

October 2011



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS



Daily Miracles
Sección En Español

It Was Not Simply Trees ... It Was the Mission

It was a freezing 22 degrees Fahrenheit at Ft. Detrick, Maryland. The wind and snow were blowing virtually sideways. No one dared go outside, for it was bone-chilling cold. We knew what it's like to be called out in the heat of the day. We expected to be called out in formation, even in torrential rain wearing water-shielding ponchos. But on a morning like this, no one expected anything but a day confined to the barracks. As fate would have it, and much to our chagrin and complete shock, we heard the brash and commanding voice of Sergeant Brown rattle the windows and the doors. "Ten Hut... Everybody, FALL OUT!"

With thunderous footsteps you could hear 200 pair of boots hitting the wooden floor simultaneously. In a matter of 93 seconds it seemed a whole company of soldiers fully dressed rushed through the doors to configure a formation perfectly rectangled in a freezing brutal blizzard.

As we stood in formation dusted with snow, the sergeant stood in front looking warm and appearing to be free of a single flake. Finally he bellowed, "I need one platoon to volunteer and cut down some trees. I need 30 men to step forward NOW!" With heads looking straightforward, including mine, not a single man moved to the front. Again, he loudly voiced his request, sounding a little perturbed that out of 200 men not a single man stepped forward. For a third time he roared like a polar bear, "I need 30 men to go with me to cut down some trees!" Once more, as the pressure began to accelerate, not a one of us moved. It was just too cold to volunteer for anything. Finally, the sergeant with regular tone and with little or no intimidation said, "Soldiers, I need one platoon to go with me to a Douglas Fir farm and cut down Christmas trees to be installed in children's hospitals all along the East coast." With that appeal not 30, but 200 of us stepped forward with eagerness and enthusiasm to cut down Christmas trees. In less than two hours, four tractor-trailers were filled with Christmas trees to bring a little joy and happiness in the lives of sick children.

It was at that God-given teaching moment that I realized when the mission is clearly understood, people will respond.

As a pastor and leader in this great Advent movement, I reflect on the Great Commission that is clearly expressed, without uncertainty or ambiguity, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observed all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Matthew 28:19-20.

This Great Commission solicits all of us to step forward, not as conscripted soldiers, but as volunteers in the army of the living God. We have all been commissioned to tell our own personal redemption story. We have been given complete authority to act with confidence and a sense of duty. Any positive event that is experienced in life begs to be shared. We were all helplessly lost, until Jesus was intentional in trading His goodness for our sinfulness. That's an experience we are obligated to share.

Many times, all it takes to motivate to action is simply more effort spent in detailed explanation. Once we revisit our purpose and our aim, we can then realize when the mission of this Church is clearly articulated and understood, people will respond and accomplish much in the strength of the Lord. Today, our mission is not blurred or vague or nebulous, but crystal clear in its charge. "Go ye therefore..."

Let us all step forward together and answer the call; for as the mission is clearly articulated, the people will bless us with hundreds of foot soldiers in our churches — anxious to go teach, baptize, and follow-up teaching. There are only two options to consider — either we commit or we omit. As a people of God, we cannot be lacking or slack in our determination to share the Good News.

As I make final plans for retirement, I leave only to continue to give my life to accomplish the Great Commission.



Vanard J. Mendinghall
*Former South Atlantic
Conference President*

Guest Editorial

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Front Cover: Student literature evangelists take time to pray daily before canvassing.



Daily Miracles

BY CARRIE FRANCISCO

Adam Dunka and Christy Choi, student literature evangelists (LE) in Knoxville, Tennessee, were prepared for another fulfilling day of selling MagaBooks. During their morning worship, the entire team had been praying that God would do amazing miracles through them just as they had read about in *The Great Controversy*. Adam and Christy were dropped off in a neighborhood and started knocking on doors. As Adam walked toward Christy, he approached a home where he noticed the door was already open. He heard Christy's voice accompanied by other friendly voices chatting inside and was, subsequently, invited into the home.

As Adam walked in the house, he noticed a worn copy of *The Great Controversy* on the table. Christy had met a nice couple who had purchased *The Great Controversy* and *Peace Above the Storm* a year earlier from another student literature evangelist, Andrew Shurtliff. Impressed by Andrew's character and the truths found in *The Great Controversy*, the excited couple prayed that God would once again



An LE canvasses a man next to his truck.

send Andrew or another student evangelist to their door so they could learn more about the church he represented. Their prayers were answered with Adam and Christy,

who happily introduced them to the Knoxville, Tennessee, First Church. The couple's enthusiasm grew as they realized this church believed in the seventh-day Sabbath, affirming their belief that Saturday was the true Sabbath. Adam and Christy were excited to see how the seeds that were sown in this couple by Andrew one year ago blossomed into a committed relationship with Christ and His truth.

"As canvassers, our duty is to sow seeds of truth and, many times, we do not see the results of our hard work," says Adam. "However, this time Christy and I were able to savor the sweetness of the fruit of someone else's hard work."

Similar experiences occur every summer with the MagaBook Ministry Programs. A MagaBook is a book that has the look of a magazine with a soft cover, and includes health books, children's books, and spiritual books such as *The Great Controversy* and *The Desire of Ages*. Students between the ages of 15 and 30 are recruited from a variety of Seventh-day Adventist academies, universities, home schools, and

public schools to become student literature evangelists. Student literature evangelists go door to door offering these books for donations between \$12 and \$25 per book. Fifty percent of the book donations totals go toward the costs of books, gas, maintenance of vehicles, and leadership, while students keep the other 50 percent of what they sell to assist with their tuition expenses.

In the summer of 2011, more than 250 students dedicated their lives to serving God as literature evangelists for the Southern Union's MagaBook Ministry Programs, Home Health Education Service (HHES), and Family Health Education Service (FHES). There were 11 MagaBook programs throughout the Southern Union from which students could choose. These programs lasted 10 weeks, May through July. During this time, students lived together, worshiped together, and worked together.

While participating in the MagaBook ministry, students enjoy inspiring worships, experience daily miracles, and learn to appreciate challenging circumstances which build their trust in God. Java Mattison, South Central Conference publishing director, not only noticed how students grew spiritually while canvassing, but he has also heard from parents how their children have changed. Once they return home, parents see their children leading out in family worships, cooking meals, and helping others in need. "The students are changed and strengthened, knowing they have help in Jesus," says Mattison. Also, students learn important life skills, such as relationship-building and business skills, which can benefit them in their future careers.

The MagaBook program also provides students with the opportunity to earn tuition money for their education. Academy-age students earn on average from \$2,000 to \$3,000 in scholarship funds each summer, and college-age students earn from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Depending on the school, Adventist educational institutions will match stu-

dents' earnings from 10 to 100 percent.

In addition to these scholarships, the "Sandy Robinson Scholarship" (provided by FHES) is awarded to several students at the end of the summer retreat. This award is given to students who excel in canvassing and have grown in character development. This past summer, seven students from the FHES program were recognized for their accomplishment by receiving this prestigious scholarship. "The scholarship is the beginning of a foundation that will help further fund students to attend our Seventh-day Adventist institutions," says Mattison. "It helps to encourage them to make this ministry a part of their life though school, and consider it as a life ministry. It was developed to help encourage and develop new leadership as well."

These scholarships can significantly reduce or eliminate the amount of loans students find necessary to complete their education. "By working with the summer MagaBook program, I have not only been able to pay my way through college, but it has been a blessing in my life, helping me grow in my relation-



Student LE (left) canvasses a customer.



Java Mattison (right), South Central publishing director; and his wife, Toyin; and Vandeeon Griffin (left), South Central youth director, stand with South Central student LE's who received the Sandy Robinson Scholarship Award for Excellence.



This student LE felt impressed to canvass where God led her in Atlanta, Georgia.

ship with God,” says Alex Voigt, a student literature evangelist leader in Tennessee.

Despite the declining economy, students have continued to reach others and distribute literature. MagaBook donations have only increased in the HHES and FHES programs as students share Jesus with others. Rick Christman, Southern Union youth publishing director, says, “There has been a steady increase in donations by an average of three percent each summer since 2007. The summer of 2011 was our highest summer with an increase of 13 percent compared to the previous summer.” Along with a record summer of approximately \$1.1 million in donations, these young people distributed more than 100,000 MagaBooks and *Steps to Christ*. As a result of the student literature evangelists’ ministry, thousands of people signed up for Bible studies, Daniel/Revelation seminars, cooking schools, and tobacco cessation courses. Many



Java Mattison (right), South Central publishing director, stands with the South Central student LE's.

more were prayed for and encouraged in their walk with God.

Tony Holben, a student literature evangelist in Kentucky this summer, experienced the blessing of seeing God set-up a divine

encounter. It was the end of a long work day, and Tony was looking forward to resting his weary feet. As he began to sit on the curb to wait for pick-up from his leader, he sensed the Holy Spirit urging him to



This brave student LE canvasses a truck driver before he drives away.

keep going. He slung his bag across his back and began knocking on more doors. At one of the homes, a woman invited him into her house to get a better look at the books he had to offer. Grabbing *The Great Controversy*, Tony felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to show the woman the book and talk about the Sabbath. As he did, the woman's eyes grew wide with surprise and interest. She had been searching for a church that worshiped and believed in the true seventh-day Sabbath. Tony was an answer to her prayer, and all because he listened to the Holy Spirit speaking to him!

"God continues to bless His people through simple methods of going door to door," says Christman. "We see God's blessing in this work, giving people a hunger and thirst for these MagaBooks. We are thankful for God's blessing in the increase of book donations. At the same time, we are looking for new ways to introduce people to Jesus. We

are experimenting with multi-media, and collaborating with evangelistic efforts throughout the Southern Union to bring the Good News of Jesus to every home.

"We live in a privileged time of history to bring truth-filled literature to those in need of hope," says Christman. "For our young people, it is a life-changing and character-growing experience."

To participate in the program there are only three requirements: a desire to grow in Jesus, passing grades in school, and a good work record. The program will provide students the necessary training in witnessing and canvassing, as well as food, housing, and local transportation. For students wanting to experience what canvassing is like on a short-term basis, there are one-to three-week programs they can participate in during the holidays.

Christman's advice for students who are interested in the MagaBook program: "Pray about it and be will-

ing to try something new, and see how God blesses."

For more information on the HHES and FHES MagaBook Ministry Program, please call 404-299-1621. Sign up by March 2012 to reserve your spot in this life-changing program. See how God uses you to bring others to Him.

"These are the days of Elijah, and God is looking for young people to be used as modern-day Daniels and Esthers to accomplish good things for Him," says Mattison. "I believe that it's a great opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself. It's an opportunity to win souls and share in the joy of Heaven. This ministry activates the faith of students, and puts their faith in action."

Carrie Francisco is a freelance writer.



LE's blaze the trails in Atlanta, Georgia, with books.

Southern Union Hispanic Feature



Joao Nogueira, pastor of a Hispanic church in Geneva, Switzerland, baptizes one of nine individuals.

Reaching Seven Billion!

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

For 25 years, former Adventist Manolo had turned down all invitations to attend the Valencia Church in Spain. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit was still working in him. When Emilio de León, Florida Conference pastor, started his campaign last May, Manolo was there, and had brought a friend who had also left the Church many years ago. They both gave their testimony one night after the meeting. The church was surprised and full of joy for that, and even more: one person got baptized after the campaign, and 12 continued studying the Bible. They have asked to be baptized in the near future, but it is the custom in Europe that candidate names have to be approved by the church board.

For the past 10 years, the Southern Union Conference Hispanic Ministries Department has been sending pastors to different areas of Latin America to exchange evangelistic approaches, to learn from the different cultures they have to pastor here in the United States, to impact the local church, and mainly to develop pastor-evangelists. This year, the challenge was different. The Southern Union, with a contribution from Philos Care Corporation (www.philoscare.com), a foundation



Roger Alvarez (left, at the podium), Southeastern Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, instructs the 20 individuals who joined the Church, and the 13 who returned to the Church after the first day of his week-long meeting in Gran Canaria.

committed to the spreading of the Gospel in many countries, sent 19 pastors to Europe. Meetings were held in Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and England in Spanish-speaking churches where, with the exception of Spain, members are foreign to the country they are living in, and the work to bring souls to Christ is very hard.

The Results of the Work

Samuel Díaz, Southeastern Conference pastor, who was in charge of the campaign that took place in Sevilla, Spain, reported two baptisms and two professions of faith, and 22 more individuals are waiting to be baptized.

In London, England, José Escobar, Georgia-Cumberland Conference pastor, had the privilege to baptize seven individuals and see 15 accepting the call to prepare

themselves for baptism. Lucía, who had left the Church 40 years ago, decided to come back. Rosario surprised his wife during the Sabbath meeting, as he expressed his desire to be baptized. The church is excited to continue the work with them.

Johnny Castro, Gulf States Conference pastor, baptized six individuals in Berlin,

Germany; and Carlos Pinto, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference pastor, performed the biggest baptism that the local pastor had had in 25 years of ministry at the Geneva Church in Switzerland.



Nicolle Brisé, Southeastern Conference women's ministries director, preached in Santa Cruz, Tenerife Norte. Her meetings resulted in 17 baptisms.



The evangelistic team that preached in 19 cities visited the ancient Roman aqueduct in Segovia, Spain, along with other sites, to gain an overview of the history and culture of Spain before going to the cities where God used them to baptize more than 84 individuals.



Jorge Mayer (front, right), Southern Union Hispanic ministries director, prays with Neftaly Ortiz (left), Georgia-Cumberland Hispanic ministries director, and David Verasategui, pastor, and their wives after a successful Thursday night meeting in Rome, Italy.



José Castillo, pastor from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Hispanic southwest district, is preaching to individuals in Milan, Italy.

In Elche, Spain, Julio de la Roca, Georgia-Cumberland Conference pastor, had a baptismal ceremony for three, and 10 people made their decision to follow Jesus.

Rome was very challenging because of the strong religious tradition, says Neftaly Ortiz, Georgia-Cumberland Hispanic ministries director. Most of the Church members work as care takers, and it is difficult for them to attend meetings during the week. Nevertheless, they got replacements at work in order to come to the reunions and bring friends. Meetings had to finish early every night because most of the attendees returned home by public transportation. Three individuals were baptized, and the members continue to work with those who are interested in the message of salvation.

José Castillo, pastor from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Hispanic southwest district, was very happy to see the work of the Holy Spirit in each meeting. During his campaign in Milan, Italy, nine people were baptized, and 18 answered the call to do the same in the near future. Every night, many would come to the altar expressing their desire of surrendering their lives to Jesus. He said, "There is no land or frontier where God can't work. He has promised the Holy Spirit, and we will see great results if we do His work in our churches, families, and communities."

The Vision

The Southern Union Hispanic Ministries Department believes in all forms of evangelism. That is the reason why lay people and pastors are constantly encouraged to practice personal evangelism, as well as other methods. There is an overwhelming reality: there are seven billion people to reach, and the Church needs massive methods of outreach. "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it," Matthew 9:37. The work of the public evangelist is just as important as it was in the Pentecost's time, when thousands of individuals were

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

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converted in one day, as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit through evangelist Peter. “Many of them received the Message and were baptized, and 3,000 were added to the group that day,” Acts 2:41.

Yes, it is a big challenge. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a great mission. All its institutions are concentrated in its fulfillment. The Spirit of Prophecy warns about a risk, and gives instructions to the Church administration: “Often the laborers, who might be a power for good in public meetings, are engaged in other work that allows them no time for active ministry among the people. For the conduct of affairs at the various centers of our work, those in responsibility must endeavor, as far as possible, to find consecrated men who have been trained in business lines. There is constant necessity of guarding against the tendency to tie up at these centers of influence men who could do a larger and more important work on the public platform, in presenting before unbelievers the truths of God’s Word,” *Review and Herald*, April 7, 1910. “God calls for evangelists. A true evangelist is a lover of souls. He hunts and fishes for men. Pastors are needed,” *Evangelism*, page 116.

“One worker who has been trained and educated for the work, who is controlled by the Spirit of Christ, will accomplish far more than ten laborers who go out deficient in knowledge, and weak in the faith...,” *Review and Herald*, May 29, 1888.

With this vision in mind, the Southern Union Conference wants to provide all the necessary tools and training to those pastors, by exposing them to different or better approaches to evangelism, and to different cultures and places, as explained in the introduction. The work done every year in these campaigns is planting in our pastors a new fervor for evangelism, and our local churches benefit from that because that spirit is transmitted to the members.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Carlos Pinto, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference pastor, meeting resulted in nine baptisms in Geneva, Switzerland.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Jorge Rojas, Florida Conference pastor, is preaching the Gospel in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Jorge Mayer (center), Southern Union Hispanic ministries director; Abel Paulin (left), Florida Conference vice president for Spanish-language ministries; and Javier Moliner, pastor of Alenza Church in Madrid, Spain, met at Alenza Church to discuss evangelism plans.



Instilling Courage in Young Children

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

The Adventist EDGE is committed to providing a nurturing environment, giving the child the tools to be confident, based on a trust that is God-centered.

Have you ever been at a child-care center at the drop-off hour? You must have seen children crying as their parents leave. It is heart-breaking, but they gradually learn that parents DO return. We may have read or been told that playing peek-a-boo helps infants get used to the idea of parents vanishing and reappearing. We also know that being consistent with their routines, such as, feeding them, and putting them to

sleep on time, as well as playing with them regularly helps children develop a sense of security.

Deb Gebeke, from NDSU, says that “infants have three basic innate fears: of sudden motion, of loud or abrupt noises, and of sudden approach. Toddlers and preschoolers gradually outgrow these as they learn to interpret their environment and to develop a sense of trust.”¹ As they grow older, they experience other kinds

of fears, like being afraid of the dark, or scared of dogs — fears that parents and teachers have to respect, but help them overcome. It is very important then to be aware of the fears children usually experience at the different stages they go through in early childhood. Helping them to be confident will impact their entire life.

Nevertheless, fear is a necessary emotion for survival. When a child can recognize danger, fear



thing people acquire with skill and knowledge.”² Courage gives the strength to not submit to other people’s opinions, and helps to be attracted to courageous people that will not be a stumbling block in the path to growth.

Many times, in the intent to spare children from suffering, parents overprotect them. They need to be gradually exposed to age-appropriate challenges in order to exercise their confidence. This is God’s teaching method. “The Lord frequently places us in difficult positions to stimulate us to greater exertion... God gives us lessons of trust. He would teach us where to look for help and strength in time of need... Faith grows strong in earnest conflict with doubt and fear,” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, pages 116, 117 (1876). Let children know that failure is not a catastrophic event, but rather a possibility from which to learn and improve.

Sports also build a child’s confidence. It exposes him to challenge. John Leonard, from the American Swimming and Coaches Association, says that courage and strength are dependent upon the exercise of both qualities. “I thought about this as I watched a young mother literally carry a seven-year-old into the swimming pool, sit him on the side of the pool and tie his swimsuit for him, pat him on the back, smile at his instructor, and then go take a seat... How does this child gain any sense of self to experience the opportunity for challenge and response?”

Having simple tasks appointed at home and in the classroom is another good way to build confidence and independence.

More importantly, making small children notice every time God helps or protects them, builds their confidence. “Only the sense of God’s presence can banish the fear that, for the timid child, would make life a burden. Let him fix in his memory the promise, ‘The angel of the Lord

encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them,’” *Education*, page 25. There are so many stories in the Bible that are perfect examples of people that were fearful, but overcame that feeling with the assurance of God’s presence.

Affirming children, noticing their good qualities, will develop confidence. We do not even need to praise them; we encourage them just by saying “I noticed you did this....”

“A basic behavioral principle is this: Children will repeat actions that get them attention from their parents. What this means is that we need to worry more about catching our children doing something right than doing something wrong,”³ says Rita Sommers-Flanagan, Ph.D., and John Sommers-Flanagan, Ph.D, University of Montana.

After Jesus’ baptism, as He was to start his ministry on Earth, God gave Him courage by letting Him know His appreciation — “Then a voice came from Heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased,’” Mark 1:11 — and Jesus had the courage to save the world!

¹ Deb Gebeke, Assistant Director at NDSU Extension Service, St. Paul, Minneapolis. Industry: Higher Education. Family Science Specialist. Article: *Children and Fear*. HE-458 (Revised), November 1993. Reviewed and reprinted, April 1994. <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/yf/famsoci/he458w.htm>

² Teresa A. Morgan, *Helping Your Child Build Courage That Will Increase Concentration*. Published: December 16, 2008, by Enzine Articles, an online source.

³ Rita and John Sommers-Flanagan, counselor educators at the University of Montana. Article: *Building Your Child’s Character: Challenges and Solutions*, published online by the American School Counselor Association. <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=482>.

can keep him safe, but there is a difference between being mindful and acting foolishly, or freezing when facing challenges.

An online source, Teresa A. Morgan, *Helping Your Child Build Courage That Will Increase Concentration*, stated, “Courage is confidence, and confidence separates individuals who are successful from those people who settled for less in life. Confidence comes with experience, and it’s some-

Dr. Ron C. Smith Elected President

Southern Union Conference 18th Quinquennial Session Report

Celebration, farewells, and welcomes marked the 18th Quinquennial Session of the Southern Union Conference held at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Atlanta, Ga.

Early in the Session, Gordon Retzer, who had served as president for the past eight years, announced his retirement. Reflecting on his ministry, Retzer said, "We began our ministry in 1968 at the Central Church in Orlando. Cheryl was 19; I had just graduated from Southern and turned 22. So after 43 years of exciting service, we have chosen to transition from elected leadership to lay involvement in this Church we love." Both Retzer and his wife expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Southern Union family.

Election Results

Constituents unanimously elected Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president; Jim Davidson, executive secretary; Randy Robinson, treasurer; Dennis Millburn, undertreasurer; and Carlos Salazar, Association treasurer.

Smith is a graduate of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., and Andrews University Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Mich. He has earned two doctoral de-



Dan Jackson (left), North American Division president and chair of the Southern Union Session, welcomes Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., and his wife, Yolanda, after Smith was elected.

grees: a doctor of ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N.Y., and a Ph.D. in psychology from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology in Pasadena, Calif.

During the last 32 years, Smith has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor, vice president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Md., and editor-in-chief of *Message* magazine. For the past four years, he has served as executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference.

He, and his wife, Yolanda, have two adult children who graduated from Oakwood University: Dawn, who is an educator, and Ron II, M.Div., a pastor in the Southeastern Conference.

In his acceptance

speech, Smith said, "Thank you for trusting us, and by God's grace we want to be loyal, faithful, and commit-



Retired President Gordon Retzer (left), and his wife, Cheryl, stand with the newly-elected president, Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., and his wife, Yolanda.

ted to your charge."

Reflecting on Smith's election, Retzer says, "Ron Smith is a man of God who loves people and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is a man of integrity

and character, and a gifted preacher. I have greatly enjoyed working closely with him, and have no doubt that God will use him to lead the great Southern Union to new accomplishments through the power of the Holy Spirit."

In addition, all departmental directors and associates were returned to office with the exception of those who are planning to retire. Three positions were referred to the executive committee to be filled:

Sabbath School, ASI, and children's ministries, which were held by the late Oliver J. McKinney; church

ministries, which was held by Allan Williamson; and ministerial/evangelism, which were held by Dennis Ross. These latter two men have each served the Church for more than 40



In an historic vote, delegates unanimously elected Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference.

years, and will be retiring in the near future.

Growing and Praising God Together

Jesus said, “If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me.” During the past five years, the members, pastors, educators, medical personnel, and literature evangelists have all worked together to present the Gospel to their neighbors, relatives, and friends. A major evangelistic push was made in the Good News Atlanta outreach initiative. During the past five years, more than 47,000 new members were baptized throughout the Union. The Southern Union now has more than 255,000 members who collectively gave just under one billion dollars (\$933,724, 874) in tithe during the same period. This growth and faithfulness in stewardship is a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, and the commitment of the Southern Union is to keep evangelism its consistent purpose, practice, and priority. The Union celebrates

and thanks God for His bountiful blessings.

Southern Adventist University

Included with the Southern Union Session is the Southern Adventist University Constituency Session, since SAU is owned

by the Southern Union Conference. Gordon Bietz, D.Min., Southern president, reported, “Southern has been blessed by considerable growth during the past five years, and is able to offer more young people the opportunity to learn in a thriving Adventist environment. Students can now choose from more than 80 academic degrees, and enjoy several new facilities on campus.”

Other institutional reports were given by the presidents of Adventist Health System, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, and Oakwood University. Great advances are being made by each of these institutions, as reported

in the Quinquennial Report found in the September issue of the *Southern Tidings*. It was noted that these institutions are continuing to advance because their leaders are working together with unity and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Photos and video reports from the Session are available at www.southernunion.com.

—BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III



Robbie Anderson, a lay person and delegate for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, is pleased as she listens to the progress made by the institutions in the Southern Union.

Elected Officers and Departmental Directors for 2011-2016

- Ron C. Smith, president
- Jim Davidson, executive secretary
- Randy Robinson, treasurer
- Dennis Milburn, under-treasurer
- Carlos Salazar, Association treasurer
- Communication Director – R. Steven Norman III
- Education Director – Debra Fryson
- Education Specialist – Gene Brewer
- Secondary Director – Jim Ingersoll
- Elementary Director – Diane Ruff
- Early Childhood Director – Tamara Libonati
- Planned Giving and Trust Services Director – Tom Carter
- Evangelism and Church Growth Institute Director – Ralph Ringer
- Hispanic Ministries Director – Jorge Mayer
- Native American Ministries Director – Fred Rogers
- Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director – Amireh Al-Haddad
- Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Associate Director – Kevin James
- Publishing Director – William Smith
- Publishing Associate Director – Keith Reid
- Women’s Ministries Director – Laura Smith
- Chaplaincy Director – Les Rilea

Park Ridge Health Nurse Recognized Nationally for Community Service

Joyce Roush, a registered nurse and Community Wellness coordinator at Park Ridge Health, Hendersonville, N.C., has been honored with the prestigious ATHENA Leadership Award®. The award is presented to women who demonstrate professional excellence, community service, and inspire other women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

Roush has worked as a registered nurse for more than 35 years, spending the past five years as coordinator for Park Ridge Health's "Wellness on

Wheels" program. Through her leadership, more than 25,000 individuals have received health screenings since the program's inception.

"It's a great honor for the hospital," said Roush. "The fact that I can do this work every day and still carry out the mission of what I personally believe in — and have that be a part of my job — exemplifies what the Athena Award is all about."

For service throughout her career, Roush has received various senatorial and congressional awards, the Governor's Award for



Joyce Roush continues to make an impact in the lives of community members through her work on the "Wellness on Wheels" program.

Heroism, and the Outstanding Organ Procurement Coordinator of North

America Award. In 1999, after being the first person in America to donate her own kidney to a complete stranger, Roush was featured in *People*, *The New York Times*, *The Today Show*, and *CBS Evening News*.

"Park Ridge is proud not only of Joyce, but of what this award represents," said Jimm Bunch, president of Park Ridge Health. "We are pleased to be recognized for what Park Ridge stands for: exemplary health care provided with compassion."

—BY KIRSTEN HOUMANN

Florida Hospital Flagler Among Nation's Top Hospitals in Paperless Clinical Environment

Florida Hospital Flagler, Palm Coast, Fla., achieved Stage 6 on the Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model® (EMRAM) by Healthcare Information and Management System Society (HIMSS) Analytics. This recognition highlights Florida Hospital Flagler's achievements in automating patient medical records. As of July 2011, only four percent of the more than 5,000 U.S. hospitals tracked by HIMSS Analytics have received this recognition. Florida Hospital Flagler is the first Adventist Health System hospital to obtain this designation.

"This designation is a



reflection of our employees' continued focus on improving processes and providing the safest and highest quality care for our patients," said David Ottati, Florida Hospital Flagler president and CEO.

The EMRAM is a method of evaluating the progress and impact of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems in hospitals. The model includes eight

stages (0-7) leading toward a paperless patient environment. Stage 6 recognition means that Florida Hospital Flagler has almost fully automated/paperless medical records, and demonstrates the hospital's commitment to improving patient care with EMR's.

"HIMSS Analytics congratulates Florida Hospital Flagler for leading the way toward health IT adoption," said John Hoyt, FACHE, FHIMSS, executive vice president, Organizational Services, for HIMSS. "Stage 6 represents

a level of sophistication that only 217 U.S. hospitals have reached to date."

This also marks significant progress toward the realization of the first statement in Adventist Health System's Vision 2015: "The clinical process is completely paperless and demonstrates measurable improvement in patient care across the continuum."



New Master's in Occupational Therapy Offered

In August 2011, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) launched a new master's in occupational therapy (OT). The two-and-a-half-year program has already attracted 28 students.

Part of the draw, says Tia Hughes, chair of the Occupational Therapy Department, is the lack of other OT graduate programs in central Florida. In the past,

students who wanted to continue their education in this field had to drive at least two hours.

Now, thanks to FHCHS' flexible scheduling — OT master's classes are only held two days a week — and a wide variety of clinical rotations, students can work and complete their graduate degrees in a reasonable amount of time, close to home.



Michelle Bessette (left) and Lisa Millward, both sophomore occupational therapy assistant majors, help a child perform developmental tasks to strengthen her core muscles.

But, it's not just the location attracting students.

Paige Hauser, an OT graduate student who came from a public university, said she looked at other programs, but was ultimately drawn to FHCHS because of its Christian atmosphere.

"I know a lot of people who have worked at Florida Hospital and they're all very nice," Paige said. "I like the feel of a Christian campus."

—BY RAINEY PARK

Library Adds Resources for Kinesthetic Learners

Two new resources in the R.A. Williams Library are helping students with research and memorization. The first, a set of 25 anatomical models, increased the size of the existing collection by nearly a quarter, providing students with more opportunities to study outside of the classroom.



Five new databases in the R.A. Williams Library are helping students stay on the cutting edge of professional literature in their fields.

"The models are good for kinesthetic learners," says Deanna Flores, library director. "It's better for them than just reading about body parts and trying to memorize the details by looking at flat pictures."

The library has also added five new databases to support religion classes,

and the new master's in occupational therapy.

"We're doing this with an eye to the future," says Flores. "Since our number of programs is growing, our resources have to as well."

—BY RAINEY PARK

Employees Volunteer at Camp Thunderbird

All 217 employees of Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) spent a day in August volunteering at Camp Thunderbird, a recreational facility for people with disabilities. The event, part of faculty and staff pre-week, served as a reminder of what Adventist healthcare is all about: extending the healing ministry of Christ.

For a few precious hours, 50 adult campers from various group homes enjoyed making crafts, playing basketball, and watching puppet shows with FHCHS employees.

Gail Thompson, program director of Piedmont Group Home, said, "coming to an event like this is a real treat" for the clients, who don't receive one-on-one care at the group homes.

FHCHS employees gave the daily caregivers something to talk about, too. For the first time in the camp's history, a special room was set up with soft music and twinkling lights, so the caregivers could enjoy their own pampering — manicures, facials, and massages.

"This is a treat, a real



FHCHS employees like Susan Rodd, program assistant in the Occupational Therapy Department, enjoyed connecting with campers during a day of volunteering.

treat," said Jackie Henry, who supervises two adult care centers. "In my 12 years of work as a caregiver, I've never received a

manicure."

Deena Slockett, associate program coordinator in the FHCHS Radiologic Sciences Department, said it went above the caregivers' expectations that there was a space just for them. "When they heard they were getting pampered, they probably expected lunch in an air-conditioned room, not a full-fledge spa treatment."

At the end of the day, campers and caregivers alike were reluctant to leave.

—BY RAINEY PARK

Carolina Holds 41st Constituency Session



The 41st Quinquennial Constituency Session of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened on Thursday, August 18, 2011, at Nosoca Pines Ranch outside of Liberty Hill, S.C.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union executive secretary, presented the devotional messages. Smith reminded those in attendance of the fact we serve a “personal” God.

The officers re-elected were Jim Davidson, president; Gary Moyer, executive secretary; and Rick Russell, treasurer.

Individuals serving in other departments in the Carolina Conference, with

the exception of family life ministries, were re-elected. Due to the fact that the family life director, Joe Ottinger, recently became the campus chaplain of Mt. Pisgah Academy, he has stepped down. Eli Rojas will serve as both family life director and pastor of the Burnsville and Erwin Hills churches.

The delegates completed all items on the agenda, including electing members to serve on the Carolina Conference Executive Committee and voting minor changes to the constitution and bylaws.

Jim Davidson called the delegates to be committed in the next quin-



COURTNEY HEROD

Carolina Conference officers re-elected were Rick Russell, treasurer (left), standing with his wife, Kathy; Jim Davidson, president, with his wife, Bonnie; and Gary Moyer, executive secretary, with his wife, Lisa.

quennium, and to be more actively involved in evangelism, with the goal of planting another 50 churches during that time period. He officially

adjourned the 41st Carolina Conference Constituency Session on Sabbath afternoon.

—BY COURTNEY HEROD

Pathfinder Leadership 2011 Convenes

Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders from around the Carolinas convened at the Pathfinder Leadership Convention, held August 26-28, 2011, at Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, S.C. Even the threat of Hurricane Irene didn't keep them away. With nearly 300 in attendance, the camp was teeming with people eager to learn better methods to

improve and enhance their clubs back home.

Worship talks were provided by Pedro E. Perez, Florida Conference



youth ministries director since August 2010. He spoke about getting priorities straight, questioning aspirations in life, and making future leaders.

Separate tracks were provided for the seminars geared toward either Pathfinders or for Adventurers. There was also a Spanish track for the growing Hispanic interest in Path-

finder ministry. The topics included “Understanding Pathfinders,” “Club Leadership,” “Current Issues,” “Finding Your Purpose,” and “Publishing Your Club Event.”

“This weekend gave me a sense of what I could expect as a leader, and what goals I could aim for,” said one attendee. “I appreciate the Conference providing this training for us.”

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

Sharon Church Members Participate in Dental Clinic

You have all heard the old saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Well, dental professionals and volunteers from the Charlotte Sharon Church learned firsthand how true that statement is when they volunteered during a two-day, free dental clinic



Charlotte Sharon members Christian Yaste, D.D.S., (left) and Joseph Hufanda, D.D.S., were two of the dentists who volunteered their time at the recent dental clinic.

held on August 19 and 20, at the Charlotte Convention Center. Dentists from across the greater Charlotte area volunteered their time, equipment, and supplies to help Charlotte citizens receive dental care. Those treated were some of the 1.3 million residents of

North Carolina that do not have dental insurance. Thousands lined up hours before the doors opened in hopes of getting an appointment, or even to be seen on standby.

Lloyd Johnston,

D.D.S., Sharon Church member, was one of the dentists on duty, working nearly 12-hour shifts. Some were on rotations that went through the night. Volunteers took breaks only to eat, and even then nearly swallowed their food whole.

"This is an annual event,"

said Johnston, "but this was

the first year I was able to participate. It was a lot of work, but I received a huge blessing."

The convention center doors shut when they reached their capacity of more than 2,000 patients. There were so many in need, but those who volunteered their time and expertise were the ones who received the gift. What a tremendous way to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

—BY COURTNEY HEROD



Mills River Church Has New Outreach

A lovely sanctuary and attractive community building are located on the grounds of the Mills River Church. And, due to the blessings of the Lord and the dedication of their members, as well as several matured trusts, the buildings are both debt-free!



A few years ago, Tom Hughes, previous pastor at Mills River, discussed having a new building on the church grounds to help fulfill desire for community outreach. "In the event of a disaster, it could be opened to the public. We could rent it to community members for receptions or other events."

Diana Bell, then leader of community services and disaster relief, was excited. "Could we

have showers to use in the event of an actual disaster?" The building would also house a laundry room and generator. Someone even suggested a future church school.

This edifice became a reality at Mills River. It has been used for a community health fair, socials, and other events. The buildings are on about three acres located about a quarter of a mile off Highway 280 in Mills River, N.C.

The desire is to use



this building as a small school beginning in August of 2012, one which closely follows the principles found in the book *Education*.

In the meantime, the Mills River Church is dedicated to using their facilities in the work of spreading God's end-time message of hope.

—BY PAT CASE

Family Finds Home in Orange Cove Church

Every pew of the Orange Cove, Fla., Church was filled with members and guests awaiting the beginning of a new journey for a couple who, only a few months before, were without a home, without direction, and consumed by broken hearts and shattered dreams. The picture was so bleak that their two children were taken from them when they lost their home.

On March 25, 2011, André Van Heerden, Orange Cove pastor and volunteer president of The Mercy Network of Clay County, was involved in a county-wide outreach to help the homeless. He met the Smith family of four who were, then, using their car as a home.

When Jerry and Bonnie asked Van Heerden if he would be willing to help them, he assured them he could take on their case.



André Van Heerden prepares to baptize Jerry Smith while Bonnie, who was baptized first, waits to share her joy with Jerry.

They became residents of one of the group homes sponsored by The Mercy Network of which Orange Cove Church is a member. Invitations to church services and other activities were



Jerry and Bonnie Smith's children joined them on the platform as André Van Heerden, pastor, offered a prayer over their new life as a family.

extended to the family.

Two months later, a celebration of renewal took place where Van Heerden baptized Jerry and Bonnie. This day would mark two covenants. The first promise

was demonstrated for all to witness as the couple were lowered into the water and brought up again, signifying their new birth and commitment to the Higher Power that had brought them so far in such a short time.

The next covenant, just a few minutes later, would be to one another in a marriage ceremony. While every person in the congregation rose to their feet, Bonnie stepped into the sanctuary as her soon-to-be husband, Jerry, stood beside the pastor and watched his waiting bride with tears in his eyes.

Two lives, changed because of kindness, are now beginning a new life together that will change their future, the future of their children, and possibly many generations to come.

—BY DANA AMATANGELO

Apopka Members and Guest Dentists Serve in Costa Rica

A group of practicing dentists from across the United States, who are not Adventist Church members, accepted the invitation of Daniel Quevedo, D.D.S., from Apopka, Fla., Church to serve in mission dentistry in Costa Rica while taking a course in advanced extraction techniques.

In addition to the dentists serving 180 residents who could not afford dental care, church



Gayle Fletcher, D.D.S., from Houston, Tex., demonstrates a procedure while Apopka Church member Daniel Quevedo, D.D.S. (far right), and other volunteer dentists observe.

members conducted health screening clinics and held a well-attended, one-week

evangelistic series of meetings. They also trained village women to sew, then left four new machines in the care of one woman who is conducting a sewing co-op. Women are already making items to provide clothing for family mem-

bers and to supplement their meager incomes.

Apopka Church members have traveled to help the people of Costa Rica since 1999 when an evangelistic meeting was conducted and two families were baptized in the small town of Villa Real on the Pacific Coast near Tomarindo. Today, several more families impacted by the Apopka Church outreach now worship with this congregation.

—BY KATHY FAIRCHILD

Fort Lauderdale Church Breaks Ground



Oretha Lloyd, 94, the oldest member of Fort Lauderdale Church, was the first person to turn the earth.

Oretha Lloyd, 94, oldest member of the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church, turned the first shovel

of earth during the groundbreaking ceremony for a new sanctuary; and David Baptiste, 12, representing the youth, buried a Bible on the exact spot where the new pulpit will be located in order to show others that the Adventist Church is built upon the Word of God.

“The church has one foundation, and it’s Jesus Christ the Lord,” said Mike Cauley, Florida Conference president, as he commended the congregation for its vision.

Jeffrey Thompson, senior pastor, reminded those in attendance of Winston Churchill’s words from one of his greatest

speeches after Great Britain was bombed in World War II, “Never, never, never give up.”

“How true are those words for us here at Fort Lauderdale,” Thompson went on to say. “This project has been in the making for 25 years.”

The new sanctuary, at a cost of approximately \$1 million, will seat more than 430 people, and will become part of the present facility that houses a fellowship hall and Sabbath School rooms. The Fort Lauderdale Church was planted in 1920 and is the oldest Adventist Church in Bro-



David Baptiste, 12, representing the youth of Fort Lauderdale Church, prepares to bury a copy of the Bible on the exact spot where the new pulpit will be located.

ward County.

—BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

North Lake Church Couple Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Hastings and Norma Bean celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary



North Lake Church Pastor Ric Pleasants congratulates Hastings and Norma Bean on their 80th anniversary.

with their church family at North Lake Church, Leesburg, Fla., on July 2, 2011. Much of their married life was spent providing care and housing for relatives and church friends who were in need.

Born on December 22, 1909, in Marysville, Tenn., Hastings, 101, was a fourth-

generation Adventist. When his parents moved to Avon Lake, Ohio, he met Norma Buswell, and they were married in St. Mary County, W.Va., on July 3, 1931. Norma also became an Adventist in 1936. “I’ve always believed the Lord sent Hastings to my door,” says Norma, 99. “I don’t think anyone I know has had a happier marriage.”

After the wedding, they lived in Avon Lake for the next 54 years. Hastings’ entire working

career was with Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. Upon retirement, the Beans moved to Eustis, Fla.

Their daughter, Carol Fife, says, “To think they have lived all these years together, gotten along so well, and shown such love between them is amazing.” Also included in their family are five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

—BY CHET JORDAN

Loganville Celebrates New Sanctuary



Loganville Church sanctuary foundation being poured. The church celebrated the opening of this new sanctuary on August 20, 2011.

After much prayer, hard work, and financial sacrifice, the Loganville, Ga., Church held the official consecration program for

their new sanctuary on Sabbath, August 20, 2011. The day was a grand opportunity to share with the community in celebrating

the blessings of God in this endeavor.

God has blessed this church to be able to raise

the majority of funds for this building. Members have raised more than \$400,000 to date. The congregation hopes to have the mortgage on the church completely paid by the end of 2011.

As Pam Reifsnnyder, a founding member of the church, noted in the church history, "We knew for certain God was in control of our little church, and He would provide. And He has — we have never had any money problems. Our congregation has been generous, and others outside

of our church who heard of our story, have given in love."

The Loganville Church first opened its doors on May 3, 2003, and has steadily grown ever since. With a current congregation of approximately 200 members, this ethnically and culturally diverse congregation now has more room to grow with new members. Through the leadership of Marius Asafei, pastor, evangelism and a ministry focus is planned.

—BY SHERIL R. SMITH

Dreams Come True at Algood Christian School

When Heather Stovall dreams, she dreams big. One day, she looked around and saw the need

to improve the interior of Algood Christian School. It started small, but grew as she realized all that

needed to be done. Most of all, she wanted to accomplish it during the summer before the school year. Stovall is a dynamo of creative energy and has total commitment, so she talked

to the Lord about it. He nodded His approval and poured out His blessings. She talked to the principal, Matthew White, and the school board, asking them to hand her the reins and turn her loose.

Stovall and her husband, Mike, spent hour upon hour during the summer giving the school a new look. Church members happily pitched in. Dingy bathrooms became bright and cheerful, worn-out carpet was replaced

with Konecto flooring in the classrooms and tile in the hall. Ashleigh Hicks painted nature pictures in the bathrooms and inspirational verses throughout the school. By the time school started in August, it had a new look and feel.

"We are just a little school, but at our little school, big things are happening. You don't have to be big to make it happen," said Stovall.

—BY ELLIE LANGFORD



Heather Stovall, volunteer at the 19-student Algood Christian School in Tennessee, took time this summer to replace carpet, paint, and tile, greatly enhancing this little school.

Motes Celebrate 64 Years

Arden and Dorothy Mote of Rossville, Ga., celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on September 7, 2011. The Motes served in pastoral ministry for nearly 38 years. They have three children, Ronald and

Donald, who reside in the Collegedale, Tenn., area; and Judy Evenson, who lives in Alaska. They are members of the Collegedale Church, and praise God for His continued love and blessing.



Swafford Stands Apart

If you meet John Swafford you would be drawn to his sweet spirit and humble Christ-like attitude. Children's ministries, which he directed, oversees programming for about 7,000 individuals annually in the



Lisa Swafford (left), and John and Janis Swafford, at the August Pathfinder Leadership Convention prayer of dedication. Swafford retired September 1, 2011, as Conference children's ministries director, a position he has held for the past 25 years.

Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Swafford's team leadership skills have provided growth for three main areas of ministry for 25 years: Pathfinders, Adventurers, and children's ministries conventions. Swafford retired from 42 years of ministry in Georgia-Cumberland Conference, September 1, 2011.

All three of these ministry areas have seen growth. Pathfinders has up to 80 clubs, with 2,400 Pathfinders and staff. Adventurers fluctuates between 30 and 60 clubs, with 1,000 children and staff. Each year Swafford's team also provides training for directors of these clubs, and in the spring holds an Adventurer Family Fun Day and a Conference-wide Pathfinder Camporee. Children's ministries conventions are offered annually with training for Sabbath School and Vacation Bible School leaders. Attendance is 200-300.

"Believe in others. Trust others," said Swafford. "Es-

pecially when working with young people, we have to believe in them, trust them, and encourage them. Allow them to make some mistakes and keep on guiding them. Keep encouraging them. This is what Pathfinders is in my opinion."

Swafford credits his love of Pathfinders to a link with his father. His mother joined the Church because of putting their children in an Adventist elementary school. His father didn't quite grasp all of the ins and outs until his boys joined Pathfinders. A former boy scout, Swafford's father understood Pathfinders and shared this love with his son.

"John made Pathfinders into a family by his sincere love for God and His children," said Marlene Derrick, south Tennessee Pathfinder coordinator. "John's leadership reflects the true nature of being a Christian in God's service. His abilities and interests surround in the true sense of his

wanting to bring God's children into a deep and closer relationship with Jesus, through events and activities that help to reflect a daily walk with the Lord. John led with prayer, devotion, and caring about each individual person. John showed me a glimpse of God I will always cherish."

George Amos, north Tennessee Pathfinder Fellowship coordinator who has worked with Swafford for 16 years, says, "Where we were or what problems we might run into, whatever difficulties, John always had a very positive attitude. His standard response would always be 'we need to find a way to make it happen.' Don't admit defeat."

Rob Lang, Conference youth ministries director, says, "For youth ministry professionals around the Southern Union and the North American Division, John has been a source of inspiration and support for a long time. He has strengthened Pathfinder ministries by developing a team of capable leaders, provided excellent training, planned memorable camporees and has taken some of the largest delegations to Oshkosh every time. The most important thing about John is that the young people of our Conference know and love John for his genuine interest in them, and his authentic relationship with Jesus."

Swafford has not had an easy walk. He lost his

wife of 37 years, Evelyn, in 2006. His daughter, Lisa, received kidney/pancreas transplants and was previously on dialysis due to complications from diabetes. Yet God blesses, and today Swafford is walking with a new life partner in Janis, whom he wed in 2010, and Lisa's health has greatly improved.

"Georgia-Cumberland has a spirit of working together, cohesiveness, encouraging one another," says Swafford. "That is one spirit of teamwork that I know that we have here. The other is seeing beyond ourselves. All types of mission work that has been fostered from our Conference and Pathfinders have helped directly and indirectly with 13 countries because of this spirit of the Conference."

Swafford started his pastoral career in Moultrie, Ga., where he was teacher/pastor. He and wife Evelyn had only been married one month when they moved south. Next, they went to Statesboro, Ga., where they were blessed with the birth of their daughter. Swafford adds that at each church he worked he was blessed to have people who supported him and his family.

Swafford has a bachelor's degree in theology, and a master's degree in outdoor education, both from Southern Adventist University. He plans to enjoy retirement by spending time with family and going camping.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Conference Hires New Superintendent of Education

Gary Swinyar has accepted an invitation to work in the Gulf States Conference as the director of education. He has served for the past seven years as superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference. He began his career in 1971 at Little Creek Academy in Knoxville, Tenn. He then taught at Laurelwood Academy in Gaston, Ore., and at Forest Lake Academy, in Orlando, Fla. He has served as teacher/principal at Anchorage Junior Academy in Anchorage, Alaska; Kahili Adventist School in Lawai, Hawaii; and Buena Vista SDA Elementary School in Auburn, Wash. And, he was principle of Ruth Mur-



Gary Swinyar, with his wife, Carol

doch Elementary School in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Swinyar graduated from Southern Adventist University (SAU) with a

bachelor of music education in K-12 music. He earned a master of education administration from Rollins College, Orlando, Fla., and an Edu.S. administration and leadership degree from La Sierra University, Riverside, Calif.

He was born in California, but moved as an infant to Arkansas and then Tennessee where he lived until graduating from SAU. He met his wife, Carol Adams, at Southern where they were both music education majors. She has been the director of the Thayer Performing Arts Center, a

community music school located on the campus of Atlantic Union College, as well as an instructor in the music department. The Swinyars have two adult, married children, and one grandchild.

Swinyar says, "We look forward to following God's leading in our life as we move to the Gulf States Conference. I believe that Seventh-day Adventist education is more important today than at any other time in Earth's history. And throughout both the joys and challenges, we must continually remind ourselves that these are God's schools and He is in charge."

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Small Church Nets Big

The 21-member Columbia, Miss., Church hosted a five-week Discover Prophecy seminar presented by evangelist Johnny Mosquera, which resulted in six baptisms, a wedding, many new friends from the community, and precious truths revealed by the Holy Spirit. Bill Devine, pastor, his wife, Renee, and the church evangelism team greeted guests, gave Bible studies and children's programs, and met one-on-one to counsel attendees.

"One man not only gave his heart to Jesus, but also joined in holy matrimony with his long-

time girlfriend in our little sanctuary," says Devine. Women's ministries prepared a reception for the

happy couple.

The congregation welcomed the new members to their church family. May

they always see Jesus in all, is their prayer.

—BY BILL DEVINE



Bill Devine (left), pastor, introduces the new converts to the congregation.

Youth Baptized During Summer Camp

On Sabbath, June 18, 2011, parents, friends, campers, and staff watched as 19 junior campers were baptized at Camp Alamisco. This summer a total

of 34 youth have been baptized during summer camps, and approximately 10 others were baptized after returning to their home churches. In addition

to the baptisms, 132 campers accepted Jesus into their hearts; 55 more are preparing for baptism, and 142 made the commitment to follow Jesus.

These decisions were made by the young people on an individual basis. "We made the Gospel available to them along with the fun activities camp offers," explains James Mangum, Gulf States Conference youth director. The campers had the opportunity to participate in Bible study groups, listen to camp pastors tell the story of Jesus, and take part in other spiritual programs and prayer.

Skits and sermons focused on the theme "Held

Fast." Each day the staff's goal was to reflect, in their lives, the love of Jesus so that campers and visitors would desire to know Him as well. Each Friday evening, the Sabbath began with an Agape Feast. Afterwards at the outdoor chapel, the campers joined in singing songs of praises and watched a passion play which revealed Christ's love and sacrifice.

When a camper asked to be baptized at camp, their parents and pastor were called. Families were offered free lodging at the camp so they could witness their child's baptism.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



These 19 junior campers were baptized at Camp Alamisco, as parents, friends, and staff watched from the shores of Lake Martin.

Opelika First Holds Vacation Bible School

More than 15 children gathered with their Vacation Bible School (VBS) director, Amanda Carpenter, to go fishing at the Go Fishin' Mission Adventurer Camp held at the Opelika First Church in Opelika, Ala., on Monday, July 11, 2011.

Each day began at the Mission Lodge with a new Bible memory verse and singing together the theme song, "Go Fishin'." From there the children gathered at the Bible adventure camp fire to study the Bible and to learn how to be like Jesus, how to share, how to comfort, and how to pray and believe in Jesus. At the Mission Headquarters, prayer

journals were prepared and filled with everyone's prayer request, and then get well cards were made and sent to sick members and friends.

On Sabbath morning, July 15, the church was filled with parents and friends as the children gathered to sing their favorite songs, "Go Fishin'" and "Hooked on Jesus." Then they shared memory verses and their experiences in learning how to share Jesus with others. A fellowship lunch was provided and the parents were able to tour

the Craft Shack.

Three weeks later before school began, all of the VBS children, with their families and church families, met for a special Sabbath where every

student from kindergarten up to doctorate studies gathered for a candlelight dedication for God's protection.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA



The Vacation Bible School "fishing team." More than half of the children who attended were from the community.

Suzette York, 1962-2011, Remembered

The Seventh-day Adventist community in Memphis, Tenn., along with friends and Church officials from across North America, filled the Memphis First Church on Monday, August 15, 2011, to pay tribute to Suzette York. York, who served as the principal and a teacher at Memphis Junior Academy, was murdered on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, by a student. The student is in custody and has been charged.

York, who was originally from Canada, had taught at Memphis Junior Academy several years prior to returning in 2008 to be the principal. Her dream and passion was

to expand the school to include all grades – K-12. The 11th grade was added this school year.

At the funeral service, York was remembered as a warrior and strong supporter of Adventist education. Her teaching career began in 1983 following her graduation from Pacific Union College. She also held a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

The funeral was conducted by Marc Lombard, pastor of Memphis-Raleigh Church, where Suzette and her husband attended, and Don Ritterskamp, pastor of Memphis First Church. "We search the scriptures for answers but there are no



answers," Ritterskamp said in his remarks. "There is only one solution, and that is the coming of Jesus."

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference president, Steve Haley, spoke at the close of the service. "Suzette, like other Seventh-day Adventist educators, did it for more than a career. It

was a commitment. People like Suzette are formed by God, putting His hand on her where she felt a destiny and a calling."

York is survived by her husband, Leslie; her parents, Gordon and Violet Stanley; and one brother, Sidney Stanley.

The Suzette York Memorial Fund for the Worthy Student Fund and Media Center at Memphis Junior Academy has been established in her memory. Contributions may be sent to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Suzette York Memorial Fund, 850 Conference Drive, Goodlettsville, TN 37072.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Company Organized in Danville

The sanctuary was full on Sabbath, July 16, 2011, for the organization of a new company in Danville, Ky. Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, officiated at the service. Friends from other area churches were present to witness as 31 individuals became charter members of the new company.

The beginnings of the group go back to December 2004, when the Lord impressed a group of believers, mostly from Grove Church, to share a vision of having a presence



Naren James, M.D., is the first to sign as a charter member.

for Seventh-day Adventists in the Danville area. The group began meeting in the community room of the Boyle County Library. The decision was also made to start a weekly Bible study at the Holiday Inn in Danville. This began in early

2005 with the involvement of Sam Soler, district pastor. For a time, the group also met once a month in the office waiting room of Naren James, M.D.

In 2007, the group began meeting in a conference room of the Hampton Inn

in Danville on the second Sabbath of every month. The hotel management was gracious enough to allow the use of the lobby and kitchen facilities for a potluck every time they met.

The Danville group

has always been strong in health ministries, and in 2008 conducted the first health seminar entitled, "Simple Solutions." In the fall of 2010, the group realized the need for a larger facility. A building was leased and renovations were done in time to conduct the first reaping event entitled, "Regeneration 2010," which had a strong health emphasis combined with prophetic teaching, resulting in several baptisms.

The Danville Company continues to grow and is making an impact on the Danville community using the Adventist health message.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

“Journey of Joy” Completed in Ohio County

The Ohio County Church in Beaver Dam, Ky., completed the 11-week series “Journey of Joy,” featuring Carla Gober. The women of the church met every two weeks for



Becky Millay (left), Lynn Burgess, and Kearron Morris

two hours, and each woman brought a sack lunch. Some of the women decorated their lunch bags, which made it fun and stimulated good conversation.

Lynn Burgess served as the leader. Becky Millay was Lynn Burgess’s assistant, and Kearron Morris was Burgess’s secretary. The leader, assistant, and secretary were chosen by the group at large. A gift bag was given at each meeting to the woman whose name was drawn at random. Each gift bag contained a journal,

candle, or various other items that women like.

The presentations generated good discussion, testimonies, and a lot of fun. It was a blessing for the women in the church, and one that will be remembered long into the future.

—BY BECKY MILLAY

Pewee Valley Member Honored



Lucy DePas Zetko

Lucy DePas Zetko, RN, was the honored guest speaker at the National Nurses Day celebration on May 11, 2011, at the Robby Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, Ky.

Zetko is 91 years old, and was a practicing nurse for more than 50 years. She retired at the

age of 84.

Zetko said that she was happy to be able to care for the sick and elderly with compassion for so many years. She was asked to talk about changes in the medical profession during the years and recounted some unusual experiences throughout

her career.

Zetko completed her nurses training at Madison College in 1949.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Lynn Edward Schlisner, 1949–2011

Lynn Schlisner was born in Ramona, S. Dak. He graduated from Madison Central High School in 1967. He was married to Lona Casper on January 24, 1970. He and Lona had grown up on neighboring farms.

Schlisner joined the Army in 1968, and served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart.

After his return from military duty, he went back to South Dakota where he bought a farm and operated a dairy farm. Although he had been raised in an



Adventist home, he had never been baptized. He and Lona attended evangelistic meetings held by Rex Edwards, where they were both baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1971.

After this conversion experience, he felt the call

to the ministry. He and Lona sold their farm and attended Union College in Lincoln, Nebr., where he received a B.A. degree in theology in 1976. He graduated from the seminary in 1981 with an M.Div. degree.

Schlisner began his ministry in South Dakota, where he served until 1983. He also served in the Oklahoma and Potomac conferences before accepting the call to be the senior pastor of the Madison Campus Church in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference in 1995, while pastoring the Shenandoah Valley Academy Church.

In 2005, Schlisner was

diagnosed with a brain tumor. After a valiant battle, he passed away on his 62nd birthday surrounded by family and friends in Madison, Tenn. Funeral services were held at the Madison Campus Church on August 4, 2011. The burial took place in Oldham, S. Dak., at a graveside service on August 6.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lona; his mother, Bernice; two brothers, Gary and Mick; two sisters, Jani and Robyn; two sons, Eirik and Trevor; one daughter, Sissel; and two grandchildren, Alex and Emily.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN

Shiloh Church Host Community Health Fair

The health ministries department at Shiloh Church in Charleston, S.C., hosted its first Get Fit, Stay Fit Community Health Fair on Sunday, May 15, 2011. Charmaine Cohen, health ministries leader, organized and based the fair on the “Eight Laws of Health.” The Get Fit, Stay Fit Health Fair provided services for more than 150 participants from all over the low-country area. The objectives of the health fair included increasing health awareness among participants, educating and motivating the community to make positive behavioral and health



One of the volunteers conducting a CPR class demonstrates on an infant mannequin.

changes, and demonstrating healthier food selection and preparation to help combat childhood obesity.

Each participant received a Get Fit, Stay Fit Health Fair packet that included a welcome letter from the pastor, Eugene J.

Hamilton, a personal health record, a listing of all of the services and programs offered at Shiloh, a community needs survey, and an Exit Survey. Seven screenings were available for participants which included blood cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, BMI/body fat, peak flow, pulmonary/cardiac, and the step tests. Information from professionals in vision, pain management, and mental health was also provided. Everyone received a gift bag once the screening process was completed.

Two weeks prior to the fair, a Dinner & A Mes-

sage by celebrity chef Mark Anthony was held, followed by a presentation on the “Principles of Health” by Barry Lee just before the fair began. Organizations that were partners with the church included Roper Hospital, American Red Cross, K-180 Fitness, Storm Eye Institute, LifePoint, Inc., Health Force Chiropractic Services-West Ashley, Dental Association, Susan G. Komen, and His Hands Community Outreach Foundation.

Additional child-friendly activities were planned with fire engine tours, demonstrations on fire safety, dental hygiene, and selecting healthy snacks.

—BY IRIS C. WILSON

Georgia Master Guides Celebrate 25th Year

The Georgia Master Guides of South Atlantic held their Master Guide Day activities at Shiloh Church



Vanard Mendinghall, South Atlantic president, pictured with his wife, Ruth, was honored by the Georgia Master Guides.

in Smyrna, Ga., under the leadership of Moses L. Edwards Sr., pastor and Master Guide. This day was to honor the 25th year of dedicated service in supporting and establishing Pathfinder clubs around the Conference.

The morning service began with Vanard Mendinghall, South Atlantic president and a Master Guide, as the guest speaker. In 1985, Mendinghall, then youth director of the Conference, along with spiritual motivation from Ralph Peay, former Southern Union Conference youth director, challenged the Youth Federation to organize Master Guide

clubs as a segment of the youth department. Joyce Scurry accepted the challenge, and many have become Master Guides through this initiative.

After the services, Julian and Maggie James led out in a community activity by passing out The Great Controversy. The day ended with a banquet at Atlanta-Berean Church, Atlanta, Ga., in honor of Mendinghall. He and with his wife, Ruth, have supported the Georgia Master Guides since it began in February 1986. One of the largest Investiture services for Master Guides was held at the close of the Youth Federation in Warner Robins, Ga., in November 1986, where 32 Master

Guides were invested.

Since 1986, the individuals who have served as presidents of the club are John Cox, Mattie Redd, Frank Johnson, Henry Jackson, Darrell Palmes, Ernestine Lockett, Jared Johnson, Joyce Scurry, and current president Cermanthia Fleming.

The Master Guides are always looking for ways to improve themselves. More than half of the group has taken a step in improving themselves by becoming invested in their PLA (Pathfinder Leadership Award), and some into the next step of PIA (Pathfinder Instructor Award).

—BY DARLINE HEAD

Immanuel Holds Religious Liberty Day

Immanuel Temple Church in Durham, N.C., conducted a Religious Liberty Day under the guidance of Milton Blackmon, Ed.D., Immanuel Temple's religious liberty leader, and the assistant leader, Marcia Conner.

Guests from the community included judges, a legislator, and a city councilman: Judge Wanda Bryant from the North Carolina Court of Appeals; Henry M. Michaux, state representative for the 31st district; Durham County District Court Judge Doretta Walker; and Durham County District Court Judge William Marsh III.

Marsh expressed his appreciation of America's religious liberty, "We are very privileged here to have religious liberty, and if you ever have the privilege as I have to travel to other countries, when you come back you will say, 'God bless America.'"

Drake Barber, pastor of East Market Street Church, Greensboro, N.C., was the guest speaker. In Barber's sermon, "Descending into Greatness," he emphasized the fact that the underlying issue between God and Satan is "freedom." The events of the day concluded in the

afternoon with a presentation by Carl McRoy, South Atlantic publishing director.

Blackmon presented each of the visiting officials with a copy of *The Great Controversy*, as well as a subscription to *Liberty* magazine. A brief video was shown highlighting the challenges two Adventists faced when they stood firm in not working on the Sabbath. The video also encouraged church members to support the *Liberty* magazine campaign.

—BY MILTON BLACKMON, ED.D.

Mendeses Celebrate 50 Years



Edward and Doris Mendes, members of Ephesus Church in New Bern, N.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 5, 2011. They were married in 1961 at Gethsemane Church, Kinston, N.C.

The Mendeses have two children, Jonathan Mendes and Deborah Mendes-King; and 10 grandchildren.

Edward has been self-employed since 1965. Doris has been retired for 10 years from Craven County Public Schools system where she was employed for 30 years.

Their family and fellow church members celebrated this milestone with them, and they praise God for their example to others.

—BY HAROLD GASKINS



Pictured are Milton Blackmon (left), Immanuel religious liberty leader; Drake Barber, pastor of East Market Street Church, Greensboro, N.C.; and John S. Nixon II, pastor of Immanuel Church.

First Coast International Dedicates New Building

The First Coast International Church located in Jacksonville, Fla., recently held grand opening services for their new church. For the past 10 years, it had been the dream of the members of First Coast International to have a place to call home; the dream has become a reality. First Coast International demonstrated faith, deter-

mination, and a resolve to find a church home it could afford in a community it could serve. The cost of the new structure was \$275,000. Located in the community of Arlington, the complex sits on 1.5 acres, and features the worship center and a youth center.

Arlington is known as "Sin City" to many people



First Coast International Church sits on 1.5 acres, and is located in the Arlington Community of Jacksonville, Fla.



Hubert Morel Jr., Southeastern president, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening services for First Coast International Church. Also pictured are Curtis Crider (left), pastor of First Coast International, and Curtis Powell, former pastor of First Coast International.

in Jacksonville. "The Lord has created a place for our church to flourish, and we have grown remarkably well over the past several months," said Curtis Crider, pastor of First Coast International.

The two-day event featured a Friday praise and worship service. Former pastors Curtis Powell, the speaker for the Friday service, and Michael Ross were present. On Sabbath a powerful and dynamic worship service featuring uplifting music, prayers of dedication, special recognitions, and a baptism was held. A message of hope

was presented by Hubert Morel Jr., president of Southeastern Conference.

First Coast is thankful for the support of family, friends, former pastors, and the Southeastern Conference who helped make this dream come true. "Our church has been a magnetic force, drawing men and women from the dark holes of unfulfilled lives and broken dreams into the ever radiant sunshine of God's unfailing promises," said Crider. "This is our purpose for our presence here in Arlington."

—BY CURTIS CRIDER

Bible Bowl Season Declares New SEC Champions

The Southeastern Conference Bible Bowl season came to a close with five teams claiming the title of 2011 conference champions on July 9, 2011.

The winners: Port St. Lucie - pre-junior category; Town & Country, Tampa - junior category; North

Orlando - senior youth category; Town & Country, Tampa - young adult category; and - New Hope, Ft. Lauderdale - adult category.

The champions will go on to represent the Conference at the Black Adventist Youth Directors Asso-

ciation (BAYDA) National Bible Bowl Association (NBBA) Games in Detroit, Mich., on October 21-23, 2011.

"I can say by far that this has been the best Bible Bowl season ever! I am very confident that you will represent us well

in Detroit," said Shearna Tolbert, Southeastern Bible Bowl coordinator.

If you are interested in starting a team at your local church, please contact Southeastern youth department at 352-735-3142.

Southern Partners with It Is Written for Evangelism Training

Southern Adventist University and It Is Written are teaming up to offer an ambitious curriculum aimed at increasing participants' Bible knowledge and enthusiasm for evangelism.

Students in the new SALT program (Soul-winning And Leadership Training) enroll in 14 weeks of spiritual study so condensed and focused that they are not allowed to take any additional courses at the same time, and are advised against maintaining work responsibilities outside the classroom. And the coursework is the easy part.

Finding opportunities to share these new truths with others, and being comfortable enough to engage when the moments do arise, is often more daunting than the hours spent diving into prophecy and practicum work. To help with this, SALT spends considerable time teaching effective evangelism and one-on-one techniques that make the sharing of beliefs come more naturally to Christians.

Classes for the inaugural SALT course began in



The SALT leadership team had a chance to reconnect during the ASI Convention in Sacramento, Calif. Pictured are John Bradshaw (left), It Is Written speaker and director; Gordon Bietz, Southern Adventist University president; and Alan Parker, SALT program director.

August, and according to program coordinator, Michelle Duocoumes, almost 20 full-time students are currently immersed in the study. Most of these students, ranging in age from 18 to 44, are earning college credit for the classes; however, a few have chosen to attend purely for the training and certifica-

tion purposes. Many of those pursuing certificates will move on to one-year task force positions in Bible work and foreign missions — jobs that Southern helps arrange.

While the classes are taught at Southern, largely by Southern professors, SALT is definitely a dual effort with a venerable

partner. It Is Written approached Southern with this idea for an evangelistic training program and contributes in several key ways: program promotion, financial backing, scholarship opportunities, and board guidance. They are even sending John Bradshaw, their new speaker and director, to teach at SALT for a full week.

Leaders from both partners are excited about the program and anticipate a practical, far-reaching impact for all involved.

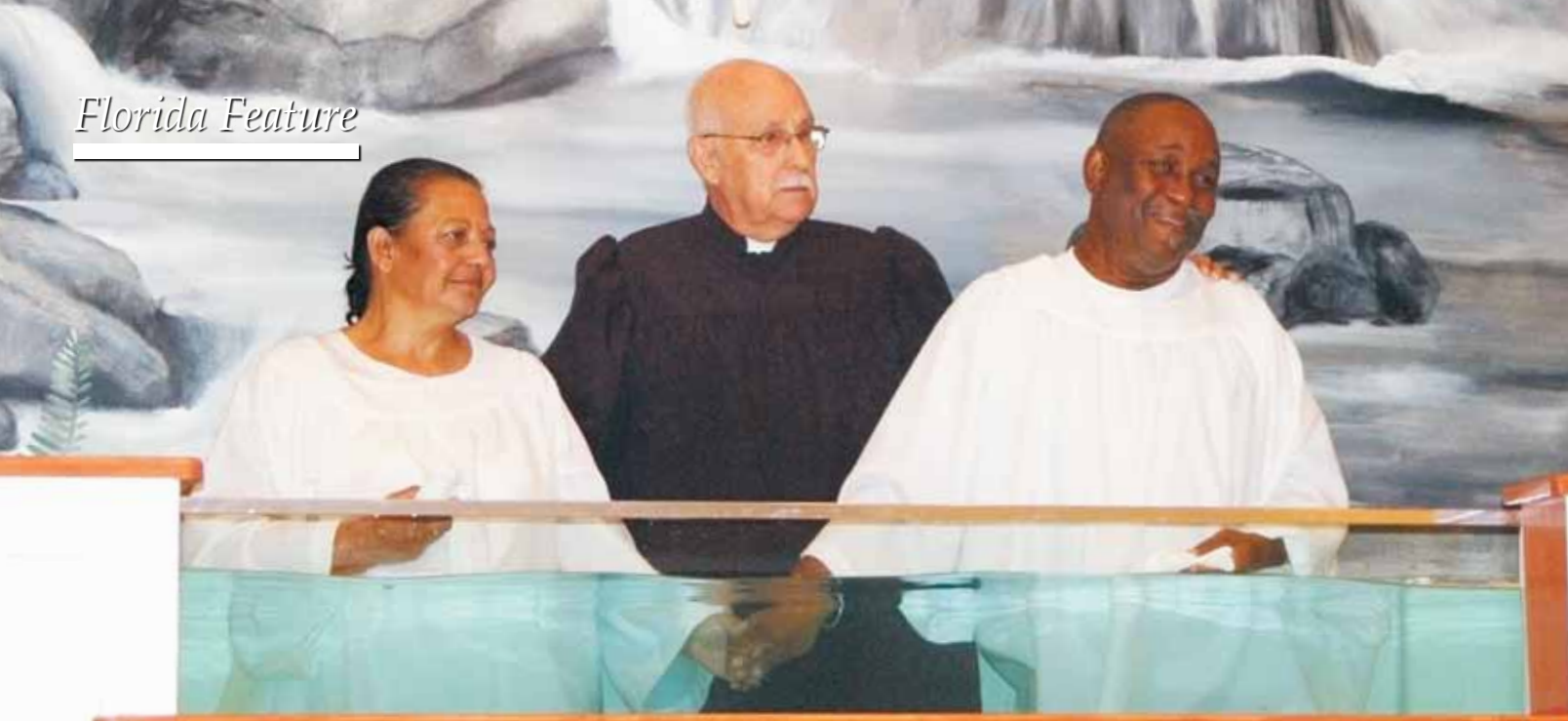
“This is a chance for students to not only obtain classroom knowledge, but hands-on experience as well,” Duocoumes said. “Our hope is that SALT graduates will go on to be passionate leaders in evangelism ... whatever their future careers!”

For more information, please visit www.Southern.edu/SALT.

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON

SALT Required Courses

- Christian Beliefs
- Christian Witnessing
- Personal Evangelism
- Christian Spirituality
- Topics in Evangelism
- Topics in Prophetic Studies
- Practicum in Bible Work



Margarita and Cocolo Rivera were baptized by Julio Cesar Rivera (no relation), a retired pastor and Deltona Spanish Church elder, on June 20, 2009.

My God Delivered Me!

BY COCOLO RIVERA

I became a rebellious, disrespectful, and skeptical child at age six when my father separated my brother and me from our mother. As an adolescent, I decided to enlist in the Armed Forces to unleash my anger on the battlefield of Vietnam.

After I awoke from a sniper's bullet, the attending doctor asked, "What religion do you belong to?"

"I have no religion," I answered. "I just talk to God every day."

Smiling, he replied, "Well, you have good communication with Him, because He brought you back to life."

When I was discharged, I sensed Christ would help me again even though I was addicted to marijuana, alcohol, and prescribed morphine. He gave me a wonderful wife, but poor Margarita had no idea she would have to deal with a rebel, addict, and mentally ill person. The month before the first of our three daughters was born, I lost my memory and was admitted to a mental institution with combat syndrome where I stayed for a year.

For 18 years, I was employed in sports communication: radio, news-

paper, and small screen. My God allowed me to succeed with these ventures even though my ego grew and caused more problems for my family.

While working in the sports world, I became friends with three sports fans: Oscar, Pucho, and Samuel Gonzalez. Oscar invited me to attend the opening service of the new Seventh-day Adventist Church he attended in Deltona, Florida, on April 11, 2009. Margarita and I decided to go, and we felt welcomed and warmed by the hospitality.

On our third Sabbath visit, Carmen Rodriguez, Florida Conference executive secretary, presented a message that touched our hearts. When I told Margarita I wanted to be baptized, she answered, "So do I. For 42 years I have been waiting for you." We were baptized on June 20, 2009. My God released me from the chains that bound me to drug addiction, alcoholism, and bad eating habits!

Since then, I have helped our church launch a weekly

radio program, and I have become a Sabbath School teacher. Now, I understand God's purpose in directing me down the pathway of communication. For years, I walked with Satan. Then, my life took a 180-degree turn. Today, my heart and life belong to my God.

A more detailed account of the Cocolo Rivera story is online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/?p=2280>.



Margarita and Cocolo Rivera confirmed their marriage of 43 years in the Deltona, Florida, Adventist Church on the day of their baptism.

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GIVING NOW - AND LATER

Faithful supporters of Southern Adventist University, Jack and Marion Blanco, give current gifts through the *Jack and Marion Blanco Endowment Fund*, while also planning for the future.

Jack says, "Each student is important and there are always those who wish to attend but need a little extra financial help. Recently, we arranged for a Charitable Gift Annuity through the University to help future students, as well as to provide us with a dependable income."



A Charitable Gift Annuity makes it possible for those like the Blancos to make a future charitable gift while helping meet long-term personal financial needs.

To read the Blancos' story, go to www.southernunion.com/PlannedGiving and click on their story.



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South Atlantic: Lawrence Hamilton, 404-792-0535
South Central: Michael Harpe, 615-226-6500
Southeastern: David Long, 352-735-3142
Southern Adventist University: Carolyn Liers, 423-236-2818

Celebración en Haines City

La iglesia de Haines City había adquirido un terreno para construir un lugar de adoración. No obstante, unos meses atrás, uno de los miembros vio un templo en un terreno de dos acres y medio que había sido puesto a la venta, y le pareció apropiado para las necesidades de la congregación. Presentó la opción, y rápidamente los pastores Osorio y Gómez luego de considerar la idea con la junta y buscar asesoramiento en la asociación, hicieron una oferta para comprar el edificio. Los dueños acordaron llamarlos dos semanas más tarde para darles la respuesta. Durante ese período la iglesia oró

para que se cumpliera la voluntad de Dios en la transacción, y la respuesta fue positiva.

Una vez adquirido el templo, se llevó a cabo un hermoso trabajo de remodelación. Se cambiaron pisos, agregaron ventanas, derribaron y construyeron nuevas paredes, aulas para clases de niños, salón de madres y de audio, y cocina. Se remodelaron los baños y se pintó todo el edificio. Esta obra de costo considerable, sólo implicó la compra de materiales, ya que la mano



asociación, unión, y pastores de iglesias vecinas se unieron a los hermanos de Haines City y de iglesias cercanas en alabanza.

No obstante la alegría,

no se olvidó la razón por la cual existimos: dar el mensaje de salvación al mundo. Como parte de la inauguración, se llevó a cabo una campaña evangélica a cargo los pastores Rolando de los Ríos y Jesús Tirado.

—ABEL PAULÍN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

de obra estuvo a cargo de los miembros y pastores, quienes trabajaron con dedicación para tener un lugar apropiado para encontrarse con Dios cada semana.

El sábado 25 de junio fue un día de gran celebración cuando se abrieron las puertas del templo para alabar al Señor. Autoridades de la

Niños en Alabanza

El sábado 25 de junio la iglesia de Buenaventura Lakes en el área de Kissimmee, tuvo un servicio especial a cargo de los niños. Desde la escuela sabática hasta el final del servicio, los pequeños tuvieron participación activa y casi exclusiva. El mensaje fue presentado por Diony

Morales, y fue inspirador para las familias asistentes.

Esta iglesia anhela servir a Dios, y ha adquirido un terreno de cinco acres para construir un edificio en un futuro cercano.

—ABEL PAULÍN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



PandaManía

La iglesia Central de Miami, una de las más antiguas de la Florida, se embarcó en un proyecto evangélico comunitario que requirió de ardua preparación y trabajo, y se llevó a cabo a principios del

mes de julio.

Con una ambientación china en todo el edificio y el terreno, se organizó una escuela de vacaciones que trajo a 152 niños, de los cuales setenta no pertenecen a la iglesia.

Todas las noches se servía comida china en una cena a la que asistían alrededor de 250 personas. En el proyecto trabajaron cincuenta y ocho miembros y diecisiete adolescentes, quienes disfrutaron de la

tarea de presentar a Jesús a estos niños y sus familias. Se confía que la semilla sembrada traerá resultados de salvación.

—ERIC CANTILLO, PRIMER ANCIANO DE LA IGLESIA CENTRAL DE MIAMI

Problema Positivo en Northwest

La iglesia del Northwest Miami ha a estado trabajando con veinte grupos celulares. El número de personas provenientes de estas células que asiste a los cultos de los sábados



aumenta a pasos agigantados. Esta iglesia cuenta con una membresía de 250, y las visitas que asisten alcanzan a los 100, lo cual agota la capacidad del salón y del lugar de estacionamiento.

Con el propósito de hacer frente a este “problema” se debió organizar dos servicios por sábado. Aunque todavía hay detalles que necesitan atención, la cooperación de todos

está haciendo que este plan funcione como se esperaba.

Si se tuviera que mencionar nombres para agradecer a todos los que han hecho que este “problema” sea una realidad, deberíamos escribir la lista de iglesia, ya que todos los miembros han estado activamente



involucrados en traer almas a los pies de Jesús.
—HUMBERTO HORRUITINER,
PASTOR DE LA IGLESIA DE
NORTHWEST MIAMI

Georgia-Cumberland Noticias

Nuevo Templo en Cartersville

El 9 de julio se inauguró el templo de la iglesia de Cartersville ubicada estratégicamente sobre la ruta 20, a media milla de I-75. El edificio puede albergar a 150 personas cómodamente sentadas, y

en sólo tres semanas, los hermanos convirtieron un pabellón descubierto en un práctico salón multiuso.

La ceremonia fue emotiva. Asistieron autoridades de la asociación y pastores de la zona. Se



agradeció el trabajo del pastor de la iglesia, José Escobar, y los hermanos que colaboraron en la realización de este sueño.
—SHEILA FLORES, SECRETARIA
DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Feria de Salud en Knoxville

El domingo 7 de agosto se organizó una clínica abierta con la participación de hermanos y un personal de cuatro médicos y auxiliares de enfermería. El propósito de este proyecto fue mostrar una cultura de vida saludable y



captar el interés de nuevos contactos misioneros, y se vio en toda la dinámica del programa.

Luego de participar de un chequeo, los pacientes pasaban por ocho estaciones o puestos en los que se les mostraba en forma

breve y práctica el valor de los ocho remedios naturales. Se finalizaba con masajes terapéuticos, orientación pastoral y atención médica.

Cada asistente recibió una invitación personal por parte del pastor, para asistir a las conferencias que comenzaron el 13 de agosto. La iglesia cree firmemente que el mensaje



de salud abre la puerta del evangelismo, y es parte del mensaje del tercer ángel.
—RICHARD URDANETA,
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Ancianos Como Líderes Misioneros



El sábado 16 de julio, los ancianos y directores de ministerio personal del distrito Sur de Mississippi se reunieron junto a sus esposas e hijos en la casa del pastor, para orar juntos y planificar la obra misionera para las cuatro iglesias pertenecientes a dicho distrito.

Freddy Herrera y Eliezer Machucho tuvieron a cargo el repaso de la lección de escuela sabática, y el pastor Johnny Castro presentó un seminario interactivo titulado “Líderes Según Dios”. El mismo se basó en los dos primeros capítulos

del libro de Nehemías, de los que se extrajeron los principios de liderazgo que surgen de la historia.

Luego del almuerzo, el tiempo fue dedicado a la oración y se expusieron

ideas para establecer un plan que incentive la testimonio en cada una de las congregaciones.

Eliezer Machucho, relató una interesante experiencia misionera que tuvo con su congregación, la cual ayudó a los líderes a visualizar el siguiente plan:

1. Dividir los miembros en grupos de quince. Cada anciano estará a cargo de ministrar un grupo: visitarlos

y organizarlos en parejas misioneras.

2. Cada pareja misionera creará una lista de conocidos, familiares y compañeros de trabajo. Se orará por ellos, se los visitará, e invitará a estudiar la Biblia.

3. Cada grupo se reunirá el segundo sábado del mes con el propósito de evaluar el trabajo de las parejas misioneras.

4. Los ancianos presentarán el informe al pastor el tercer sábado del mes.

5. Se organizará una ceremonia para entregar los certificados a quienes

hayán completado el curso, el día que comience la semana de evangelismo.

El objetivo es alcanzar mil personas entre las cuatro iglesias, y estudiar el curso bíblico “El Gran Conflicto” preparado por el pastor José L. González de la División Sudamericana. Se presentarán dos lecciones por semana. La fecha de lanzamiento de este plan fue el 30 de julio. El 13 de agosto se llevó a cabo un encuentro de oración y reavivamiento para las parejas en Laurel, Mississippi. En esa

reunión cada pareja presentó su número de interesados y su blanco de bautismos.

La iglesia ora para que el Espíritu esté en sus miembros y las personas para las que se está trabajando.

—JOHNNY CASTRO,
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO
SUR DE MISSISSIPPI



Educación Cristiana, una Decisión Inteligente

“Ya había llegado la hora de terminar el contrato de la casa que habíamos estado alquilando, y teníamos la opción de quedarnos. La vivienda era cómoda,



Pastor Carlos Felipe y su esposa Judith

y nos gustaba. Como todo padre antes de tomar una decisión, consideré varios factores: ¿Cómo afectará este cambio a mis hijos? ¿Se

sentirá cómoda mi esposa? ¿Facilitará una mudanza mi trabajo en las iglesias?

Al evaluar las ventajas y desventajas, mi esposa y yo nos dimos cuenta de que todo convergía en un punto: la posibilidad de que nuestros hijos asistiesen a la escuela adventista para recibir la educación que los acercará más a Jesús. Fue entonces que decidimos sacrificar cualquier otra cosa para ver

a nuestros pequeños en la escuela.

Mi esposa comenzó a buscar en Internet para ver qué se podía conseguir en el área de la academia adventista, y encontró una propiedad ubicada a dos minutos de la misma. Entusiasmada llamó al número de teléfono que estaba publicado, y el dueño de la casa le dijo que había recibido treinta llamadas de personas

interesadas en la vivienda. Quedamos esperando la respuesta, y Dios obró en el corazón de este hombre para que nos diera la posibilidad de alquilarla. Fue interesante escuchar su testimonio: nos comentó

que cuando conversó con mi esposa, sintió la confirmación interna de que ella era la persona con la que él debía hacer la transacción. Ahora, cada vez que hablamos por una razón u otra, nos vuelve a

expresar su felicidad por haber elegido a nuestra familia para que viva en su casa.

¡Qué hermoso es saber que uno está donde Dios quiere que esté! Él nos ha prometido que si lo

ponemos en primer lugar, nos brindará su protección en esta tierra, y la vida eterna cuando Él venga muy pronto.

—JUDITH Y CARLOS FELIPE,
DISTRITO DE NORTHWEST
FLORIDA Y FOLEY, ALABAMA

Kentucky-Tennessee Noticias

Campaña Joven

Los jóvenes de la Iglesia Hispana de Louisville, Kentucky, organizaron una campaña evangélica que tuvo lugar del 2 al 9 de julio a cargo del pastor Joel Guerra. Fue inspirador ver a los jóvenes trabajando organizadamente y en una atmósfera muy espiritual.



La hermandad apoyó la actividad asistiendo a todas las reuniones y trayendo a sus amigos. La semana culminó con una ceremonia bautismal.

—ARMANDO DE LEÓN,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE
LA ASOCIACIÓN

South Atlantic Noticias

Inauguración de la Iglesia Central en Atlanta

El sábado 25 de junio, la iglesia Central en Atlanta, tuvo el privilegio de inaugurar el hermoso templo que adquirieron para reunirse a adorar a Dios, y traer nuevas personas a sus pies. El secretario de la asociación, pastor William Winston, tuvo a cargo la ceremonia.

Este sueño se llevó a cabo luego de la venta del edificio anterior, bajo el liderazgo del pastor Luis Espinosa y el apoyo de la directiva de la iglesia. En este lugar funcionará ahora la Escuela Internacional Adventista, ya que cuenta

con muchos salones. Esto atrajo una buena cantidad de alumnos para el período escolar 2011-2012.

En la actualidad se planifica un esfuerzo evangélico, y los hermanos están activamente envueltos en la preparación del terreno misionero

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO
HISPANO DE LA
ASOCIACIÓN



Evangelismo y Bautismos en Nuestro Territorio

Semana Juvenil en

Charlotte: El Pastor Juan Reyes coordinó este evento que se llevó a cabo en Charlotte, North Carolina, y finalizó en el campamento Nossoca Pines con un bautismo de 12 almas.

Bautismo en New

Gainsville: La iglesia New Gainsville, Georgia, celebró un bautismo el sábado 23 de julio a cargo del pastor Carlos Henríquez. Al finalizar, tres personas expresaron su deseo de prepararse para hacer lo propio en una próxima ceremonia.

Esta joven iglesia está creciendo notablemente, y sus miembros se caracterizan por su generosidad. Los diezmos y ofrendas experimentaron un alza de aproximadamente un ochenta por ciento en lo que va del año 2011, comparado con el 2010. Los hermanos confían en que Dios traerá a su redil a aquellos por los que están trabajando, y la iglesia continuará creciendo para Su Gloria.

Campaña de Semana

Santa en Smithfield: La semana del 17 al 23 de abril fue muy activa para la iglesia de Smithfield, North Carolina. Los miembros trajeron a sus amigos para participar de las reuniones con motivo de semana santa. El pastor Alcega Jeanintong recordó con sus mensajes el sacrificio que Jesús hizo por la

humanidad en la cruz del calvario. Ocho personas mostraron su aceptación de dicho sacrificio por medio del bautismo.

Bautismo en

Clinton: Cinco personas entregaron sus vidas a Jesús en mayo, luego de la semana de evangelismo a cargo del pastor John Newlove en la iglesia de Clinton, South Carolina. Al finalizar la misma, los hermanos comenzaron a preparar el terreno para la campaña que se llevó a cabo en el mes de junio. La hermandad está altamente motivada en el trabajo de traer a otros a los pies de Cristo.

Crecimiento en

Wilson: La pequeña congregación de Wilson, North Carolina, organizó un esfuerzo evangélico. El orador fue el pastor John Newlove. Tres personas entregaron sus vidas al Señor. La hermandad continúa trabajando con sus conocidos y se prepara con entusiasmo para



mudarse al templo que han adquirieron recientemente.

Evangelismo en La Iglesia de Seven Springs:

La Iglesia de Seven Springs, North Carolina, celebró tres bautismos el pasado 4 de junio, resultados del evangelismo personal de los hermanos. Cada uno de los catecúmenos recibió como obsequio una Biblia de tamaño familiar. El pastor Uribe impartió un mensaje de invitación a seguir los pasos de la reina Ester, por su valentía y fe.

En los primeros cinco meses del año, seis almas se unieron a esta congregación y la hermandad continúa en su labor de testificación entre amigos y conocidos.

Campaña Laica en la Iglesia de Goldsboro:



iglesia de Goldsboro, North Carolina, llevó a cabo una campaña evangélica a cargo del hermano Mauricio Velázquez, que culminó con cuatro bautismos, oficiados por el pastor Uribe en la iglesia de Seven Springs.

¿Qué Impide que sea Bautizado? El sábado 25 de junio, la iglesia de Warsaw, South Carolina, disfrutó de una hermosa ceremonia de bautismo. En la hora del llamado, un joven asistente, impresionado por el Espíritu Santo pidió ser bautizado en ese mismo momento. Se hicieron los arreglos necesarios, y en pocos minutos el joven selló su pacto con Dios en forma pública.

Resultados en

Douglasville: Como resultado de la campaña Jesús al Control que tuvo lugar en marzo, y del trabajo de seguimiento de los hermanos de Douglasville, Georgia, cinco personas se entregaron a Cristo y lo demostraron por medio del bautismo que se llevó a cabo el 2 de julio. La iglesia alabó a Dios por el acontecimiento, y un grupo infantil dirigió las alabanzas con una selección animada y juvenil.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE
LA ASOCIACIÓN

Compromiso de la Iglesia de Conway

La iglesia de Conway, South Carolina, surgió por el trabajo dedicado de Eduardo Saavedra. Saavedra ha contagiado su entusiasmo a los hermanos, y



todos trabajan para traer almas a Cristo. En la actualidad, planean comprar un terreno para construir un templo.

El 11 de junio se llevó a cabo una reunión misionera, en la que se pidió a Dios que

les ayudase a alcanzar un blanco de treinta almas en el año 2011. El pastor Poloche tuvo a cargo la predicación, y la hermandad se comprometió en el cumplimiento de las metas propuestas.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Festival de Laicos



Más de quinientas personas representando a las iglesias de Georgia y las Carolinas, participaron del festival de laicos “Unidades en Acción” que se llevó a

cabo en mayo. El orador invitado para presentar los seminarios fue el pastor Juan Moral. Daylet Espinosa y Lady Uribe dictaron cursos para los menores que

desean participar en la tarea de ganar almas.

Este evento tuvo un final feliz: trece personas entregaron sus corazones al Señor y lo expresaron por medio del bautismo. Participaron en

la organización de esta actividad, los pastores Jorge Quintiana, Luis Espinosa, Andrew Cabán, Juan Reyes, Ismael Uribe y José Reyes.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Graduación en el Seminario Adventista Laico S.A.L

El sábado 18 de junio se llevó a cabo la ceremonia de graduación con mayor número de graduados de la historia de la asociación. Más de 260 alumnos recibieron su diploma de “Instructores Bíblicos Profesionales” del programa S.A.L, patrocinado

por la universidad de Andrews. El coordinador de los estudiantes hispanos fue John Newlove y Calvin Watkins estuvo a cargo de los de habla inglesa.

Los graduandos recibieron sus diplomas en el auditorio del centro de

convenciones adventista localizado en Orangeburg, Carolina del Sur, que cuenta con la capacidad de reunir a 4,000 personas. Al grupo de marcha se unieron los menores que participaron del curso de ganancia de almas en el festival de laicos.

La experiencia fue inolvidable, y el entusiasmo por traer gente a los pies del Maestro llenó los corazones de los participantes

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Camporee

El tercer campamento de jóvenes hispanos tuvo lugar del 22-26 de junio, en donde la Sociedad de Jóvenes Adventistas tuvo sus comienzos en el año 1907: la academia Mount Vernon en Ohio.

El lema del evento fue "Pregúntame de Jesús", y tuvo su enfoque en el evangelismo juvenil. Para participar en el mismo, se había establecido el prerrequisito de estudiar el libro "La Fe De Jesús" con el objetivo de que los jóvenes llegasen con una idea general y práctica de temas para dar estudios bíblicos.

El pastor Alfredo García-Marenko, quien fuera director del departamento de, jóvenes de la División Interamericana, fue el orador principal. Desafió a los 260 jóvenes que representaban a 14 iglesias de cuatro estados junto con participantes de la Unión de la Republica Dominicana, a que se comprometan a trabajar más por el crecimiento de la iglesia. Dos jóvenes entregaron sus vidas al Señor por medio del bautismo.

El siguiente requisito del programa, es que los jóvenes, guías mayores o miembros de la Sociedad de Jóvenes, organicen y mantengan un grupo pequeño durante este año.

En actividades como estas, la juventud tiene la oportunidad de conocer, compartir, aprender y socializar con participantes de diferentes lugares en

un ambiente cristiano y bajo los mismos principios. Reciben instrucción y recursos que les ayudarán no sólo en la vida de testimonio, sino en la parte social dentro del círculo de la iglesia.

—ANTONIO PEREIRA,
COORDINADOR DE CLUBES J.A
DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Southern Union Noticias

Pastores Evangelistas de la Unión del Sur en Europa

Durante 25 años, Manolo, un ex adventista, había rechazado todas las invitaciones a asistir a la iglesia de Valencia en España. No obstante, el Espíritu Santo estaba todavía trabajando en él. Cuando el pastor Emilio de León, quien trabaja en una de las asociaciones de la Unión del Sur tuvo su campaña en mayo de este año, Manolo estaba allí, y había traído a un amigo que también había estado alejado de la iglesia por mucho tiempo. Ambos dieron su testimonio una noche luego de la reunión. La iglesia estaba

sorprendida y llena de gozo por esto y aún más. Una persona fue bautizada, y doce continúan estudiando la Biblia y han solicitado bautismo.

En los últimos diez años, el ministerio hispano de la Unión del Sur ha enviado pastores a diferentes áreas de América Latina para intercambiar métodos de evangelismo, aprender de las culturas a las que deben ministrar en los Estados Unidos, impactar a la iglesia local, y principalmente desarrollar pastores evangelistas. Este año el desafío fue

distinto: diecinueve pastores fueron enviados a Europa, con la ayuda financiera de Philos Care Corp. (www.philoscare.com) una fundación comprometida a esparcir el Mensaje en muchos países, en sus diferentes aspectos: espiritual, físico y emocional. Los encuentros se llevaron a cabo en España, Italia, Suiza, Bélgica e Inglaterra, en español. A excepción de España, los miembros de iglesia son extranjeros en los países en los que viven, lo cual hace que el trabajo de traer almas a Cristo sea difícil.

Los Resultados del Trabajo

El pastor Samuel Díaz, quien estuvo a cargo de la campaña que se llevó a cabo en Sevilla Reportó dos bautismos, dos profesiones de fe, y veintidós personas esperando ser bautizadas, ya que en Europa, los bautismos deben ser aprobados por la junta de iglesia previamente.

En Londres, Inglaterra, el pastor José Escobar tuvo el privilegio de bautizar siete personas y ver a quince aceptando el llamado a prepararse para el bautismo. Lucía,

quien había dejado la iglesia cuarenta años atrás, decidió regresar. El señor Rosario sorprendió a su esposa en la reunión del sábado de mañana cuando expresó su decisión de ser bautizado. La iglesia está entusiasmada trabajando por estas personas.

El pastor Johnny Castro bautizó seis personas en Berlín, Alemania, y en Ginebra, Suiza, el pastor Carlos Pinto tuvo a su cargo el bautismo más grande que el pastor local haya tenido en sus veinticinco años de ministerio.

En la ciudad de Elche, España, el pastor Julio de la Roca llevó a cabo una ceremonia bautismal de tres personas, y diez tomaron la decisión de seguir a Jesús.

Roma fue un desafío debido a la fuerte tradición religiosa- dice el pastor

buscaron reemplazos en sus trabajos para poder venir a los encuentros y traer amigos. Cada noche, las conferencias debían terminar temprano ya que los miembros no tienen vehículos y debían regresar a sus hogares en transporte público. Tres personas fueron bautizadas, y la iglesia continúa trabajando con aquellos que quedaron interesados en el mensaje de salvación.

El Pastor José Castillo fue muy feliz al ver el trabajo del Espíritu Santo cada noche. Durante su campaña en Milán, Italia, nueve personas fueron bautizadas, y dieciocho respondieron al llamado de hacer lo propio en un futuro. Cada noche, la gente se acercaba al altar expresando su deseo de rendir sus vidas a Jesús. Castillo dijo: "No hay tierra o frontera donde

La Visión

El departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur cree en el evangelismo en todas sus formas. Esta es la razón por la que se incentiva constantemente a los laicos y pastores a que practiquen el evangelismo personal, como también otros métodos. No obstante, existe una realidad abrumadora: hay siete billones de personas que alcanzar; la iglesia necesita métodos de alcance masivo. "La mies es mucha y los obreros son pocos." Mat 9:37 El trabajo del evangelista público es tan importante hoy como lo fue en el tiempo del Pentecostés, cuando miles de personas fueron convertidas en un día como resultado del evangelista Pedro. "Así que los que recibieron su palabra fueron bautizados; y se añadieron aquel

día como tres mil personas." Hechos 2:41

Sí, es un gran desafío. La iglesia Adventista tiene una importante misión. Todas sus instituciones están concentradas en su cumplimiento, pero el Espíritu de Profecía advierte acerca de un riesgo, y da instrucciones a la administración: "Con frecuencia los

obreros que podrían ser de gran beneficio en las reuniones para el público, están ocupados en otros trabajos que no les dejan tiempo para dedicarse al ministerio activo entre la

gente. Los administradores, hasta donde sea posible, deben procurar hallar hombres consagrados con preparación en el campo comercial, para encomendarles los asuntos comerciales en los diversos centros de nuestra obra. Hay que precaverse constantemente contra la tendencia a relacionar con estos centros a hombres que podrían realizar un trabajo mayor y más importante en la plataforma pública al presentar las verdades de la Palabra de Dios a los incrédulos. El Evangelismo pág. 20 "Dios pide evangelistas." El Evangelismo pág. 89

"Un obrero entrenado y educado para el trabajo, que esté controlado por el Espíritu de Cristo, logrará mayores resultados que diez obreros que carezcan de conocimiento y sean débiles en la fe..."-- Review and Herald, Mayo 29, 1888.

Con esta visión en mente, la Unión del Sur quiere proveer el entrenamiento y las herramientas necesarias a sus pastores, exponiéndolos a diferentes métodos de evangelismo, como distintas culturas y lugares. El trabajo hecho cada año en estas campañas, está plantando un nuevo celo por el evangelismo en nuestros pastores, y las iglesias locales se benefician con el mismo, porque este espíritu es transmitido a sus miembros.

—MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA



Neftaly Ortiz. La mayoría de los miembros de iglesia trabajan en el cuidado de niños, personas enfermas o ancianos, y les es difícil asistir a reuniones durante la semana. No obstante,

Dios no pueda trabajar. Él ha prometido el Espíritu Santo, y nosotros veremos grandes resultados si hacemos Su trabajo en nuestras iglesias, familias y comunidad."

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JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL is looking for physicians to work in our hospital. We are currently seeking the following positions: **Family Practice, Family Practice/OB, Orthopedic, Nephrology, Internal Medicine.** Please contact Jason Dunkel @ jason.dunkel@ahss.org or 423-784-1187 for more information. [10-7]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking qualified candidates in clinical and non-clinical capacities to further its mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. If you have a passion to be part of the Seventh-day Adventist health ministry, email your resume to David Gordon, AHS System Recruiter, at david.gordon@ahss.org! [10]

INTERNIST NEEDED IN BEAUTIFUL WESTERN NC – Park Ridge Health is seeking board certified/board eligible Internal Medicine Physicians. Hospital employment. Work within a highly respected, busy practice. Excellent salary and benefits. Outstanding Adventist schools in community. For more information contact Danielle Wild: danielle.wild@ahss.org or 800-737-2647. www.parkridgehealth.org. [10-12]

SDA COUPLES & SINGLES! NEED A CHALLENGE? Work with at-risk boys, 12-18. We provide salary, housing, meals, other benefits. Advent Home needs Christ-centered **Resident Care Staff, Counselors, Managers & Supervisors, IT Specialist.** Grow personally and spiritually. Call Blondel Senior: 423-336-5052; email resume: bsenior@adventhome.org; fax: 423-336-8224. [10]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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RV's!! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been helping SDA's for over 30 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motorhomes. Jayco, Newmar and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Call toll-free 1-888-933-9300. Lee's RV, Oklahoma City. www.leesrv.com or e-mail Lee Litchfield at Lee@leesrv.com. ©

WILDWOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR: November 6-20, 2011. 14-day program focusing on health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$740. Contact: Darlene Keith at 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: darlenekeith@gmail.com. [10]

WILDWOOD 1-WEEK STREAMLINED WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR:

October 23-30, 2011. An intense week of health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$370. Contact: Darlene Keith at 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: darlenekeith@gmail.com. [10]

WILDWOOD TOTAL VEGETARIAN COOKING & NATURAL REMEDIES SEMINAR:

Nov. 27-Dec. 4, 2011. 7-day seminar focusing on whole foods cooking (hands-on), hydrotherapy, and herbal preparations. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$370 (includes room and vegan meals). Contact: Darlene at 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. Email: darlenekeith@gmail.com. [10]

AUTHORS WANTED –

If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACHServices.com at 800-367-1844, x3, for a FREE manuscript review. [10]

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2 CEMETERY LOTS in Lakeview Cemetery

between Avon Park and Sebring, Florida. Lots cost \$1,295 each. Buy one, get one free! Contact Elder Mote at 706-861-8346. [10]



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Announcements

Association of Adventist Women's Annual Convention – Oct. 13-16. La Sierra University. "Total You - Body, Mind, and Spirit." Keynote speaker is Chris Oberg. Registration fee, \$125. Register online at www.aaw.cc.

Peachtree City, GA, Church 35th Homecoming Anniversary – Oct. 14, 15. Harold Cunningham, Sabbath speaker. Details: Joanne Anderson 770-487-8505.

Andrews Academy Homecoming Weekend – Oct. 14-16. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy

plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are 1937, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02 and 2007. Details: contact the Academy Alumni office at 269-471-6140 or e-mail acadalum@andrews.edu.

Society of Adventist Communicators Convention – Oct. 20-22. Chicago, IL. Keynote speaker: David Neff, *Christianity Today* editor-in-chief. Theme: *Integrated Communication: The Hub of Excellence*. The 22nd annual convention is in Chicago, IL, this year. We hope to see many professional and local church communicators there. Sometimes it is hard for them to attend because of finances. Would you consider sponsoring some of them to come to the

convention? Imagine if more of the local church communicators would be able to get training on how to do communication for their local church – how great would that be? Please download the flier and pass on this opportunity to your local church and/or school communication leaders. Visit, adventistcommunicator.org for further details.

Southern Singles Fall Retreat – Oct. 21-23. Sterchi Lodge, NC. Pastor Daniel Royo, guest speaker. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4011.

Festival of Praise Revival and Reformation – Nov. 19. A joint convocation for Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences at the 7,000-seat Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, formerly The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, at 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA. The Thanksgiving season celebration will provide a unique opportunity for the children, youth, senior members, and leaders within the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual sisterhood of churches of both conferences to foster bonding, communicate information, and nurture inspiration to expand the kingdom of God. Additionally, the convocation will cast a vision for evangelistic outreach and kingdom building for 2012. Special features will include the following:

1. Children and Youth Sabbath School at 9 a.m.
2. Youth Divine Worship Celebration at 11 a.m.
3. Festival of Praise at 4 p.m. Featuring the best choirs, groups, and instrumentalists of both conferences.
4. Colors of the World - Pathfinders parade of flags representing the nations of the conferences.
5. Introduction and report from South Atlantic, Georgia-Cumberland, and the new Southern Union Conference president.
6. Children's Church.
7. Youth Rap Sessions.
8. 100+ Mass Choir.
9. Youth vs. SAC/GCC pastors basketball game.
10. Social activities for the young and young at heart.

"Mysteries of the Mark of the Beast – Revealed" – Dec. 9, 10. Elim Church, Saint Petersburg, FL. Steve Wohlberg, author/evangelist, will conduct a weekend series of evangelistic meetings. Lifelong Adventists, new members, and guests are invited to attend the series of four meetings that will begin with a service on Friday evening, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m., and conclude on Sabbath, Dec. 10, with meetings at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and Sabbath afternoon. Details: Jim R. Davis, Elim pastor, 727-327-2374 or pastor@elimdsd.com.

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Oct. 7-9. Nosoca.

Lay Pastoral Training – Oct. 7-9. Nosoca.

Annual Council – Oct. 7-12.

Low County Camp Out – Nov. 4-6.

Honors Midway – Nov. 6

High County Camp Out – Nov. 11-13.

Community Service Retreat – Nov. 11-13. Nosoca.

Florida

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

Florida Pathfinder events – <http://www.floridaconference.com/youth/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/>, djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-703-3050.

Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups such as attention deficit disorder, bereavement, brain injury, celiac disease, diabetes, sleep disorders, and more. Details are available under the "Support Groups" link in the "Patients and Visitors" box at <http://www.fhdeland.org/>

North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumniinf.org/>, oakwoodalumniinf@gmail.com, 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.

Go Fish For Kids – Oct. 22. Fort Myers Church. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Kids are invited to come and learn great ways to witness to friends and neighbors. Puppetry, nature, fitness fun, interactive storytelling, ballooning, music, and more. Cost: free. Bring your own lunch. Details: <http://>

www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/, rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). 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

Oct. 22. Tallahassee.

Oct. 23. Lake City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.

Oct. 29. Sunrise.

Oct. 30. Plantation, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

Nov. 5. Naples.

Nov. 6. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Avon Park, Winter Haven.

Nov. 12. West Palm Beach.

Nov. 13. Midport, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay.

Nov. 19. Port Charlotte.

Nov. 20. North Port, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

Dec. 3. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Dec. 4. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

Dec. 10. St. Petersburg.

Dec. 11. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills.

Greater Miami Adventist Academy Family Festival – Oct. 30. Greater Miami Adventist Academy. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

International food, music from school, church, and community groups, games for children, softball, basketball, massage tables, medical checkups, and more. Details: ctrevilcock@gmail.com, cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com, 305-220-5955 x151, or

954-254-9249.

Florida Conference

Evangelism Series – Nov. 5-19. Northwest Miami Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics – Dec. 10. Northwest Dade in Hialeah.

Georgia-Cumberland

Pastors/Spouses Appreciation Month

Men's Retreat – Oct. 7-9.

Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Women's Fall Retreat – Oct. 7-9. Townsend, TN.

Hispanic Evangelism – Oct. 8-15. Northern Region.

Health Rally – Oct. 8. Chestatee Church. Dawsonville, GA.

Prayer Ministries Day – Oct. 8. Athens, GA.

Pathfinder North Tenn. Fellowship Campout – Oct. 14-16.

Pathfinder South Tenn. Fellowship Jamboree – Oct. 16.

Pathfinder North GA Fellowship Campout – Oct. 21-23.

Missional Pastors, New Group Training – Oct. 21-23. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Health Day – Oct. 22. Cohutta Church, GA.

Hispanic Youth Rally "Makeover" – Oct. 28-30. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gscsda.org>

Principal's Retreat – Oct. 7-9. Camp Alamisco.

Conference Pathfinder Retreat – Oct. 13-16.

ShareHim Boot Camp of Evangelism – Oct. 21-23. Bass Memorial Academy.

Rock Climbing Teen Invitational – Nov. 4-6. Bob Hill.

Teen Retreat – Nov. 11-13. Camp Alamisco.

Senior Presentation – Nov. 19. Bass Memorial Academy.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Hispanic Women's Retreat – Oct. 7-9. Indian Creek Camp.

Conference Association Board – Dec. 6.

Conference Executive Committee – Dec. 6.

Sunset						
	Sep. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4
Atlanta, GA	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:54	6:47	6:41
Charleston, SC	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:37	6:30	6:24
Charlotte, NC	7:05	6:56	6:46	6:38	6:30	6:24
Collegedale, TN	7:22	7:13	7:03	6:55	6:48	6:41
Huntsville, AL	6:28	6:19	6:10	6:02	5:54	5:48
Jackson, MS	6:44	6:35	6:27	6:19	6:12	6:06
Louisville, KY	7:24	7:13	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:38
Memphis, TN	6:42	6:32	6:23	6:15	6:07	6:01
Miami, FL	7:06	6:59	6:52	6:46	6:40	6:36
Montgomery, AL	6:28	6:19	6:11	6:03	5:56	5:50
Nashville, TN	6:29	6:19	6:09	6:01	5:43	5:46
Orlando, FL	7:10	7:02	6:54	6:48	6:42	6:37
Wilmington, NC	6:54	6:45	6:36	6:28	6:20	6:14

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