole experience, I learned that when you do stuff for God with the right spirit, you just have to stand back and watch," says Cooke. "You never know what He's going to do in return."

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

Elsada Grant Celebrates 93 Years

Elsada Grant, a native of Jamaica, celebrated her 93rd birthday with her church family in May 2008.

Grant has been a charter member of the Perrine Church since its inception in 1982.

She has served the Church with diligence in various capacities, including Sabbath School teacher, Bible worker, usher, and head deaconess.

Grant joined the Adventist Church in 1943. As she explains, "Those were difficult times, it was hard to get a job and keep the Sabbath." Additionally, she was discouraged by family and friends, but

she held true. She fasted and prayed. Coupled with her faith in the Lord, her job was secured. She says, "It is a wonderful experi-

ment, belief, trust, and love for the Lord, she was able to witness to her family, and soon her parents and sisters joined her in baptism and shared in her newfound faith.

The young people of Perrine have been benefitted in many ways from Grant's talents. She has produced many full-length drama presentations, such as "Queen Esther" and the "Prodigal Son," which have brought out the best in them.

Also, Grant is blessed with retentive memory. She always has a poem ready and has captivated many audiences with her inspiring poems.

She encourages the youth to excel academically and always has a word of encouragement for them. She counsels them to "be faithful to the Lord because He will see to you like He sees to me."

Grant has five children, 10 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. She zealously serves the Lord and is greatly loved by many. Her admonition is, "Have faith in God, trust Him, live honestly, and leave everything to the Lord."

—BY MILLICENT TAYLOR



Elsada Grant pictured with her family.

ence holding on to Jesus." Because of her commit-

Bible Bowl Alive and Well in Southeastern

"Study not just for the game, but study because your life depends on it!" was the mantra that Keith Gray, youth director of the Southwestern Conference, shared at the 17th National Bible Bowl Championship Games.

Teams from as far north as Canada, and as far south as Florida met in Fort Worth, Tex., to represent their respective conferences in a competition that displayed Bible knowledge and good sportsmanship.

Southeastern Conference had four teams that were all champions in their division at the conference level.

Junior youth, young

adult, and adult division teams were from the First Riviera Beach, Fla., Church, and the senior division team

came from the Citra, Fla., Church.

The senior team, after "an edge of your seat" com-

petition, took first runner up in that division.

The young adult team proudly placed second runner up in their division, a tremendous feat for their first time ever at Nationals.

Hubert Morel, Conference president, congratulated the young people on a job well done. "We may not have brought home a first place trophy, but we've put the other conferences on notice," he stated.

For more information, see your local Adventist Youth Society (AYS) leader or go to Southeastern's Youth Ministries web page at sec-sda.org.

—BY SHERRIE BARTON



During the 17th National Bible Bowl held in Ft. Worth, Tex., team Southeastern from the First Riviera, Fla., Church, deliberates before answering the question presented to them.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL AND FERN HAMPTON

BY LIN POWELL

I first met Bill and Fern Hampton when I, a Baptist teen, attended the Pewee Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church with my Adventist girlfriend, Sandy — now my wife of 41 years.

The people were friendly. The mission story and Sabbath School lessons were inspiring. I felt God's presence in the worship service, and I could tell there would be a communion service because the table was prepared.

Everything went fine until, at the end of the pastor's message, he invited the congregation to participate in the Ordinance of Humility — the foot washing service. People began to leave the sanctuary for a reason I didn't understand. I'm sure I was standing there with eyes that looked like a deer caught in the headlights. That's when Bill stepped into my world to begin a relationship that would last as long as he and Fern lived. Bill explained the beautiful, Christ-ordained service to me and led me through it in a meaningful way that I have attempted to emulate many times since with new or prospective believers. It was as if he had had the same experience as I was having and knew just what to say.

Bill and Fern met at the Adventist affiliated Pewee Valley Sanitarium and Hospital near Louisville, Kentucky, during the depression years. Bill's youngest sister had run up a large bill at the hospital during a serious illness. The Hamptons, like many depression-era families, were short on cash but long on character. Bill, in his early 20's, was working at the "San" to pay off the financial obligation. Fern came to Pewee Valley as a young church school teacher and later worked in the administration office of the San.

Thus began a nearly 10-year Christian courtship between the two. You see, Bill was a staunch Methodist, and Fern a committed Seventh-day Adventist who loved Bill but would not marry someone outside of her faith.



Finally Fern, Bill's personal God-sent evangelist, led him to the faith. When Bill joined the Church he went all the way and never looked back. He served Pewee Valley Church in many capacities, including first elder for some 30 years. Fern was also a local church leader, including church clerk.

Bill and Fern married in 1941. They did not have children of their own, but were the spiritual nurturers of many of us through the decades. They shared Christian literature and scores of sermon and music tapes, and they were a blessing to folks in the church as well as the community. Only the Lord knows the far-reaching extent of their influence.

Through the years, Bill became a prominent building contractor who was greatly respected in the community. For Bill, his greatest building accomplishment was his leadership in his 70's, as the volunteer general contractor for the new church building at Pewee Valley in 1980-81.

Some years ago, Bill and Fern called me to their home with the purpose of updating their last will and testament and other estate planning documents. They felt led by God to leave all of their assets to His work at their death. Along with their wills, they created power of attorney and living will documents that named trusted Adventist friends to help them with their business and healthcare needs as they aged.

As time went by, these long-livers

(Fern died at age 87, and Bill at age 93) suffered major health challenges and their financial resources were depleting. From a human standpoint, there was not much left to show for their lives of labor, but throughout their lives they had lived the principle that we are to store up our treasure in Heaven. They always returned a faithful tithe, gave generous and sacrificial offerings, and helped a multitude of people during their lifetime. In fact, some of the older Pewee Valley Church members vividly remember how each year during the Week of Prayer and Sacrifice, Bill and Fern would challenge the church to join them in giving a week's income to the special offering.

Bill and Fern went to sleep in Jesus just a few months apart in 2004. According to the terms of their wills, what was left of their assets was bequeathed to their home church and to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference to be used as needed for the Lord's work. Although the dollar amount would not seem all that significant by the world's standards, I am sure that to the Lord it was regarded with the same significance as the widow's mite. This dear couple made God first in everything, and He supplied all their needs right up to the end of their lives.

Lin Powell is Kentucky-Tennessee Conference trust services director, and One of Bill and Fern's "Kids."

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— OLIVER J. MCKINNEY
Southern Union stewardship director



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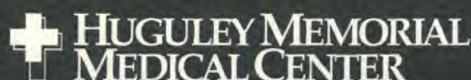
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Michael Harpe, South Central communication director, demonstrates the potential for utilizing an E-Bible Study visual aid tool for small groups study. Harpe was also the divine worship speaker, presenting, "The Revolution Will be Televised."

Michael Harpe.

Professionals and specialists were on hand at the Caucus to share their talents

and gifts. The objective was to augment the overall ministry for South Central churches: Amanda Brown, former news anchor, WDBB, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Delance Crockett, Branae Consulting Group; Brad Forbes, Advent Source; Adventist Church Connect; Teresha King, adjunct instructor, Oakwood University communication department, and producer with Razor Edge Studios;

Donna Hannah, Hannah Productions; Ian Herbert, ChurchPond.com; George Lee, Oakwood University

computer lab manager; Ocie Maddox, OMJ Media Design; Victoria Miller, general manager, WJOU Radio; Barbara Newton, children's ministries specialist; Anthony Perkins, media specialist; David Person, editorial

writer and columnist, *The Huntsville Times*; Karen Smith, Oakwood University certification program manager.


Special thanks to Benjamin Jones, senior pastor; Alfred Hill, associate pastor; First Church hospitality committee,

officers, media team, and members; also, Auldwin Humphrey, South Central ministerial director; and Roy Patterson, South Central personal ministries and Sabbath School director.

—BY MICHAEL A. HARPE




Brad Forbes, AdventSource manager, prepares his laptop for an upcoming workshop while former news anchor Amanda Brown, event videographer, captures the moment.



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COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE. 1½ bedrooms fully equipped condo w/kitchen and laundry, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "Absolutely delightful" say guests. \$60/night for two (2-night minimum). Roger King, 423-236-4688. See pictures at www.rogerkingrentals.com. ©

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FOR SALE. Wagener, SC - Peaceful 64.95 acres located 30 miles from Columbia, SC, and about 20 miles from Aiken, SC. Located 7 miles from I-20. It has lots of timber and has the possibility for a pond. Call Sam at 803-413-2858. [12]

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DEER LODGE, TN: 3 WOODED ACRES on quiet country dead-end road. Electricity and water. SDA church within 2 miles, Heritage Academy within 30 miles. \$6,000 per acre. Call 931-863-5865 or e-mail flundberg@twlakes.net for more information. [12]

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 Check www.nadadventist.org or call 805-955-7681 to find a station in your area.

Advertisements

ft., new roof, 2 ½ bath, 3+ bedrooms, chapel, two large pantries, two fireplaces. Two large additional unfinished rooms. Surround walkways and decks. Ideal retreat. Pictures available. Call 423-272-6947 or 423-921-5071. [12]

TENNESSEE HOME FOR SALE, 5 acres, woods, large creek. 3 bedroom, 3 ½ baths, large kitchen, custom cedar cabinets, 2 offices, sunroom, living room, family room, sitting area, large fireplace, wrap-around porches, gated entry, two-story workshop. Asking \$315,000. Make an offer. Can email photos. 423-447-3349. [12]

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LAURELBROOK ACADEMY seeks mission-minded staff. Beautiful mountain location; 60 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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LIFESTYLE RETREAT IN NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS is looking for men and women who are called to the health ministry to help with setting up a lifestyle program in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. Call 706-969-9292. Visit us at www.bluecreekcabins.com. [12-2]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time Computer Science/Embedded Systems Professor for the School of Computing. This position requires a minimum of a master's degree in computer engineering, electrical engineering, or computer science (embedded systems experience preferred). A doctorate is preferred. Responsibilities include teaching embedded systems and computer science courses, academic advisement, and professional development activities. Experience in teaching in higher education is a plus. The successful candidate will be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. CVs or requests for more information should be directed to Dr.

Richard Halterman, Dean of the School of Computing, halterman@southern.edu, or at The School of Computing, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks two instructors in the School

of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, public speaking or other communication courses. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master's degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, rumsey@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [12]

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a full-time graphic design professor to join our growing and dynamic department. Responsibilities will include teaching a cross-section of print design class, advising, research, and serving on University committees. MFA and teaching experience required. For more information and to apply, go to www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi. [12]

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE'S IACBE accredited business department is seeking a Ph.D. DBA in management (ABD considered) to join our faculty. PUC places great emphasis on teaching, student/faculty interaction and community involvement. For complete position posting or to apply, visit www.puc.edu/campus-services/human-resources/forms-policies. Qualified applicants selected for interview will be contacted. For questions, contact Wally Lighthouse at 707-965-6503 or wlighthouse@puc.edu. [12]

HOSPITALIST OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA. Gordon Hospital is seeing BC/BE IM physicians. 69-bed facility; 8 ICU beds; 79 physicians on active staff; outstanding Adventist elementary and high school within community. Southern Adventist University within 45 minutes. E-mail CV to bonnie.shadix@ahss.org 1-800-264-8642. To learn about all opportunities in Calhoun, visit www.gordonhospital.com. [12]

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Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist [12-8]

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SPONSOR A CHILD! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, clothes, and medical. Adventist Child India is an official project of the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventist. 308-530-6655. www.adventistchildindia.org or childcare@sud-adventist.org. [12-6]

SEE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK in winter with skilled SDA snowmobile guides! Experience pristine beauty and amazing animals! Enjoy good fellowship, inspiring devotions, deluxe accommodations, and fine cuisine. Don't miss this unique experience—the only snowmobile tours traveling throughout Yellowstone Park. Limited openings for January 2009. Call John at 509-747-7622 (pacific time). [12]

CRUISE ALASKA. Seven-day southbound glacier route on Carnival's Spirit. Cruise will be hosted by Missions of Love, Inc., a non-profit corporation raising scholarship monies for Christian Education. Gospel vocal group "Except For Grace" will be in concert. For brochure, call Al Ferry, 661-889-0191 or e-mail al@missionsoflove.com. [12-1]

BEGIN 2009 WITH A NEWSTART. Come to the 5 Day Wellness Seminar to Disarm Your Diabetes, Shed Unwanted Pounds, or help with other health concerns. Each day includes Breakfast, Lunch, Hands-on Cooking Classes, 2 Power Point Health Lectures, Exercise, Stretch, and Manual. \$100 (financial assistance available if needed). Lady Lake SDA Church, FL. January 11-16, and 18-23. Register: 352-753-5996. [12]

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Medical Massage School, located near Loma Linda, CA, specializing in medical ministry. Study evidence-based massage and hydrotherapy in Christian environment. Offering Day, Evening, and Distance Learning courses. www.handsonmedicalmassage.com, 909-793-HAND. [12]

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU! All former students and faculty of Lynwood Academy, Los Angeles Union, and Los Angeles Academy. Be a part of the 1000 alumni at our 85th Anniversary and Alumni Homecoming March 13-15, 2009 "Rebuilding the Bridge". Hurry and become an LAAA Alumni Charter Member. For more information call: 323-321-2585 or email laahomecoming@aol.com. [12]

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. ©

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Events Calendar

Florida

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

Florida Pathfinder Events – <http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.asamcf.org/>, cjmiller4000@embarqmail.com, or 386-789-3235.

Prayer and Mission Conference – Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: 386-454-1351.

Women's Ministries Retreats – Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: sheryal.vandenbergh@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x134.

Feb. 6-8. English-language. Speaker: Heather-Dawn Small.
Feb. 13-15. English-language. Speaker: Rose Otis.

Feb. 20-22. Spanish-language. Speaker: to be announced.

Feb. 27-Mar. 1. English-language. Speaker: Ardis Stenbakken.

French/Haitian Men's Ministries Convention – Feb. 7. Woodland Middle School, 5200 Lions Rd., Wellington (Palm Beach). Details: blevielle@comcast.net or 561-352-8351.

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: 800-765-6955. Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Feb. 7. Jacksonville Southpoint.
Feb. 8. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Feb. 21. Naples.

Feb. 22. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Lakeland, Winter Haven.

Feb. 28. Sunrise.

March 1. Plantation, Lauderhill, Temple Adventiste de Deerfield Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

March 7. St. Petersburg.

March 8. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.

March 14. Tallahassee.

March 15. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

March 21. Port Charlotte.

March 22. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

March 28. West Palm Beach.

March 29. Midport Road in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.)

April 4. Maranatha in Miami.

April 5. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach, Jupiter.

Vacation Bible School and Sabbath School Training/Workshops. Details: <http://www.floridaconference.com/childmin/>

March 1. Spanish-language. Miami Central Spanish Church. Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.

March 8. Spanish-language. Winter Park Spanish Church. Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.

March 14. English-language. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: rburrill@cfl.rr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

April 18. English-language. Miami Temple Church. Details: rburrill@cfl.rr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

Men's Ministries Conventions. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: leonard.fernandez@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x210.

March 13-15. Speakers: Shian O'Conner, Richard O'Fill, Ruben Ortiz, Derek Morris.

March 20-22. Speakers: George Thornton, Ruben Ortiz, Derek Morris.

Georgia-Cumberland

Conference Calendar – Dec. '08

Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com

Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training Reward Event – Dec. 5-7.

New Member Retreat – Dec. 5-7. Cohutta Springs.

Executive Committee – Dec. 10. Calhoun, GA.

Christmas Vacation for Schools – Dec. 22-Jan. 2.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online www.gccsda.org

Elders' and Deacons' Retreat – Dec. 5-7. Camp Alamisco.

Conference Executive Meeting – Dec. 9. Conference Office.

ShareHim Training – Jan. 9-11. University Parkway Church.

Pathfinder Council Meeting – Jan. 9-11. Camp Alamisco.

Teen Caving Invitational – Jan. 23-25.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board Dec. 9. Jan. 13. March 17.

May 12. July 21.

Conference Executive Committee

Dec. 9. Jan. 13. March 17.

May 12. July 21.

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 6, 7.

Prestonsburg, KY.

West Tennessee Festival of Faith – March 14. Memphis, TN.

Soul Impact Prayer Conference – April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.

Pastors'/Elders' Conference – April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

Camp Meeting – May 22-30. Highland Academy.

Southern Adventist University

School of Music Christmas Concert – Dec.13.

Semester Exams – Dec.14-17.

Winter Commencement – Dec.17.

Christmas Break – Dec.18-Jan. 4.

Announcements

AHS Sunbelt Retired CEO

Reunion – Jan. 23, 24. Avon Park, FL. Details: Bill Sager, 863-452-

2593, email: wcsager@tnni.net or Tom Amos, 863-452-1979, email: dtamos@gmail.com or Jim Culpepper, 615-654-3311.

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Several new seminars will be offered. Learn how to make a difference in your church, community, and home. Attend NAD Health Summit Jan. 30-Feb. 7. Featured speakers: Jose Rojas and Samuel DeShay. A special "Festival of Health" evening program will feature Pastor Derek Morris and a health expert speaking each evening. Obtain certification in three workshops of your choice. Early bird deadline is: Jan. 5. To register, call 1-800-732-7587, or visit www.nadhealthsummit.com. If you need brochures, call the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office at 1-800-567-1844, x338.

Union College Homecoming

– April 2-5. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, and 1999. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy '09 Alumni

Weekend – April 24-Golf Tournament, April 25-Alumni Sabbath. Honor classes: '49, '59, '69, '79, '89, '99, '04. Keynote speaker: Lewis Walton. Come celebrate friends and memories on LSA Campus. Details: 951-351-1445 x 244 or lsak12.com to update personal information, find missing class members, and share news and class reunion gatherings. Large selection of yearbooks will be available to purchase.

Sunset

	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Jan. 9
Atlanta, GA	5:29	5:30	5:32	5:36	5:40	5:45
Charleston, SC	5:13	5:14	5:17	5:20	5:24	5:30
Charlotte, NC	5:11	5:12	5:14	5:17	5:22	5:27
Collegedale, TN	5:28	5:29	5:31	5:35	5:39	5:45
Huntsville, AL	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:32	4:46	4:52
Jackson, MS	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:02	5:06	5:12
Louisville, KY	5:23	5:23	5:25	5:29	5:33	5:39
Memphis, TN	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:59	5:04
Miami, FL	5:30	5:31	5:34	5:37	5:41	5:46
Montgomery, AL	4:40	4:41	4:43	4:47	4:51	4:56
Nashville, TN	4:32	4:33	4:35	4:39	4:43	4:49
Orlando, FL	5:29	5:30	5:32	5:36	5:40	5:45
Wilmington, NC	5:02	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:18

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