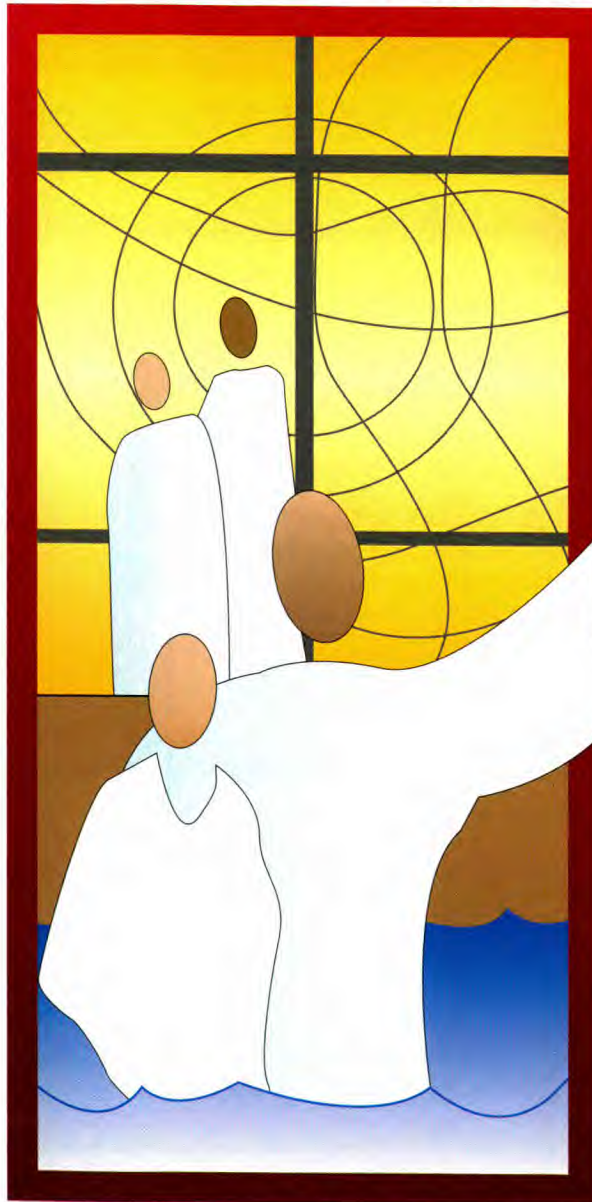


February 2009

TIDINGS

SOUTHERN

2009 Year of Pastor / Lay
EVANGELISM



Each One Reach One

SOUTHERN UNION

A Legacy of Good News

My grandfather homesteaded on some land in North Dakota and built a house for his family of nine children, early in the 1900's. He attended a Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting one year and obtained a book on education by Ellen White. It was one of the first of her books translated into German. He read in the book that "parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send [their children] to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a scriptural foundation" *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 205.

The two oldest children were already attending a local public school, but my grandfather took Ellen White's counsel to heart and determined that his children would be educated in a Christian school. That presented a problem, because the land he had homesteaded and where he had built his home was nine miles from the church, and that was too far to travel in the North Dakota snow to go to school. He and my grandmother, determined to have a Christian education for their children, hitched up a wagon and looked for property closer to the church. They found no homesteading opportunities close to the church, but they found some land and purchased it, just one mile from the church.

Next, they had to figure out how to move their new house to that land. My grandfather obtained two large steam engines that were used for harvesting, and, with help, he jacked up the house, put it on skids, and dragged it to the new piece of property. There, the nine Bietz children had access to a Christian education.

My grandfather often said, "If none of the other members send their children to church school, mine will be there. We'll always have a school, even if I have to board the teacher and pay the salary." And one year he did just that.

Because of my grandfather's commitment to Christian education, all of his nine children went to a Seventh-day Adventist school, and many of them ended up working for the Church. The story of my family is a story of the legacy of a Christian education.

My grandparents didn't end up with the largest farm in North Dakota, nor did they accumulate much in the way of this world's material things, but their sacrifice paid rich dividends in the lives of their children as they advanced God's kingdom.

Is Christian education too expensive? Is it worth the cost to move the house close to the school? We are not faced with moving the house close to the school today, but we are faced, in difficult economic times, with moving our children into a school where Christ is uplifted, their faith is strengthened, and the Kingdom of God is advanced.

Let us, as families, churches, conferences, and union, determine that a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is as important to us today as it was to my grandfather, who moved the house to the school and transformed the lives of his children, and who, in turn, brought the good news of the Gospel to thousands.



Gordon Bietz, Ph.D.
*Southern Adventist
University President*
Guest Editorial

Volume 103, No. 2, February 2009
The *Southern Tidings* is the Official
Publication of the Southern Union
Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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SOUTHERN TIDINGS Volume 103 Number 2, February
2009. Published monthly by the Southern Union. Free to all
members. POSTMASTER: send changes of address to South-
ern Tidings, P.O. Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031



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GEARING UP FOR YEAR OF EVANGELISM

BY DENNIS ROSS AND ALETHEA SKINNER

The pastors and local churches have taken on an exciting challenge — baptizing 25,000 in 2009. That’s a 10 percent membership increase for the Union. This challenges each church in the Union to increase its membership by 10 percent.

Can we do it? Are we up to the challenge? Only through God’s power, but with God all things are possible. In the Southern Union we are blessed with Spirit-filled pastors and members who are *excited* about evangelism. They are passionate about it!



Dan Hall, Atlanta North Church pastor

I recently talked with three pastors about their views concerning this challenge to reach 25,000 souls in 2009. These pastors are

Dan Hall, pastor at Atlanta North Church; Nathaniel Hollis, pastor at Atlanta Boulevard Church; and Jorge Quintiana, pastor of the Chamblee Hispanic district.

Is public evangelism still a relevant way of reaching people?

Dan Hall responded, “I firmly believe that. I believe evangelism is really the founda-

tion on which everything the Church [does] builds, whether it’s outreach programs, in-reach programs, whether it’s a Church school, everything we do is built on that evangelism foundation. So, the Church is here and its commission is to do evangelism. ... Whatever we’re doing within the Church or outside the Church, it all funnels down to one thing, and that’s doing evangelism to prepare a people for Jesus to come.” Nathaniel Hollis heartily agreed: “I would say emphatically yes, because Jesus ordained the Church to go into all the world and carry the Gospel, make disciples of people.” Jorge Quintiana declared, “... Evangelism has never lost its power! It is still the most powerful plan we can present to the Church today.”

When it comes to making evangelism relevant today, what

would you say to people who would like to know if we are doing anything different, or are we updating our approach to evangelism?

Pastor Hollis assured me, "...our message is the same, but we try to make it relevant by looking at a current event that might happen in our community, and try to use that event by tying it to the Bible. Sometimes we can take the title from a song, or some lyrics from a song as an introduction to a sermon, to make our message relevant to the person who is listening to that kind of music."

Since these pastors have been evangelists for decades, I was curious to know, *What is it that has motivated you, during the years, to keep doing evangelism?*

Pastor Hall responded, "You know, I think the thing that makes evangelism exciting is being a part of watching God at work! Doing evangelism, touching people's lives, is not a human agency, but it's God cooperating with man and the two partnering in reaching people's hearts...! I just enjoy evangelism because that is the one area where I know I can make a difference in a person's life — for this world and the world to come."

Pastor Hollis' reason, however, was more personal. He said his motivation comes from God, explaining, "It's because He motivated someone to bring the Gospel to me ... so I feel morally compelled to share the Gospel of

Jesus Christ with a world that is in need of a sense of direction." What motivates Pastor Quintiana "is the understanding that the reason for our existence, not only as Church members, but as 'The Church', is evangelism."

What methods do you use to prepare the field for your evangelistic meetings?

Pastor Hall went directly to the heart of the matter. "You have to look for opportunities, that's the biggest thing! I want my members *involved*." At Atlanta North, there is Bible study training — a 'boot camp' — three consecutive weekends. However, Pastor Hall quickly added that, "training has to be a part, vision has to be a part, and demonstrating/modeling what evangelism is. [It is also] ...helping people to see that evangelism is not an event. ...It's a lifestyle. ...when people can catch that ... they recognize, 'No, we don't do six weeks and we're done; it's something we do every day'..." Pastor Hall also said, "be aware of opportunities that God gives you to do evangelism and, if you have a heart and you have an eye, God will open all kinds of doors."

Pastor Quintiana told of field preparation at one church. They divided the church into five groups based on the visitors who came.

An elder headed each group, and each group had an assignment in the preparation phase, as well as in the evangelistic meetings. This involved the whole church in the program. He said, "...we noticed the enthusiasm of the visitors who were incorporated in these groups — [how they] actually participated to help us do evangelism!" At the end of the series, most of these visitors were preparing for baptism. The success was such that the groups asked to continue activities throughout the year."

All of the pastors agreed that providing services to the community is preparation work that opens many doors. Pastor Quintiana

shared the experiences of offering the services of their youth to help clean neighborhood roads, and maintaining "open dialog with the civil authorities," participating in a food bank and a blood drive. "When the community had the blood drive," he says, "we called all the members of the church to donate in that drive." Pastor Hollis said, "I try to employ the auxiliaries of the church ... to break down walls of uncertainty" through activities such as the AYS department holding a massive school supplies distribution event prior to school opening, feeding the community through its community service department, or free tutoring from a retired teacher.

Pastors, how do you, with all of the church responsibilities, find time to engage in evangelism?

Pastor Quintiana readily said, "I think the secret is to be very organized and to give priority to evangelism. When we give priority to what God desires of us, doors open!" Pastor Hollis added, "Well, you have to make time for public and personal evangelism in spite of all the other responsibilities. I think evangelism is at the top of the list, so we have to build around doing evangelism.... but in the back of the mind, we know that the primary reason for the Church being where it is, is to do evangelism. ...we have to *plan* public evangelism." Since he wants his members to give their support during a certain month of the year, they are asked to plan their personal activities accordingly.

"Evangelism is a part of who I am!" exclaimed Pastor Hall enthusiastically. "It's part of what God has given to me as a pastor. I believe as a pastor our work is to be an evangelist. I struggle sometimes with 'my gift is this, my gift is that...' No matter what gift you have, the underlying gift is evangelism, for me. So, whatever I get involved with, I want to keep in the back of my mind (the ques-



Dennis Ross, Southern Union ministerial director, evangelism coordinator, and global missions director

tion) 'How would this play into the work of evangelism?'" He believes a pastor's personal devotional and prayer life has to be real. "You can't do evangelism unless you have a steady flow of God's Spirit working in and through you. Without it, you may win people, but you're not going to win people for the Kingdom, he said. His aim is that, "As people observe me and God working together, they will want to experience that, too."

Could you tell us how you, as a pastor, deal with the fear-factor with members who would love to participate in some facet of evangelism, but they are reluctant because they are just afraid?

Pastor Hollis admitted, "Fear is a tremendous component in inhibiting people from really doing God's will." After sharing Scriptures that "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind," he said, "we take people out into the community with an experienced worker to help people overcome fear, and when they see God moving in a community, it helps to eradicate



Dennis Ross (left), interviews Jorge Quintiana (right), South Atlantic Hispanic pastor of the Chamblee Hispanic district, as Andrew Caban, pastor, South Atlantic Dalton Hispanic district, interprets.

fear in the lives of people who are potential workers for God." Pastor Quintiana agreed and said, "We do not ask them to do that which they are not equipped to do." Instead, they try to find the gifts they have in order for them to feel comfortable. He said, "I believe the secret is to see what is each individual

gift. And, having clear understanding that the Holy Spirit gives these gifts individually, there is a position in which every single child of God can serve." He continued, "... one of the things that also motivates them is to help them understand that there is a mission that we must accomplish." Pastor Hall also teaches the reassuring words, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" And, "Perfect love casts out fear."

In your thinking, is the goal of every church increasing its membership by 10 percent a possible task for the church?

Pastor Hollis' resounding answer was, "Absolutely! With God, all things are possible. 'God is capable and able to do exceedingly and abundantly above anything that we might think or ask.' I'm sure God will address all of our needs and all of our goals that we set in trying to reach people for Christ." Pastor Quintiana said, "The local church is like a soldier who is waiting for his leaders to give him a mission."

In conclusion, what words of encouragement would you pass on to fellow pastors who have a lot of responsibilities in their churches but would also like to be involved in evangelism?

Pastor Hollis: "Ask God to lay some soul on your heart and give



Nathaniel Hollis, Atlanta Boulevard Church pastor

you the ability to reach that person." Pastor Hall: "We're kind of geared towards numbers, [but] I don't think we need to be worrying about numbers! We need to be worried about being faithful to our calling. God's called us all to be evangelists. As a pastor, be an evangelist. Wear your armor with the mindset that evangelism is the first responsibility God's given me as a pastor. Make it a part of your prayer life. I

believe that's the heart ... the heart that beats in God's heart, to win as many as we possibly can before Jesus comes."

God's power will endow every pastor who sets aside time to evangelize the city he has been called to serve, as he plans his 2009 calendar. With strong prayer leaders and prayer teams, passionately and persistently agonizing with God for souls, God, who is faithful, *will* do more than we can ask or think.

His spirit will also reward church members, who hold up their pastors' hands and get involved with soul winning through their prayers, presence, and personal efforts to win at least one soul to Christ in 2009.

This year, 2009, will witness a passion and excitement for evangelism, as all across the Southern Union, pastors and members join together under one mighty banner to help "finish the work, so that we can GO HOME."

For more information regarding the Year of Evangelism, visit www.southernunion.com

Dennis Ross is the ministerial director and evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union.

Alethea Skinner is a freelance writer.

IT'S HARVEST TIME

HISPANIC PLAN FOR THE YEAR OF EVANGELISM

BY JORGE MAYER

What a great moment in our Church's history! The signs we see indicate that our Lord is coming soon, and it is so wonderful to belong to the remnant Church that has the salvation message for the world — The Three Angel's message.

I have seen how the "eternal" message has been presented through our Church history. The methods used were chosen in accordance to the dictates of society and current times. I remember my father talking about Pastor Schubert, who set the evangelistic trend for Latin America. He used to conduct crusades for 90 consecutive days. His success rested in the fact that in those days there was no electrical power, and he put together a very interesting program. People at first were attracted by the novelty, and then by the message.

The fast pace today is so intense that we have had to reduce the time of evangelistic series. I have seen 90-day and one-night crusades. Both methods can be useful. During recent years, and under the model developed by Alejandro Bullón, the Latin American Church has adopted the one-week method, and most recently, some reaping crusades last only one night.

Any method of public evangelism utilized today, especially the ones conducted for a short time, requires further teaching of the Bible and doctrine for the individuals who accept Christ.

Among the Southern Union Hispanic churches, it is not unusual to hear that two campaigns are organized each year, and take place during the ideal times for evangelism — spring and fall. Frequently, one

of those series is conducted by the church pastor or lay members, and the other by a guest speaker, many times from Latin America.

In 2008, two evangelistic caravans were organized and conducted by Bullón. He spoke in a different church or city each night, allowing more people to be reached by the message, rather than to have the meetings take place in one central place.

Time to Prepare the Soil

The same thing happens in agriculture — if you want to have an abundant harvest, you first need to take time to prepare the soil, plant the seeds, and wait for them to grow. The church members should take time to invite their relatives, friends, coworkers, and neighbors, and earn their trust with acts of kindness, and intercede for them in prayer. Some weeks later, they loan these individuals a DVD or CD with messages of hope, and tell them the reason they wanted to share the material with them is because it was highly beneficial to them. After some time, they go back and pick up the DVD or CD and explain that they are going to share them with someone else, and if those individuals show any interest for the materials they've returned, more are loaned to them. These serve as a guide in the first steps a person takes to know more about the message.

Sowing Time

At this stage, the person is invited to Bible study groups, small groups, or missionary couples meetings, where our Church's fundamental beliefs are presented. When the "Caravana" takes place, many people will

have already been baptized. On the one-night evangelistic meeting, there is another opportunity for those who have not made their decisions to accept Christ, to do so. And for the ones who have, this is a time for their faith to be strengthened and to bring family and friends to listen to the message of hope.

Harvest and New Sowing Time

Applying this method, there were two weeks of Caravana recently where more than 14,000 individuals listened to the message of salvation, 594 were baptized, and more than 700 surrendered their hearts to Jesus.

This year, the goal is to involve 12 percent of the Southern Union Hispanic members in personal evangelism. We pray that each of these members will bring three individuals to Christ this year. To achieve this goal, a Festival of the Laity will be conducted, February 6 to 8; 1,000 are expected to attend. Each person who responds to the call and commits to bringing three souls to Christ this year will receive a free "missionary back pack" with materials to share their faith. When they return to their churches, they are encouraged to invite more members to join the heavenly army, and show the DVD with all that was presented during the Festival. Those who decide to join the Church will also receive the missionary back pack.

For details about the Southern Union Hispanic evangelism endeavor, call 404-299-1832, x443.

Jorge Mayer is director of Hispanic ministries for the Southern Union.



The Bingiel family: oldest son Andrew (left), Chris, Missy, Noah, and Michael

Where Our Abilities End and Christ's Begin

BY JULIE ZAIBACK

"Code Blue! Code Blue!" The alarm resonated throughout the PCU ward. Nurses and doctors poured into the hospital room, running towards the patient's bed where Missy Bingiel lay in respiratory distress. Her husband, Michael, was rendered powerless, watching in fear as the hospital staff resuscitated his wife. Thoughts of Missy and their three sons ran through his mind — what would they do without her?

More than Medicine

Scenes like this are far too common in any hospital. In such times of distress, patients and their families often need something more than medicine. Our hospitals and our approach to healthcare have that "special something," setting us apart from other healthcare providers and even from

other faith-based hospitals. More than our medical technology, facilities, and our expert caregivers, it's our commitment to provide *Christ-centered* care.

Gordon Hospital, located in Calhoun, Georgia, is a model example. This 69-bed hospital has been providing Christ-centered care to the local community for 58 years. When a pa-

tient is admitted into Gordon Hospital, not only will they receive top quality medical attention, but spiritual and emotional care as well.

So, what does Christ-centered care look like in Gordon Hospital? Let's take a closer look at Missy's story to truly understand.



Michael Bingiel prays for his wife, Missy. He literally moved into a hospital room across the hall from the ICU unit.



ICU nurse Pamela Gravitt prays with Missy.

A Patient in Pain

Missy was suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Gordon Hospital physicians recognized her case as unique; it was unusual for such a young woman without medical problems or many pulmonary risk factors to experience such a severe case of ARDS. Weeks passed and her situation continued to deteriorate. Her extensive time in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and atypical medical condition made her a useful participant in the Central-Line Associate Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) study, conducted by Johns Hopkins and Adventist Health System hospitals.

In and out of consciousness for days at a time, Missy required multiple invasive procedures. All the while, Michael remained by her side, his nights spent sleeping in waiting areas or a chair at her bedside.

"I took a leave of absence from work because at that point everything was about making sure my wife was alright, and to get her back home," said Michael.

Gordon Hospital employees diligently provided the best medical care possible. They also gave something equally important: love, care, and compassion. Aware that Michael and his family were undergoing a tremendous amount of stress, a hospital employee arranged for Michael to stay in a room across the hall from the ICU where Missy

was situated. Michael literally moved into the hospital.

Late one night, Missy's oxygen saturation levels and heart rate began to drop; her nurses feared she would experience cardiac arrest and code again. The night nurse on duty came to Michael urging him to pray.

"She told me that if we had a prayer circle, we needed to get it started because she was worried," Michael recalls.

Family, friends, church members, and hospital employees congregated in the hallways, praying for Missy's recovery.

Christ-centered Care

Christ-centered care means living like Christ and extending His compassionate care in every action and interaction. Often, when a patient is admitted into a hospital, their loved ones undergo tremendous distress and heartache. By modeling themselves like Christ, Gordon Hospital employees supplemented high quality medical care with a much needed spiritual support and emotional care to both Missy and her family.

Sadly, not all diseases are curable or all illnesses remedied, but as with all things in life, one needs to ask the Lord for guidance, His will, and, sometimes, a miracle.

Miracles Do Happen

An hour after the prayer vigil began, a nurse found Michael

praying in the hallway. They had resuscitated Missy and her condition stabilized. Their prayers were answered. Missy was on the road to recovery.

"There's a higher power that has an impact on these patients," says Maxwell Parrott, M.D., a physician who cared for Missy. "It's not just the doctors and nurses and the physical therapists. There's something else at work beyond just the mere mortals in these halls."

Forty-five days after being admitted to Gordon Hospital, Missy returned home with her husband and children. While thrilled to finally be home, the Bingiel family felt sad to leave another family behind — their caregivers.

"God put us in contact with... amazing doctors, nurses, and the staff, even the custodians at Gordon Hospital," Missy proclaims.

So, what does Christ-centered care look like? One only has to walk the halls of our hospitals to witness this care first hand. It is the nurse who hugs a worried husband, a hospital attendee who joins in a prayer vigil; it is a hospital team who recognizes where their abilities end and where Christ's begin.



Each One Reach One
SOUTHERN UNION

A Matchmaker for Christ *Year of Evangelism Report*

Florida Hospital employees are extending the healing ministry of Christ in creative ways — going above and beyond their job requirements to touch the lives of others. One of these people is Marti Jones. Marti is a matchmaker for Christ, bringing people to Jesus when they need Him most. Her passion for matching people with the Lord has made her a perfect fit for her role at Florida Hospital.

Marti works as Florida Hospital's spiritual nurture coordinator. This position provides Marti the opportunity to touch the lives of colleagues, patients, and visitors by offering love, friendship, and encouragement to everyone she meets. In her role as spiritual nurture coordinator, Marti meets with the hospital's spiritual ambassadors.

Florida Hospital's spiritual ambassador program provides employees and

volunteers the opportunity to develop friendships that exemplify the hospital's mission statement to all individuals. Marti plays a critical role in this program — nurturing the group's commitment to making the hospital's mission statement come to life, as well as developing other matchmakers.

"We're giving them wings to fly," Marti says about the spiritual ambassadors. "We're giving them permission to be more of who God made them to be."

Marti encourages the spiritual ambassadors to be themselves when living out Christ's mission.

"One thing I believe in very deeply, is that it doesn't take a certain personality to represent Christ," Marti affirms. "The Lord is well known to shy people, like He's known to outgoing people. It doesn't

matter; God loves people." Her efforts have brought many people to know and love God.

A friend of Marti's praises, "It's almost as

though she took my hand, and took God's hand, and brought us together."

For Marti, matching people to Christ isn't just a job, it's a way of life. Everyday, Marti commits her schedule to the Lord.

"I'll just say 'Lord, here are my appointments for today, but you set up my schedule the way it needs to be.'"

By putting the Lord in charge of her schedule, Marti is able to be in the right place at the right time. By doing this, she finds opportunities to share Christ's love with numerous people, both inside and outside of work.

"I believe wherever we go, whatever errands we're running, wherever we are, God is placing people in our path," Marti says.

Marti gives all the glory and credit to God for making her ministry possible. Connecting people with the Lord is not only her ministry, but her privilege.

"I believe that of all

the things that God calls us to do, the greatest honor that He bestows on anyone," says Marti, "is to be able to intersect in a life for which He has done so much to redeem."



Marti Jones (right) takes time to meet with a colleague.



Marti Jones speaks with Florida Hospital's spiritual ambassadors.

TIP FROM THE EVANGELIST

"The more we know Christ, the better we can represent Him to others."

Emory Adventist Hospital is Nation's First to Use New Uterine Fibroid Procedure

Emory-Adventist Hospital, Smyrna, Ga., has recently become the first in the nation to utilize Embosphere Microspheres, an innovative new product for uterine fibroid embolization (UFE) procedures. UFE is a nonsurgical alternative to a hysterectomy in the treatment of uterine fibroids (tumors that develop in the uterus). The procedure is performed on an outpatient basis, and in most cases participants are able to go back to their daily routine within four to five days.

UFE procedures are performed by interventional radiologists (IR). These physicians are specifically trained in image-guided

procedures, meaning that patients do not need to undergo invasive surgery. An IR uses x-ray imaging to see the fibroids. Only a tiny nick in the skin (less than the width of one's pinky finger) is all that is necessary to gain access to the fibroids, using image-guided catheters which are similar in size to a piece of spaghetti.

Microspheres are vital for the procedure, providing necessary vessel closure required for a successful UFE. Embosphere Microspheres are



John Lipman (left), M.D., with Thomas Gordy, Celonova president

a new color-coded embolic manufactured by Celonova, recently approved by the FDA. They are the first and only Microspheres to be color-enhanced with a different color for each size for increased safety,

efficiency, and visibility. The effect is an embolic microsphere that provides accurate and complete vessel occlusion.

"The embolic material has some interesting and innovative qualities," says John Lipman, M.D., director of the hospital's Center for Image-

Guided Medicine.

"It is our hope that these characteristics will translate into clinical benefits for women who are suffering with uterine fibroids," says Lipman.

Florida Hospital Kissimmee Plans for New Medical Office Building to Better Serve Community

Florida Hospital Kissimmee will be expanding their facilities this year. To help keep pace with the increasing healthcare needs of the residents in Osceola, Orange, and Polk counties, Florida Hospital Kissimmee recently broke ground on a new medical office and outpatient service building.

The three-story, 85,000-square-foot outpatient building is scheduled for completion by fall 2009. It will house specialist physician offices, a new imaging services



A rendering of the new medical office and outpatient service building

center, and an outpatient/same day surgery facility. This new addition will give

Florida Hospital Kissimmee the opportunity to provide the community more com-

prehensive, unique, and sophisticated care, health, and healing.

"This new expansion should really help to revitalize the Kissimmee community surrounding the hospital, and will also create new jobs," said Bill Haupt, Florida Hospital Kissimmee CEO and administrator.

"We are extremely pleased to have this project underway and look forward to serving more patients in the Kissimmee area."

Fayetteville Pastor Receives Special Military Honor



A pastor has never received this kind of honor from the military — but this is no ordinary pastor.

John Huskins, pastor of the Fayetteville, N.C., Church was recently presented with a plaque and shadow box in honor of his distinguished service to the members of his congregation. The church, located near Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, is mostly made up of members of the military and their families.

So why this extraordinary gift? Huskins, who has served the Fayetteville church for nine years, devotes much of his time to making sure wives and mothers are cared for when their husbands are deployed. He also advocates job security for soldiers and counsels

military staff, helping them readapt to a routine home life when they return. He is always available to help, whether it be home maintenance, checking the oil in their cars, or just providing a listening ear and a prayer on their behalf.

The Fayetteville members dedicated an entire Sabbath for their pastor and shared heartfelt words and gifts.

The shadow box was special because it is the first ever given to a pastor. It contained challenge coins representing each unit in the military with a member at Fayetteville, a plaque, and the American flag. While in Iraq, Huskins' military members had the flag dedicated in his honor. It went out on six missions — in helicopters, fighter planes,

and other vehicles — and was signed by the pilot, crew, and soldiers from those missions. There were also certificates for each mission included in the shadow box.

"It was an honor, and I appreciated my church

doing all of this for me. It meant a lot to me that I meant something to them," said Huskins.

For Master Sgt. Fred Cerne, giving this presentation especially meaningful as it reflected a friendship with Huskins spanning years — from performing the sergeant's wedding to giving the invocation for his retirement. It was apparent, however, that Cerne was only one of many touched by Huskins' willingness to serve.

The protective gear worn in the line of duty does not shield soldiers from the emotional wounds inflicted upon them and their families. When you consider the responsibility they bear, it's no wonder these men and women in uniform appreciate Huskins for sharing some of their burdens.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER AND
BECKY CARPENTER



John Huskins, pastor, assists Alicia Wolski and her son, Jeremy.

Tryon Thrift Store Continues to Expand

Tucked into the foothills of western North Carolina is the Tryon Church Community Services Center. Since its beginnings, the Center has helped thousands of people who reside in the area. For many years, the capable leadership has caused it to grow, develop, and expand to what it is today.

It is one of the finest thrift stores in the community — providing an ample display of health foods and quality clothing — at a time when many stores

of its kind are complaining that donations and sales are at an all-time low. Unlike many of these other stores, clothing and miscellaneous items are donated daily at a surprising and alarming rate. The store stays fully stocked, thanks to a very small, dedicated staff under the supervision of Karen Syfert. The items offered in the store are of the best quality and nothing with stains or damage is hung.

The community has expressed their appreciation of the recently reorganized system that allows them to find their exact size quickly. Many thrift stores do not have this type of organization, creating confusion for



the customers.

Clothing is priced at ridiculously low, user-friendly prices to suit any pocketbook. Many items are available to the public at no cost.

The store is very impressive with its warm, welcoming atmosphere, and colorful decor. Two fitting rooms with mirrors are available for guests to try on the clothes. The

volume of clothing and the popularity of the store has consistently increased, and plans for expansion are in the near future.

Karen Syfert and her staff are grateful to the community for its continued donations and support as the Tryon Adventist Thrift Store continues to expand and serve the public.

—BY STELLA YOUNG



Lexington Church Sponsors Blood Drive

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held in the fellowship hall of the Lexington, N.C., Church this past fall.

“The Red Cross not only enjoyed our facilities and our people, but also said we were a great team to work with,” said Pam

Parrish, Lexington director of women’s ministries and organizer of the blood drive.

The number of volunteers assisting with registration, snacks, blankets, or whatever was needed was quite impressive.

The event had 22 donors, including five first-time donors, who offered their life-saving blood for the benefit of others. One unit of blood goes to save the lives of three people.

It brings to mind

what our Lord did for us. He gave His blood for all people for all time.

If your church would like to conduct a blood drive, contact your local American Red Cross Blood Services region by calling 1-800-GIVELIFE (1-800-448-3543). You will be put in touch with a representative to discuss your blood drive opportunity.

—BY MAXINE L. LANG



Florida Living Residents Serve “Discoveries ’08”



PHOTOS: ED FINEIRO

Residents of Florida Living Retirement Community, Apopka, helped prepare the mailing of invitations to thousands of homes during Discoveries '08 meetings held at Forest Lake Church.



Volunteers Agnes Williams (left), Helen Kinsella, and Joyce Emerick

When volunteers were needed this past fall to process the mailing of several thousand invitations to attend Discoveries '08, a willing crew of workers was found at Florida Living Retirement Community, Apopka, right down the street from the Forest Lake Church where the October-November satellite campaign was held.

“Job well done” reviews after the initial assignment resulted in the volunteers being given the important task of helping Mark Finley keep in touch with attendees and interests throughout the meetings. Thus, the board room of the Florida Conference-owned-and-operated Retirement Community transformed into a mail

room nearly every week as it buzzed with residents who were happy to have a part in reaching Orlando and the world.

Volunteer Russell Bates viewed his contribution through eyes of experience: “Serving in the ministry for 55 years and having conducted 17 evangelistic meetings, I knew the importance of every invitation. Only in heaven will I know if a letter I handled reached a person who came out and was influenced by the meetings.”

Expressing the sentiments of the two dozen or more residents from Florida Living who volunteered, Bates reflected, “Sometimes in retirement, we can find ourselves wondering if our useful days are over. Knowing the importance of this assignment made a difference in our personal relationship with the Lord because we were helping to evangelize and lead souls to Christ. That was reason enough to give us a good feeling.”

—BY MARTIN BUTLER



Francine Guiffrida



Imogene Sheffield



Russell Bates

LILY WILSON

Holiday Collections Benefit Less Fortunate



Haskell and Georgia Jones collect food from a Publix in Sebring, Fla., with Melissa Sharpless, customer service manager.



Jim Ashton (right) and Haskell Jones load a pickup truck with bags that contain complete holiday meals for families in need.

PHOTOS: DAMARIS ASHTON

“Please come! Your barrels are overflowing!” was an urgent, but welcomed, message often heard by Avon Park and Lake Placid Adventist Community Services (ACS) personnel who answered the telephone prior to the 2008 Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Placing these calls were customer service representatives from four Publix supermarkets in Highlands County, Fla., that served as food collection centers to benefit individuals facing tough times.

Georgia Jones, ACS director from Avon Park, says the church teams worked with America’s Second Harvest to gather thousands of pounds of food that provided holiday meals for families who otherwise would not have had any. Publix shoppers in Avon Park, Lake Placid, and two Sebring stores couldn’t help but see the strategically placed and colorfully decorated collection containers



The brand-new Publix supermarket in Sebring decorated its collection container as a Thanksgiving-themed Mayflower boat.

located near the checkout counters as an invitation to contribute food for people who were less fortunate than themselves.

As a convenience to busy customers, prepared bags of food with items needed for a tasty meal were displayed and available for purchase. Some shoppers preferred this method for contributing, while others bought individual items to place in the collection containers.

Once the containers were full, ACS team members responded immediately to the calls for pickup.

Careful records were kept to track how many pounds of food were received at each participating Publix supermarket. Jones noticed that people became more generous as the months of November and December drew closer to the major holidays. Hundreds of pounds of collections grew to thousands of

pounds for each pickup.

After the food deliveries arrived at the Community Services centers, the bags were sorted according to their contents, and placed on shelves to await families who were referred to ACS. Depending on the size of the family, one or more bags of their choosing were given to them. Nearby were small bags of candy that Jones, who has a soft spot for children, placed there for little ones.

At the end of the day, everyone went home happy — those who felt rewarded for giving bags of food to hungry families, parents who were excited at the prospect of providing a tasty holiday feast for their children, and a Heavenly Father who guided the process: “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me,” Matthew 25:40 NKJV.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK

Lewis Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary



Stanley and Eleanor Lewis met at Mt. Pisgah Academy and were married in Atlanta, Ga., September 17, 1943. They raised five children, two boys and three girls, in Washington state while they both built airplanes at Boeing. Later Stanley Lewis received his contractor's license and they built houses with their sons for years before retiring near one of their daughters in Tennessee.

During their retirement, they have continued to build houses together. They have also donated their time to build new sanctuaries for the Apison and Ogden Road churches in Tennessee, and are currently finishing two additions for the Brayton, Tenn., Church, where they are members.

Each September they celebrate their anniversary with a family reunion in Panama City, Fla., where Eleanor Lewis was raised.

—BY EVONNE RICHARDS

“Jesus La Solucion” Series Held in Johnson City

The Hispanic group of Johnson City Church in northeast Tennessee held a series called “Jesus La Solucion” in November 2008 to reach out to the Spanish-speaking population in the community. This was a week-long seminar conducted every evening beginning November 15, and culminating in the baptism of seven candidates on November 22.

The series was conducted by a guest evangelist, James Martinez, an active member of “Jesus la Solucion,” a volunteer group that has devoted its time to inner city ministries, especially in South American countries. Martinez was hosted by and worked in collabora-

tion with Diego Jimenez, the Johnson City Church Hispanic Bible worker.

During the week-long seminar, at least 15 guests attended the meeting each evening. The final Sabbath was a high Sabbath for the

church as the congregation witnessed one of the highest numbers of baptisms in a single day. It was a poignant moment as some of the baptismal candidates shed tears of joy.

—BY MARTHA MICHIEKA



Paull Dixon (center), pastor of the Johnson City Church, stands with some of the newly baptized members soon after the baptism.

Milledgeville Burns Mortgage

Members and friends gathered at the Milledgeville, Ga., Church on Sabbath, December 13, 2008, for its mortgage burning celebration. The

mortgage was paid off two and a half years early.

The Pathfinder Club was in full-dress uniform. They marched in and posted the colors. A responsive



Mitch Hazekamp (left), Nelson Webster, Lois Molargik, and Leon Fields burn Milledgeville Church's mortgage note.

reading of renewal and rededication of the church building to the ministry of Christ and the service of humanity was recited by the congregation. After a church history was shared

by one of the members, the dedication sermon was presented by Milledgeville Church pastor Leon Fields, from II Kings 20, of Hezekiah's miraculous healing and recovery. At the end of the sermon, Fields made a passionate appeal to the congregation, encouraging them to set their house in order and dedicate themselves fully to the Lord.

Conference officials Mitch Hazekamp and Harold Cunningham were present to assist with the note burning and celebration.

—BY CHERIE DAWKINS

Andrews Church Prepares Vegetarian Meal for Local High School Football Team

"This was a first-time experience for me," said Carl Hartman, health leader for the Andrews, N.C., Church. He has spent more than 40 years in ministry and is now retired in Andrews.

"When the school year began in the fall of 2008," said Hartman, "the Andrews High School football coach came to the Cherokee County Ministerial Association and invited the area churches to take a turn in providing a meal for the team each week. Our church volunteered, and our turn came on October 30."

That Thursday evening at 5 p.m., about 48 hungry football players, along with cheerleaders, coaches, and a few family

members, showed up.

We learned they had received dinners with meat at all the previous churches. This time, they were given spaghetti with vegetarian meatballs, lasagna, garlic bread, tossed salad, and an assortment of cookies and cake for dessert. There was also a vegetarian sampler table at which they were invited to taste soy milk; luncheon slices that simulated chicken, beef, and ham; and a well-prepared dish of tofu. None of the crowd ever had a tasting adventure quite like this one. It challenged their taste buds.

An information sheet giving the names of many superstar athletes who practice the vegetarian



BETTY HARTMAN

The Andrews, N.C., High School football team arrives to the church after a hard practice, eager for the food that awaits them inside.

lifestyle was provided for the team. The sheet also provided a brief summary of the advantages of a vegetarian diet.

One player commented, "We get meat everywhere we go. This

meal was unique and delicious." All of the players expressed gratitude, and the women who prepared the meal received some hugs to underscore the appreciation of the team.

—BY BETTY HARTMAN

Couples Focus on "Love for a Lifetime"

Couples from around the Conference came October 31 to November 2, 2008, for this year's mar-

riage conference sponsored by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, held at the Winshape Retreat Center in Rome, Ga.

Mike Tucker, host of Faith For Today, and his wife, Gayle, were the featured speakers. Their ability to share personal stories, combined with solid information on spirituality, communication patterns, conflict resolutions, and forgiveness, gave

the participants the tools to strengthen their marriage.

Retreat participant Deidre Mountcastle shared, "My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed our time here. What a beautiful setting to reconnect with one another! We enjoyed the meetings, the speakers, as well as the food. Everything was wonderful! We did not realize what we were missing by not getting away together; it has been three and a half years since we took time..."

The family ministries department of Georgia-Cumberland Conference strives to strengthen families

by providing opportunities for couples to grow in their relationship.

"In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to overlook the importance of nurturing our marriages," says Jo Dubs, Conference family ministries director. "Remember to spend quality time with each other, laugh together, play together, pray together, and stay together."

Plan now for this year's marriage conference, scheduled for November 13-15, 2009.

—BY JO DUBS



JO DUBS

Couples came to the Winshape Retreat Center in Rome, Ga., for the "Love for a Lifetime" marriage conference.

Blessings Poured Out on Inner City Ministry

During 2008, Acts of Peace, an inner city ministry sponsored by First Church in Montgomery, Ala., distributed more than 470 boxes of food, started a children's ministry, a puppet ministry, and a ministry to the elderly. The members have enthusiastically embraced this ministry and have given abundantly of their time and means. Twenty university students have pledged 1,000 volunteer hours to help with food distribution.



Church member Dianne Moore helps a youngster ride her new bike.

Starting an inner city ministry in Montgomery was something dear to Amy and Bernal Mapp's hearts, and was the center of their conversation as they drove to meet their friends, Paul and Yantha Corbie, for breakfast on July 22, 2007. When the

Mapps shared their discussion with their friends, the Corbies were shocked, they had also been talking about the same thing. After further discussion, prayer, and the Holy Spirit's leading, the two couples committed their time, talents, and financing to an inner city ministry.

Questions loomed as the Mapps and Corbies admitted they knew nothing about ministering to people in the inner city. They decided to put God to the test to see how He would lead.

The two couples began meeting every Friday evening to pray for God to open doors. They selected a neighborhood to begin in and chose a house to purchase in a racially mixed neighborhood, but someone else purchased the house before they offered their bid. They thanked God for His leading and continue searching. They made an offer on another house, but the owner decided she didn't want to sell. Instead she offered to rent the house to them and they accepted.

There were daunting problems. The house was in the poorest neighborhood in Montgomery. The neighborhood was crime infested — a place where police were afraid to go without backup.

Though terrified, the two couples planned a Jericho Prayer Drive through the neighborhood at night. For six nights they drove through the commu-

nity praying. Drug dealers blocked their exit. One night a car pulled across the road to stop them. Amy Mapp says, "God protected us and poured out His blessings, and our fear was replaced by a love and compassion that was unexplainable."

When they estimated the cost of paying the bills and feeding 60 to 70 families each month, they were \$900 short. "I prayed that if God would give me a second job,

I would donate everything but tithe to the ministry. A few days later, I was offered a job for which I had not even applied. But, it wasn't enough. No one knew the predicament we were in. Then we were told that an anonymous donor was donating \$500 a month to our ministry," explains Amy Mapp.

This Christmas an Angel Tree with more than 60 names of needy families on it was placed in the lobby of First Church. Church members and friends responded generously. The students in the church school caught the spirit and, instead of exchanging gifts among themselves, chose a child's name from the tree. With the help of church members and a Baptist women's ministries group, 200 pairs of socks were purchased for the elderly. A

group of law students took 16 angels.

Strangers heard about the tree and donated gifts. So much was given that gifts were distributed to people who had not signed up. An anonymous donor



Three boys try their bikes outside.

gave \$1,000 to purchase gifts, "just in case" they ran short. A Christmas party was held, and more than 100 residents from the target area came.

Amy Mapp says, "We put God to the test, and He is still amazing us with His unlimited provisions."

—BY AMY MAPP AND REBECCA GRICE



Both the young and the elderly were given gifts.

Roebuck Celebrates Renovation

Sabbath, December 13, 2008, marked the reopening of the church building for services at Birmingham, Ala., Roebuck Church after an extensive interior renovation project. The renovation, which was accomplished in a remarkable eight-week period, was managed skillfully by Robert Hill, Roebuck Church member, and contractor Ivan Lewis of Birmingham First Church, and owner of Cornerstone Construction.

The doors opened on a brighter, more modern facility with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The new facility features state-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities, a new open platform layout, energy-saving heating/cooling system, windows, handicapped accessibility, updated lighting, new baptistry, fresh colors, and warm wood tones. Plans are in place to

provide streaming video of the worship services over the Internet.

Mel Eisele, Conference president, was the speaker for the worship hour.

The members of Roebuck Church are pleased with the outcome of the project, but are not planning on sitting back and basking in the beauty of their accomplishments. The members stressed that the church and members may look the same on the outside, but they have been changed both physically and spiritually on the inside.



The doors opened on a brighter, more modern facility with a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Their ultimate goal is to win individuals that will become vibrant, healthy members of the church family. They began a five-week "Adventures in Prophecy" series with Ric Swaningson on January 23, 2009, and will continue throughout the year with ShareHim meetings, cooking classes, health fairs, and other outreach endeavors.

—BY DVORAH CURZON

Dan Shannon is New Publishing Director



Dan Shannon has accepted the position of publishing director for the Conference. Through the influence of his grandmother, Shannon was baptized into the Church when he was a youth but strayed away for 25 years. He was rebaptized in 1991 and had a desire to share the Advent message with the world. "When I found out in 1993 that I could do this and be paid for it, too, I became a literature evangelist," Shannon explains.

In 2001 he was asked to serve as an assistant publishing director in the Carolina Conference, to train and recruit new literature evangelists. He was invited to Gulf States Conference in 2003, where he served as an assistant publishing director. Shannon and his wife, Donna, have two children, 10-year-old Sarah, and two-year-old Anna.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Magnum Accepts Youth Director Position



James Mangum has been invited by the Gulf States Conference executive committee to fill the position of Conference youth director.

Mangum, who was serving as the pastor of the University Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., has been working as a pastor for the past 13 years. He began his ministry as an evangelist before he accepted a call to be a pastor in 1995. He has been involved with youth since he began ministry, and believes that God can use him and his family to help lead young people to Christ. Mangum and wife Tania, 11-year-old daughter

Priscila, and two-year-old son Lucas are delighted to serve. Mangum will be working with the children's ministries, Pathfinders, youth, and young adults programs and youth rallies. "Let's pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the youth department that we can grow and prepare for the coming of Christ," Mangum requests.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

“Bags of Love” Program Grows in Ohio County

The Bags of Love program in Ohio County, Ky., has been blessed to receive a new storage building. The 16' x 20' building was dedicated November 15, 2008. Although the inside of the building needs to be finished, it can still be used as is.

The Bags of Love program provides duffle bags to children who have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services. These children are usually removed without being able to take any of their personal belongings with them. The bags contain a quilt, toys, games, and personal care items appropriate to the child's age.

This program began in Ohio County in the fall of 2005 after Barbara and Jack Neher of Hopkinsville, Ky., introduced the idea and had a display set up at the 2005 camp meeting. Becky Millay felt a burden to initiate the program in her community.

The Ohio County Church has about 85 members and is situated in a rural community. With the support and encouragement of another member, Pat Burge, Millay recruited a few other women to help. They made brochures to pass around and letters to request help for donations. Millay started doing presentations at various churches, sewing

clubs, community meetings, and other organizations, and the items started coming in. The women would sew as the fabric came in, and the first supply of bags were given to Child Protective Services in February of 2006.

Currently, there are four female members who

a difference in each child's life.”

At first, items were kept in a small storage room at the church. Later, one of the members loaned the use of their garage. By the end of 2007, enough money had been raised to start the building. Members Ken-

the quilts and bags. One church member had a Christmas party last year with their family. Their entire family brought items for Bags of Love and gave a monetary donation. Funds are received from United Way, Wal-Mart, and Lions Club.

Child Protective Ser-



Becky Millay stands at the door of the new building. The Bags of Love logo is printed on the door.

regularly help to sew the bags and quilts, and others who help occasionally. In addition, there are two women from the community who help often, and nine from the community who help occasionally.

“This has been such a blessing for me, and I am so thankful that God has given our little church this opportunity to help the children know Jesus loves them, and that there are people who care,” says Millay. “Every time I take the bags, I pray over each one that God's Holy Spirit will go with it, and make

neth Morphew and Adam Worthington poured the concrete and constructed the building.

The Methodist Church in Hartford, Ky., has helped to sew the bags and has donated many items. The Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford has donated many items and money. The Holy Redeemer Catholic Church held a fundraiser during their Vacation Bible School in 2007, and raised \$1,000 for the program.

The community has donated stuffed animals, books, toys, personal care items, and fabric for

vices has said many times how much the bags mean to the children. It is like Christmas for them. At the dedication of the building, one of the members started to cry and said, “I know how much these bags mean to the children because I have grandchildren that received one of them.” As of September 2008, 73 bags have been delivered to Child Protective Services.

For more information about Bags of Love, visit www.imvo.org.

—BY BECKY MILLAY

Adventist Soldier Honored in Iraq

Colonel Santiago awarded Sergeant First Class Becki M. Louden the Bronze Star for Exceptional Meritorious Service, signed by Pete Geren, secretary of the Army on December 4, 2008. This award is the highest Army award for non-combat duty and third highest award in the Army behind the Medal of Honor and Silver Star. The Iraqi Freedom Medal was awarded to all soldiers for their service in Iraq.



Sergeant First Class Becki M. Louden

For excellence on the physical fitness test last month, Louden will be receiving the Army Achievement Medal for receiving a

high score of 292 out of a possible 300 points. During the deployment, she has also received seven coins for informal recognition for performing an outstanding job.

Earlier she received a Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Service during Mobilization at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

During pre-mobilization, it was very difficult for Louden to obtain her

Sabbaths off. But, once in the country, she was given every Sabbath off and facilitates the on-post Adventist chapel service, Wednesday evening Bible study, and Christian movie night.

Louden says over and over how she doesn't deserve any awards, and that God should get all the glory for guiding and sustaining her through this experience. She is looking forward to returning to her family and church in Woodbury, Tenn., and being a stay-at-home mom again.

—BY PERRY LOUDEN JR.

Evangelism at Louisville First Church Reaps Harvest

A Discover Prophecy seminar was held at Louisville First Church from October 24 to November 16, 2008. The presentations were given by Tim Madding, pastor of Louisville First Church, every evening except Mondays. About 40 non-member guests attended regularly, and about 80 non-members attended at some point.

Advertising was done by mailing 100,000 brochures to homes in the greater Louisville area. The members also prepared a short promotional DVD featuring video clips from a previous Discover Prophecy series conducted by the pastor. Church members handed out the DVD's to friends and neighbors, inviting them to the meetings.

The meetings were videotaped and replayed the following evening starting one hour before the regular meeting began at 7 p.m. This way, anyone missing a presentation could come early the next night and watch it.

On opening night, Raymond Norris showed up early. When the pastor introduced himself, Norris said he was very excited about being there. He had received a brochure for a previous series, laid it aside, and had planned on attending. A family emergency arose on the opening night, and he had to leave town



Raymond Norris (left) joined the Church by profession of faith after attending the Discovery Prophecy series presented by Tim Madding, Louisville First Church pastor.

for the weekend and missed the opening presentations. He was distressed that he had been unable to attend the meetings during that time. He had been praying for something like this to happen again because he

wanted to get back to God.

A few days later he again received a brochure for another Discover Prophecy series. Norris attended every night and joined the Church by profession of faith.

At the close of the meetings, six people became members of the Church. Madding is confident that

number will grow. "The evangelist hasn't left town," says Madding, "so we are continuing to work with a number of people who attended, and there will be others joining in time."

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Pageland Members Build Church Debt-Free

In 2003, Robert Bennett, a lay pastor, and his congregation of 35 in Pageland, S.C., decided it was time to prove God and move from their converted-house church into a “real” church facility.

The congregation made the book *Counsels on Stewardship* their study guide for prayer meeting each Wednesday night. The results made a profound impact on their decision-making and the manner in which funds would be raised for the new church. The members decided not to have bake sales or yard sales, but dedicated themselves to the task of raising the funds needed to build the new edifice.

Four groups were formed, which were named after four of the sons of Jacob. Pledges were made, and eight acres of land was procured at the edge of town on a major thoroughfare. The design included a 250-seat sanctuary with

a baptistry, a sizable fellowship hall, Sabbath School rooms, and administrative offices. The goal of \$550,000 was set to be raised, with plans of going into the new church debt free.

The first year of the campaign turned out to be an overwhelming success. The amount pledged for the year was \$43,296; however, God blessed this small group of 30 members to raise \$192,114. The second year, \$171,946 was raised; and by year three, the church had raised a total of \$448,052.

As construction on the church began, so did the challenges for this congregation. Due to construction delays and economic changes, the cost for the facility escalated during the years to nearly double the original estimate. The congregation, now numbering 40 to

50 members, would not be discouraged, and decided to achieve the original goal of going into its new church debt-free.

In April 2007, the congregation made plans to occupy the new facility in July 2007. Though \$900,000 had been raised, they were still short \$120,000 of the goal of debt-free occupancy. An appeal was made to the members and a “Day of Victory” was set for June 2, 2007, for members to make a special effort of raising the balance for the project. Through fasting and prayer the congregation made personal sacrifices, and by “Victory Day,” \$114,000 had

been raised. They had fallen short by \$6,000. It was at that time one member stood and donated an additional \$3,000. Others began to follow in quick succession. Even the children and youth participated. Once the \$6,000 short-fall was reached, the church erupted into shouts of joy and praises to God.

Today, the church facility stands as a testimony to the power of God and the willingness of His people to sacrifice for His cause. To have 40-plus members raise more than 1.2 million dollars in four years is truly a miracle.

—BY LAWRENCE ELLIOTT



Pictured are the old Pageland church and the new church facility.

Teens Train as Literature Evangelists



Tabari Brannon conducts a training class at the Charlotte Northeast Church.

A quote from the book *Gospel Workers*, p. 211, states, “Youthful talent, well-organized and well-trained,

is needed in our churches.”

The South Atlantic publishing department has taken an active role in making sure the youth in the Conference are well-organized, well-trained, and their talents well-utilized to meet the needs in the churches.

A training class was conducted at the Northeast Church in Charlotte, N.C., by Tabari Brannon, the Conference metro-Charlotte literature evangelist coordinator.

The majority of the students were teenagers from the Pageland, S.C., Church. They have been canvassing with *Message* magazines since July 2008, and are preparing to canvass with the *MagaBooks*. There is also a seven-year-old boy participating in this program with great joy.

Ezra Mendinghall, Northeast Church pastor, graciously opened his church as a site for the

training classes. The success of getting young people to attend the training was due to the hard work of Pageland’s publishing representative, Codrington Banda; the Pathfinder director, Johanse Prince; and his assistant, Rahim Bost.

It is often said that the young people are the future of the Church. However, the future is now.

—BY CARL MCROY

DAJA Becomes EDGE School of Excellence

Two years ago, Decatur Adventist Junior Academy (DAJA), located in Stone Mountain, Ga., was notified that it could possibly qualify to be a Southern Union Adventist EDGE School of Excellence. This was riveted in the backs of their minds as they started to put the wheels into motion for the occasion.

There were deadlines to meet in all five components of the acronym GREAT. The program must be God-centered, Results-oriented, in an Environment that nurtures, Aligned with Adventist and national standards, and a Team effort.

December 16, 2008,

began with lots of enthusiasm as the visitors arrived. They were warmly greeted at the front door by DAJA middle school students. The first part of call was a lively joint worship with the staff, followed by breakfast. Next, the visitors enjoyed a tour of DAJA as they intermingled, interviewed, and took pictures with teachers and students.

By the end of the day, several commendations were given. The committee met with the staff to give opinions and evaluations of DAJA. They stated that the God-centered component was met as soon as they entered the building. Jim Inger-

sol, Southern Union associate education director and chair of the God-centered component, said, "I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as we walked in." The committee was able to see that DAJA's accreditation documents were up-to-date, the mission statement was clearly posted, the staff knew the purpose of the mission statement, and students were able to recite it. All of this affirmed results-oriented. It was clear that the environment was nurturing by the warm welcome, inviting classrooms, and hospitality of the students dressed in uniform to welcome the Southern Union officials — and obvious DAJA staff

comradery. The lesson plans were aligned with Adventist and national standards. Finally, a team effort was evident by the well-disciplined students and staff who worked together.

DAJA was declared an Adventist EDGE School of Excellence. It is the second school in the Southern Union to receive the title. A score of 92 percent is required to qualify as a school of excellence. DAJA exceeded their expectations by earning 96 percent! At a later ceremony, DAJA will be presented with an Adventist EDGE flag, trophy, and plaque.

—BY MICHELLE O'REILLY AND
STEPHENE DEMETRIUS

Champions of the Word Named

Hardly could the voice of the moderator be heard above the continued applause that had erupted in the Grace Temple Church in Ft. Worth, Tex., as it was announced that the game had ended in a tie. A tie-breaking round began and when it ended, South Atlantic sealed its comeback over Ontario to capture the 2008 National Bible Bowl XXVI Junior Youth championship.

Down by 70 points at the half, it was no easy feat for the junior team to execute. The coach, Joann Allen, realized her team was not playing to their potential, and made a placement switch with two of her players, moving team captain Andrea Allen to the inside, and Antonio Allen to the outside. This began

their steady climb, and when the game-ending buzzer sounded, they had executed a comeback from a 105 to 30 deficit at the half, to a 165 tie game. By the end of the one-minute lightening round, it was South Atlantic 205 and Ontario 185.

The senior youth were next up to play, and behind the mic could be heard the distinct voice of Lawrence Brown of the Northeastern Conference bringing the audience back to a state of readiness for this game. Though both teams had their share of seasoned veteran players, it was South Atlantic that maintained a steady lead over Southeastern, even until the final buzzer sounded to end the game.

From across North America and Canada, 32

teams converged on Ft. Worth to vie for the coveted spot of being National Bible Bowl XXVI champions. The second runners-up in each division were junior youth - Greater New York; senior youth - Greater New York; young adult - Southeastern; and adult - Ontario.

The young adult division brought Northeastern and the host Conference, Southwest Region, together with Garnet Morris of Northeastern as moderator. Rachael Mack of South Central stepped to the mic to moderate the final game of the young adult division, where Northeastern was declared the 2008 National Bible Bowl XXVI Young Adult champions.

In 1979, Trevor Baker, youth ministries director of

the Northeastern Conference, desired a means to lift the spirituality of the members of the Adventist Youth Society (AYS) within the Conference. Through the impression of the Holy Spirit, Bible Bowl games was a means to that end. It was fitting to see him, now president of the Northeastern Conference, step up to moderate the final game for the adult division. At the end of the game, Northeastern was crowned as champion.

The weekend was well planned by the Southwest Region Conference Bible Bowl contingency, along with members of the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association and the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association.

—BY D. WAYNE DAVIDSON

Biology Department Researches Ancient Plant DNA

Southern students and professors are practicing the process of extracting DNA from a plant sample in preparation for a trip to Banks Island, Canada, next summer to collect ancient plant samples that have been hidden away in the snowy wilderness.

Although ancient DNA extraction has been attempted before, it has not been very successful because the samples used were deemed contami-

nated. Lee Spencer, Ph.D., Biology professor at Southern, and his team chose plant

DNA because chloroplast is less likely to be contaminated by humans or other animals after being frozen for so long.

Students Ruthie Gulley and Janessa James have been chosen to help discover if DNA can be extracted from these ancient samples.

"I've learned so much along the way about

research methods," says James. "[This experience] will help me to differentiate good research from bad research in the future."

The team is thrilled at the possibility of being among the first to get DNA out of ancient plant material.

"Science can be an adventure, fun, and exciting," says Spencer. "It is the excitement and the adventure of anything is possible that keeps us on our toes."

—BY NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON



Ruthie Gulley and Janessa James practice the process of extracting DNA from plants samples.

Prayer Answered by a Knock on the Door

The day after Jessica Dickson prayed for Bible studies, Southern Adventist University students Summer and Stephanie Schleifer knocked on her apartment door.

Finding the sunny redheads on her doorstep, she invited them inside before they even said anything. Then Summer and Stephanie told Jessica they were going door to door to offer Bible studies.

"Oh my goodness, God is real!" Jessica exclaimed.

Stephanie and Summer, who had just become involved with Southern's Bible Workers Club, had

also been praying for the opportunity to give Bible studies when they found themselves at Jessica's apartment building.

In the months leading up to that knock on the door, Jessica's life had been falling apart. She and her boyfriend were on the verge of splitting up, she had discovered she was pregnant with her third child, and she was getting ready to move to another city. As her home life crumbled, she started searching for a spiritual solution.

Now a baptized Adventist, Jessica is an active



Jessica Dickson's (center) life changed when Stephanie and Summer Schleifer knocked on her door to offer Bible studies.

witness for Christ, joining Southern students every Sabbath to participate in street ministry.

"I'm a totally different person than I was," says Jessica, "and my kids are

totally different than they were."

Today her four-year-old son, who was once rebellious, now regularly says to strangers, "Excuse me, do you know Jesus is coming soon?"

Jessica's dream is to enroll at Southern so she can study theology and media production with a goal of doing video evangelism.

"If I can just reach one person the way Stephanie and Summer reached me, that's what I want," Jessica says. "They changed my life."

—BY MELISSA SWANSON

Secret of the Cave Airs on Cable Television

Secret of the Cave, a feature film created by Southern Adventist University with assistance from students and faculty, was recently aired on premium cable networks Encore®

and Starz Kids & Family®.

Based on a 1920's children's book with the same name, *Secret of the Cave* is a family-focused adventure film, exploring themes of forgiveness and selflessness.

"*Secret of the Cave* being played on these channels is good news," says David George, M.F.A., the film's producer and professor in the School of Visual Arts and Design. "It shares

the story with an even broader general audience than it has already enjoyed, and communicates the core theme of selflessness."

—BY LORI FUTCHER

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Miracle at Messiah's Mansion

BY AMY PUFFER



Tour guides gave an hour-and-fifteen minute tour of the life-size replica of the Mosaic Sanctuary, and were available to answer questions from the attendees.

It all started with a dream. Saint Elmo Church youth director Joel Stapleton and personal ministries director Lisa Puffer wanted to share something special with the local community. They wanted to share something unique that would disarm prejudice and give a large number of people a look at what Adventists believe. After much prayer, they felt led to introduce Messiah's Mansion, a life-size replica of the Mosaic Sanctuary, to the people of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The dream came with its share of challenges. There were only eight

weeks to prepare for the event. The outlook was dim, no matter how hard everyone worked.

There were tour guides to train. There was publicity to arrange. There was a location to obtain. There were licenses, permits, equipment, and volunteers to find. The list seemed endless. Puffer and Stapleton worked hard to get the entire project up and going.

On October 12, 2008, more than 100 volunteers came together from Seventh-day Adventist churches all over the area, including Saint Elmo, North River, and Benton, to help set up the Sanctuary. With Clayton Leineweber's expert guidance, the structure and related items took shape quickly. The sanctuary was completed

on October 17, and opened on October 18.



Comments from attendees about Messiah's Mansion included the following: "I appreciated most the parallels between the Sanctuary and Christ," and "Thank you for giving a message of death

in balance with the message of life. Thank you." The comments were not limited to the public who came through the tour. Volunteers working with the project experienced a change of life as well. One of the tour guides put it this way: "I began to understand the great message in the Sanctuary. Messiah's Mansion helped to solidify the information that I had learned. It also gave me a chance to share with others the blessings that I had gained from the study of the Sanctuary."

More than 11,000 people visited Messiah's Mansion in 10 days. More than 1,300 people requested further information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



More than 11,000 people visited the Messiah's Mansion during the 10 days it was in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Learning to Serve, Rooted in Christ

BY KIM TWOMLEY

Bass Memorial Academy's school motto is *Learning to Serve, Rooted in Christ*. The goal is to orient each student so that they address life with a mindset dedicated to Christian service.

Each year Bass selects a student to receive the Caring Heart Award, funded by a North American Division donor. Criteria for nomination includes, among other things, a demonstrated penchant for missions. Along with a certificate, the student also receives scholarship money to help finance their next mission trip. The teachers often have a tough job deciding who the award should go to. They simply have too many excellent candidates. Craig Ziesmer, principal of BMA, tells us, "Because it is impossible to decide who has demonstrated a higher level of service, the school has sometimes matched the scholarship funds and awarded a second Caring Heart Award as well."

Several ministry options are offered each year to facilitate this service training. Ziesmer says, "The ministry projects students participate in are chosen by a combination of student representatives and faculty working together on the religious activities committee." In the first weeks of school, the entire student body is presented with several ministry programs in which they can participate all year long. They might choose a church outreach program where they learn to lead and preach for a worship service. They might volunteer to help produce encouraging, uplifting videos to be posted on the web or taken to shut-in church members, or used as a witnessing tool. Some choose the traditional Sabbath afternoon activities of handing out literature or singing at a local hospital. Many start raising money right away so that they can go on the mission trip

scheduled during Spring break. Most students participate in more than one avenue of ministry and afford themselves a wide variety of opportunities and experiences.

One of the most popular ministries is the disaster response team. This year, the opportunity to bring relief to the victims of Hurricane Gustav came just weeks after the teams were organized. Burney Culpeper, the boys' dean and a Bass Memorial Academy alumnus ('90) led two separate groups to Bridge City, Texas, where they manned distribution lines, cleaned out flooded houses, and hauled away brush and debris.

However, hurricanes do not happen everyday. Service to others is not always connected to a national disaster. What if the disaster is of a much more personal nature, close to home and with no media coverage? Mark Carr, who is also a Bass Memorial Academy alumnus ('88), is now the director of BMA's Grounds Department. He wanted to impress on the students in his charge that the mission field starts right outside one's door. He said, "My philosophy is 'Let's start something and do it on a regular basis.' It needs to be a real and regular part of the students' school week. I didn't want it to be just a photo op." He began taking his grounds crew out every Thursday to a home of someone in the community who needed help. He said, "When we get rained out, the kids are disheartened. They really *want* to go, and they're disappointed when they can't." In one household they helped,



Mark Carr (left) stands with Gene and Gerline Travasos. Gene died December 23, 2008.

the husband was dying of cancer. Another was a 76-year-old woman of frail health, who suddenly found herself raising two small grandchildren.

Neither circumstance provoked media attention, nor brought hordes of anxious volunteers rushing in to help. But, to the people involved, the situations are dire nonetheless.

Bass Memorial Academy's faculty models both kinds of service, corporate and individual. Together we can build orphanages, establish churches, comfort the devastated, and accomplish other mighty tasks for God's glory. But, students are also taught to respond individually and consistently wherever they find a need. They do not have to wait for a mission trip. Occasionally, they may find themselves in the spotlight, just as they were in Texas. More often, though, a life of service will be much lower profile. Either way, a Bass student serves because he or she wants to follow the pattern Christ set before them, to reach out to their fellow man in whatever setting they find themselves.

Kim Twomley is recruiting and development director at Bass Memorial Academy.

Help for Adventist Communicators

BY NICOLE BATTEN

Feeling dazed and confused about communicating your church's message in today's media-saturated world? Don't worry. There's help.

If you've ever been asked to serve as communication director or webmaster for your church, you know the challenges that come with the job. Many members who end up serving in these kinds of positions have little to no training in communications. They aren't sure how to write and submit a press release to their local newspaper. They don't know how to create a website that attracts young families. They have never edited a newsletter and dealt with frustrating printing issues. They also usually don't have the first clue how to create a YouTube video for their church.

The thought of doing these kinds of communication tasks can be overwhelming for anyone. But the great news is you don't have to do it alone. There is an organization called the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) that provides support for Adventists involved in the field of communication. It is for everyone — from communication professionals to lay-people serving in their local church.

I recently attended SAC's annual

convention — something I look forward to every year. Besides great speakers and valuable workshops that help you hone your communication skills, you get to meet people from all over the North American Division who do what you do. You can swap ideas and ask for help on projects. It is an amaz-

ing networking opportunity. The attendees range from professionals who work for the denomination to freelancers to newspaper reporters to local members who serve in their churches. They all have one thing in common, though — they're Seventh-day Adventists who want to use their talents to communicate God's love.

The 2008 SAC convention included seminars on topics such as "How to Use

Social Media to Build Your Awareness Online," "How to Pitch Reporters with Confidence," "How to Use the Power of Video," and "How to Communicate In a Crisis Situation." In addition to the learning and training that happened at the convention, there was an important spiritual component. Excellent presenters, such as Dick Stenbakken, shared Jesus in new and powerful ways. And during the weekend, a sense of camaraderie developed — one that made me realize we are in this "battle" together — we are not alone. I came away from the weekend feeling spiritually energized, ready to tackle whatever challenges the devil sends my way, and armed with new knowledge that would empower me to be a better communicator.

I have been a member of the Society of Adventist Communicators for



SAC 2008 attendees in Denver, Colorado

six years now, and while I enjoy the annual convention immensely, I also benefit all year long from the resources and contacts it provides — resources like the online learning center, job bank, membership directory, and media credentialing. Whether you are a local church communication director or a professional working in the field, you will find SAC's membership benefits worth the meager \$25 annual membership fee — \$10 for students.

SAC's membership benefits include a free monthly newsletter and access to the "Members Only" section of the website. My favorite perk though, is the online membership directory. This is helpful in finding people to collaborate with. For example, do you need to find someone who produces videos, designs websites, or writes press releases? You'll find them

in SAC's online directory. You can also post your own profile and even upload samples from your portfolio.

The "Members Only" section of SAC's website also has an online learning center where you can listen to podcasts on various communication topics. All of the speakers and seminars from the 2008 convention are posted.

If you work in the field of communication, you will definitely find SAC's job bank very

helpful. It allows you to post jobs and resumes. SAC also offers local chapters. If there isn't one in your area, you can start one. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each conference had its own chapter?

The point is — whether through the membership directory, joining a local chapter, or attending the annual conventions — you'll benefit from a professional organization like the Society of Adventist Communicators. Empower yourself and your church — check out SAC today. Visit www.adventistcommunicators.org. Perhaps I'll see you in Newport Beach, California, October 14-17, for this year's annual convention.

Nicole Batten works as a public relations consultant. Have a comment to share? Email her at nicole@gofishpublicity.com.

What is SAC?

The Society of Adventist Communicators nurtures the spiritual, social, and professional growth of Seventh-day Adventists who are involved in the field of communication. Its members are composed of communication professionals both in and outside of the Church structure, students, teachers, freelancers, and lay-people serving their local church. Its members are involved in all aspects of communication, including:

- * Public relations/Media relations
- * Corporate communications
- * Marketing communication
- * Broadcasting (TV and radio)
- * Writing
- * Editing
- * Advertising
- * Video production
- * Graphic design
- * Photography
- * Web design/programming
- * Teaching

Society of Adventist Communicators

To learn more about the Society of Adventist Communicators or become a member, visit www.adventistcommunicators.org.

Coming to Christ in a Muslim Country

BY SHELLEY NOLAN FREESLAND

Our world continues to struggle for freedom of religion. In the past year, two Adventist World Radio (AWR) producers nearly lost their lives because they were discovered making programs that are heard in Muslim areas. Many listeners to "The Voice of Hope" broadcasts suffer in various ways because of their decision to heed God's call.

But the Gospel continues to be heard by people in these difficult areas, because of the reach of AWR. Following is a series of e-mail messages that we received from one listener. It illustrates not only the harsh reality faced by those who wish to follow Jesus, but also the inspiring testimony of a changed life.

First message:

Thank you so much. I really love AWR and its programs. To introduce myself, my name is Amin. I am a boy of 19 years old, and I am from [a Mus-

lim country]. Please, will you help me to learn more about Christianity and Jesus Christ? I'm eager to know about this religion and this radio.

Second message – one month later:

How delightful it was to receive your first letter. A great joy filled my heart. But I have some questions.

1. How does Christianity view the other religions?
2. Can a non-Christian become Christian?
3. If yes, what conditions fulfill this conversion?
4. How do I know I am "saved?"
5. What will happen to me if I don't "receive Christ?"
6. Is it true that all I have to do is "believe?"
7. How do I pray?
8. Can you explain Matthew 10:34-36 and Corinthians 6:3?

May I have a Bible (both of them: Old and New Testament)? I do hope

I am not putting you to too much trouble. Thank you again for your precious letter and helpful programs. Please, pray for me.

Third message – two months later:

I'm very happy to say that I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. My life has just begun.

As a teenager, I wanted to be happy. I wanted meaning in life. I was asking myself, "Who am I? Where am I going?" But when I started to know Jesus Christ, my life has changed.

I know Satan hates me now more than ever, but I also know that Jesus is alive to help me live a new life that is pleasing to God. Now I'm a new Christian. Every day I read the Bible (using the Internet). I read some stories and miracles of the Lord. I'm learning more truths. The Word of God makes my heart come alive



you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven," Matthew 5:11, 12.

But what should I do if my family kicks me out? Where to go? What to do? Don't tell me to pray or to read the Bible. I do that every day. I can't receive any letters now because my father will get them instead of me and burn them.

God bless you.

Last message – a few days later:

I don't care what's happening to me. I love Jesus Christ. I'm ready to die for Him. When my father tore up my Christian books, I used to read the Bible on my computer, but now I'm not allowed to use it. I'm obliged to borrow some money from my friends to go to the cyber cafe.

Yesterday, two policemen came to our house and asked to meet me. One of them said, "I think you were playing, right? You'd better stop this Christianity game and be a man. But if you don't stop this game, we'll bury you alive. We'll consider you a terrorist. I think you know the result. In this case prison will welcome you forever."

I'm sure I'll be taken to prison soon, either this week or the next one. I'm just writing to let you know, *not* to ask for help. I know that no one can help me, even Christians, but only the Lord.

I don't know what will happen to me. Maybe this e-mail will be the last one.

Note: This was the last message we received from Amin. We pray that he is safe and faithful.

By giving generously to the Adventist World Radio annual offering, you

will make it possible for millions of people around the world to hear about God and His love for the very first time. To learn more about AWR, please visit www.awr.org.

Shelley Nolan Freesland is communication director at Adventist World Radio.

AWR's ministry is unique in several ways:

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- Radio can reach more people, for less money, than nearly any other form of outreach.
- Broadcasts bypass political and geographic barriers, bringing the message of hope to people who are otherwise inaccessible.

again, and my prayers bring light to me.

The message of Jesus Christ is my only hope. I have sincerely trusted in His word, and I am following Him. Really, He was right when He said, "I'm the light of the world. I'm the way, the truth, and the life."

I wish I could find someone to share the Word of God with, and Jesus' salvation and prayers, because I don't want to be alone with the Satan, especially as I have just begun my new life.

Next message – two months later:

Every day they abuse me and say, "Let the Christians feed you if they can," and start laughing. My father tore up my Christian books and said, "If only I see one book like those between your hands, I will bury you alive."

I know that Jesus Christ said, "Blessed are you when people insult

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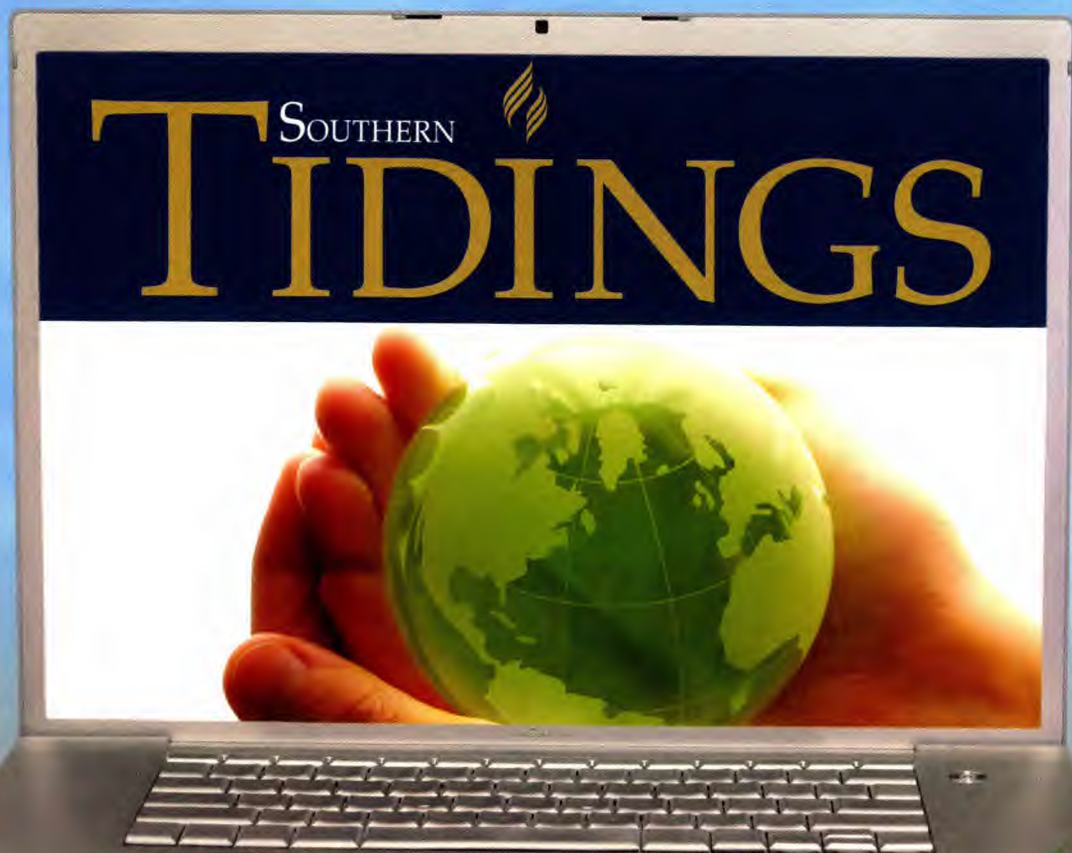


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SAVANNAH ISLAND GETAWAY. Two newly decorated guest houses on beautiful, peaceful, river front property. Each house is fully equipped with kitchen, living/dining, laundry room, 2 baths, 2 bedrooms. Each sleeps four @ \$225.00/night. Kay Curl 912-507-7515. Pictures @ www.savannahislandgetaway.com. [2]

AFFORDABLE NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAIN RENTALS – Comfortable 1 bedroom apartments or separate cottages. Furnished or not, your choice. Long term rates available. Near SDA churches and hospital. Check our website at www.lakemontcottages.com. 800-597-0692. [2]

QUIET OAKS ASSISTED LIVING in Graysville, TN (45 miles from Southern Adventist University) has room openings for seniors. A 25-acre mountain estate with many walking trails and gardens is located near 3 local SDA churches. Our licensed home is clean and updated with 11 rooms, 3ABN TV, healthy menu, social activities and other amenities. Call RN Administrator, Laura Morrison 423-775-7658 or e-mail quietoaks@comcast.net or www.quietoak.com. [2]

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE is a place where you can live independently in your own home. Lawn mowing and maintenance provided. Church and nursing home on grounds. Make friends with Adventist neighbors, and enjoy the low cost of living in the Oklahoma countryside. Call Bill Norman, 405-454-6538. Website: www.summit-ridge-village.org [2-4]

FLORIDA LIVING: *Where the Living is Easy!* Senior community less than one hour from Disney/Daytona Beach. Ground-level apts/rooms for one-year lease – some furnished. Transportation/housekeeping available. Church/pool/shopping/activities/3ABN/Hope TV/LLBN. **Vacationers-2BR apts.** completely furnished –\$45, \$75/per night – minimum 3 nights; \$300 or \$400/week up to 4 months. Call 800-729-8017; or 407-862-2646, x24. Website: floridalivingretirement.com. Email: JackieFLRC@aol.com. [2-4]

AVON PARK, FL – For sale, 1300 sq. ft. half duplex on corner lot. Two bedroom, two full bath, two-car garage. Enclosed back porch with air conditioning. SDA church and k-12 school less than five minute drive. \$107k. Call 863-257-3050. [2, 3]

GREAT PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY on the plains of Hays, KS. New Adventist kindergarten through eighth grade school. Beautiful SDA church 25 miles away. Wonderful health facilities: Hays Medical Center and Michael DeBaakey Heart Institute. Fort Hays University, Great Plains Academy, and Union College a half day's drive. Many job opportunities. Call 785-623-0898. [2, 3]

LOVELY RANCH STYLE COUNTRY HOME – 1 rural acre in corner, GA. 1,200 sq. ft., large living room, 2 bedroom, 2-car garage. All remodeled: floors, doors, cabinets, back deck. Gas heating. Backyard vegetable garden, 1 apple tree, 2 pecan trees, 4 blueberry bushes. \$129,000. web: 3nhc.blogspot.com. [2]

IN THE COUNTRY, NEAR SAU – New home (built in 2006) on 1.3 wooded acres less than 5 miles from Collegedale. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, with a bonus room upstairs. Large kitchen opens to large combined dining/living room with wood stove. Call Jeff at 229-588-4024. See at 220blair.com. [2, 3]

FIVE MINUTES FROM SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY – beautiful home for sale. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath with bonus room and office.

This home has lots of added features. 423-910-0079, decbcc@gmail.com. [2]

SOUTHERN COUNTRY LIVING-Johnston Estates -92 acres to develop. 130+ Lots and homes for sale. Lots priced at \$45K+, homes at \$175K+. Spec and owner homes available- all utilities, low taxes, flexible financing. 4 miles from Southern Adventist University. SDA churches, schools, and ABC available. 15 mins to mall and stores. Moderate climate, great people, and great place to live. Call David Job, 770-601-6356. No Saturday calls. [2-7]

35 ACRE FARM NEAR LAFOLLETTE, TN SDA CHURCH – 3-bedroom house, 2 barns, stable, 60' x 20' workshop, dog kennel, 2 fenced pastures, private, view of Norris Lake, \$395,000, 423-566-4387, jkstclair@copper.net. Also, 4-bedroom, 4-bath, lakefront home, rec. room, garage/carport, incredible view, \$649,000, 423-566-5007, kaykuzma@aol.com. [2, 3]

NEAR CENTERVILLE, TN – 4200 s.f. historic home on beautiful 29 acres, dead end road; rustic style, partially finished with lovely large 1 br, 2 ba, jacuzzi; Spring water; Fantastic view, overlooks beautiful clear Mill Creek; surrounded by woods; pasture, completely fenced for animals. Also, historic 109 yr-old log cabin, 2 floors, good condition, liveable. \$359,000. 423-488-7010, 423-645-4045. [2]

LAND FOR SALE IN EAST TENNESSEE MOUNTAINS – Choice tract of land featuring beautiful stream, mature timber, fertile land, great views, and utilities. Located inside the Cherokee National Forest. Near lakes, rivers, and recreational opportunities. Ideal for country living. Good investment. 301-854-0849 or e-mail Kathyr7@verizon.net. [2, 3]

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NEED a LOAN or HELP to STOP FORECLOSURE? Refinancing, buying a new home, or stopping foreclosure (call for details)? I can help in all 50 states. Doug Spinella, Dedicated Mortgage Services. 888-825-4105 x103, or doug@dedicated2loans.com. [2]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

LAURELBROOK ACADEMY seeks mission-minded staff. Beautiful mountain location; 60 miles from SAU. Housing and stipend provided. Positions open for Business Manager and in healthcare and agriculture as well as for teachers in Science, English, and Math. Call Roger Westfall at 423-775-0771; or email: chsape@cs.com ©

DENTIST NEEDED – AMEN member desires medical missionary minded associate/partner/buyer for dental practice. Please contact Dr. Dick Miller, 706-766-1825. [2-5]

LIFESTYLE RETREAT IN NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS is looking for men and women who are called to the health ministry by partnering in setting up a lifestyle program in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. Call 706-865-0503. Visit us at www.bluecreekcabins.com. [2]

HOSPITALIST OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA. Gordon Hospital is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible Internal Medicine physicians. Live within a beautiful southern community which offers a gorgeous Adventist hospital (www.gordonhospital.com), brand new Adventist elementary school (www.cobleschool.com), and first class Adventist high school (www.gcasda.org). Southern Adventist University within a 45 minute drive (www.southern.edu). Contact bonnie.shadix@ahss.org; 1-800-264-8642. [2-11]

BEAUTIFUL ADVENTIST HOSPITAL located in North Georgia is seeking **Board Certified/Board Eligible OBGYN.** Join a highly respected, busy private practice. Excellent income guarantee. Excellent benefits. Outstanding Adventist schools within community. Southern University within a 45 minute drive. For more information contact bonnie.

shadix@ahss.org, or call 800-264-8642. www.gordonhospital.com. [2-6]

PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITY IN GEORGIA. Seeking family medicine or internal medicine physician for practice in Montezuma, Georgia. Hospital employment model with competitive base salary, bonus potential and full benefits package. Current employed physicians are Seventh-day Adventists. Montezuma is one hour drive from Macon and a two-hour drive from Atlanta. Email Ken Pittman, Resurgence Health Group, with CV to k.pittman@resurgencehealthgroup.com [2]

PA OR NP WANTED – Unique medical missionary opportunity with SDA medical office. Become part of a dedicated mission-oriented team. Make a difference working as the right arm of the gospel. Hayden Lake, Idaho. Initial halftime with options to fulltime. Email medicalministry@verizon.net. [2, 3]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking qualified individuals for job opportunities in both clinical and non-clinical environments. Help us extend the healing ministry of Christ in one of our 37 hospitals. Learn more by contacting Stephanie Murrill at Stephanie.Murrill@ahss.org or (407)975-3792. [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Education and Psychology seeks full-time faculty in area of research and statistics. Criteria includes PhD in research or related area, teaching experience (preferably higher education), and commitment to the principles of Seventh-day Adventist education. Expertise should include quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, a familiarity with action research and evaluation. Strength in a cognate area is desirable. Responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, thesis advisement, collaborating with faculty, and guiding students. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should send resume and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, sep@southern.edu; fax: 423-236-2468. [2]

that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should send resume and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, sep@southern.edu; fax: 423-236-2468. [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Nursing seeks an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner faculty member who holds ACNP certification and has current clinical experience. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching experience, enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to

nursing and SDA education. Doctorate preferred, but will consider other qualified individuals. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Desiree Batson, Search Committee Chair, drbatson@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Professor of Spanish.** Begins August 2009. Earned doctorate in Spanish (specialization open). Native/near-native fluency in Spanish, teaching experience at college level, enthusiasm for teaching all levels of Spanish, teach four courses (or equivalent) per semester, students' advising, and serve on various committees. Applicants qualified to teach other modern languages (Italian or ASL preferred). Must be an active Seventh-day Adventist in good standing. Application deadline: June 1, 2009. Send letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: Dr. Carlos Parra, Chair, Search Committee, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370. [2]

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY seeks two SDA physical educators for fall 2009. Ph.D. preferred. Rank & Salary based on degree, experience, & scholarship. Duties include: teaching pedagogy theory & activity courses, advising students, scholarly activities & serving on University committees. Send cover letter (including a philosophy of teaching), CV, three course syllabi, three professional references with telephone numbers to: Desiree Fawn Noah, Human Resources, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Pkwy, Riverside, CA 92515. Phone 951-785-2088; Fax 951-785-2087; E-mail: dfnoah@lasierra.edu. See additional details at www.lasierra.edu/jobs. [2]

UNION COLLEGE seeks SDA **nursing instructor** for Maternal-Child tenure track position. Doctorate with teaching experience preferred. Must have MSN with teaching and/or clinical experience. Submit CV, cover letter and three references to Jeff Joiner, Union College, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or jejoiner@ucollege.edu. [2, 3]

LIVE-IN CARETAKER needed for two elderly SDA ladies outside Nashville. Room, board, and monthly stipend. Relaxed Adventist atmosphere. Call 615-672-2309. [2]

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE – Need hard-working hands-on resourceful person to plan and develop agriculture, greenhouses and garden center at ministry in southeast TN. Salary, housing, and benefits for family or single person. Call Director at (423) 336-5052 or email resume to info@adventhome.org. [2]

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BOOKS—Over 250,000 new and used Adventist books in stock at www.LNFBooks.com. Looking for a publisher? Free review of your manuscript. Call 1-800-367-1844 or visit www.TeachServices.com. [2-10]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist [2-8]

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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. [2-4]

ALASKA CRUISE/TOUR Aug. 23 – Sept. 3. Cruise Inside Passage. Ports: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway. View Glacier National Park, College Fjord. Tour Anchorage, enjoy Alaska Railroad, Denali Wilderness Tundra Tour, Sternwheeler Cruise, & visit working Gold Mine Fairbanks. Great price! Call 1-863-453-7196. [2]

NEWSTART LIFESTYLE PROGRAM at Weimar Institute of Health & Education: Our 18-day NEWSTART Lifestyle Program reduces the risk of and reverses obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, fibromyalgia, stress & other degenerative diseases. For more information call 1-800-525-9192 now! Read testimonies on our website: www.newstart.com. [2-1]

HOME SCHOOLERS – explore your options for college and your future. Preview Union College during Home School Sneak Peek April 16-17, 2009. For more information or to reserve your place call 800.228.4600 or e-mail gofar@ucollege.edu. [2, 3]

MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION in Atlanta, June 23-July 3. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit www.gcsession.org 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. ©

Andrews University Undergoing Accreditation

Public Invited to Comment

Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit March 22–25, 2009, by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Andrews University has been accredited by the Commission since 1939. Its accreditation is at the doctoral degree level and includes degree sites at various other locations around the world.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:

Public Comment on Andrews University
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed. Comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by February 22, 2009.

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AUTOS and PASSENGER VANS NEEDED!!! Looking for a "Tax Break?"

The Southern Union Home Health Education Services (HHES) is looking for individuals or businesses willing to donate cars or vans to its YOUTH SUMMIT student missionary program. These much-needed vehicles will be used by student literature evangelists and Bible workers, to do evangelistic work in various church locations throughout the Southern Union. Financial contributions are accepted as well.

For more information, please call Rocky Davis or Jim Wilson at:
404-299-1621

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/>, djmiller4000@embarqmail.com, or 386-789-3235.

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. 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. Web: <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.

cfl.rr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

North Florida Cowboy Camp Meeting – March 6-8. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351.

120 Conference for collegiate/young adults – March 13-14. Sheraton Orlando North. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Men's Ministries Conventions. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: leonard.fernandez@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x210. Registration: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/> or 386-454-1351.
March 13-15. Speakers: Shian O'Conner, Richard O'Ffill, Ruben Ortiz, Derek Morris.
March 20-22. Speakers: George Thornton, Burnett Robinson, Derek Morris.

Just Do Something Youth Conference – April 2-4. Forest Lake Academy, Apopka. Details: 407-644-5000 x129.

Florida Keys Camp Meeting – April 3-4. Camp Sawyer Boy Scout Camp, Big Pine Key. Details: 305-743-5268.

Georgia-Cumberland

Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com

High School Retreat – Feb. 6-8. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Prayer Ministries Day – Feb. 14. Maryville, TN, Church.

Prayer Conference – Feb. 20-22. Cohutta Springs.

Pathfinder Teen Trips – Feb. 20-23.

Lay Evangelism Rally – Feb. 21. Chestatee, GA.

Adventist Christian Fellowship Leadership Conference – Feb. 27-March 1. Knoxville, TN.

Health Rally – Feb. 28. Greater Atlanta.

Lay Evangelism Rally – March 7. Maryville, TN.

Un Nuevo dia – Reunion de damas – March 13, 14. Atlanta, GA.

Adventurer Family Fun Day – March 15. Cohutta Springs.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board
March 17. May 12.

Conference Executive Committee
March 17. May 12.

Disaster Response Training – Feb. 27-March 1. Indian Creek Camp.

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-English – May 22-30. Highland Academy.

Camp Meeting-Spanish – June 5, 6. Highland Academy.

Southern Adventist University

Parents Weekend – Feb. 13-15.

Campus Open House – Feb. 14.

Parents Brunch – Feb. 15.

PreViewSouthern – Feb. 16.

Honor Music Festival Concert – Feb. 21.

Spring Break – Feb. 27-March 8.

Announcements

Carol Zarska at Wilmington SDA Church – March 13, 14. Zarska will present the sanctuary as applied to relationships with God and one another. The church is located at 2833 Market Street in Wilmington, NC.

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.

Enterprise Academy Alumni Association 90th Anniversary All School Homecoming – April 10, 11. On the campus of Great Plains Academy, in Enterprise, Kansas. ALL alumni are invited to attend. Details: <http://www.alumni2009.org> or call Darcy Force, 785-263-8211.

Ramah SDA Junior Academy Alumni Reunion – April 24-26. (Formerly, Ramah Parochial School located in Savannah, GA)

Would like to hear from its former teachers, students, and former pastors of the West Broad SDA Church to participate in its annual alumni reunion commemorating 95 years of service. Please contact Alumni President Marian Pelote at 912-236-1480 or register online at Ramahsda.tripod.com.

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 Isakalumni@Isak12.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.

Platte Valley Alumni Association Homecoming – April 25. On the Platte Valley Academy campus in Shelton, Nebraska. Details: <http://www.greatplainsacademy.org> or call Darcy Force, 785-263-8211.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake/Great Lakes Academy Reunion – June 11-14. Alumni and schoolmates of 1959 and earlier from Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959. For further information, contact the GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.GLAA.net

Los Angeles Academy 85th Anniversary & Celebration – March 13-15. All former students and faculty of Lynwood Academy, Los Angeles Union, and Los Angeles Academy. Details: 323-321-2585 or email laahomecoming@aol.com.

Oakwood University Alumni Weekend – April 9-12 on the campus of Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. Details: www.oakwoodalumni.org or 256-726-7039.

	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13
Atlanta, GA	6:12	6:19	6:25	6:31	6:38	6:43
Charleston, SC	5:56	6:02	6:09	6:14	6:21	6:26
Charlotte, NC	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16	6:23	6:29
Collegedale, TN	6:12	6:19	6:26	6:33	6:40	6:46
Huntsville, AL	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52
Jackson, MS	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07
Louisville, KY	6:10	6:18	6:25	6:33	6:41	6:48
Memphis, TN	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05
Miami, FL	6:07	6:12	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:29
Montgomery, AL	5:22	5:28	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:51
Nashville, TN	5:17	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52
Orlando, FL	6:08	6:13	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:33
Wilmington, NC	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:17

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Hollie-Tsede 404-299-1832. Deadline for
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