

November 2011

# T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



**Meet Our New President**

# God's Power Manifested Through Human Leadership

*"For my strength is made perfect in weakness," 2 Corinthians 12:9.*

A primary qualification for a leader serving the Church with any amount of success, and for doing God's Work well and triumphantly, is to be cognizant of his or her own inadequacy. Those who embark upon the journey of Church leadership, dependent upon their own abilities and temporal resources, will experience defeat instead of victory. God will not go forth with the person who marches in his or her own strength. Those who lead for God must lead *His* way, and in His strength, or He will never accept their service. That which a man or woman does, unaided by divine strength, God can never own. God's power is manifested through human weakness.

God has, for decades, gifted the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a leader, prompted by His power, to grow the Southern Union through the South Atlantic Conference. On May 18, 1997, the constituents of South Atlantic elected Vanard J. Mendinghall to serve as their seventh president. The Charlotte, North Carolina, native and his wife, Ruth, a Church school teacher from Trenton, New Jersey, together have given more than 75 years of service to the Church. A visionary leader who has depended upon God for direction, Mendinghall has led the South Atlantic Conference to unprecedented numeric and financial growth, as well as spearheading the multi-million-dollar expansion of the River Oaks Campground facility in Orangeburg, South Carolina. During his tenure, the Conference has also constructed/purchased 15 new church edifices. Though these achievements, in and of themselves, demonstrate tremendous leadership, perhaps his greatest success has been dependency upon God in the development of men, women, and youth to lead others to Jesus. We thank the Mendinghalls for trusting the power of God to foster their leadership in the South Atlantic Conference.

Through the providential working of God, William L. Winston, a native of Durham, North Carolina, was elected as the eighth president of the South Atlantic Conference on September 11, 2011. Winston holds bachelor of arts degrees in ministerial theology and business administration from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama. He has also earned the master of divinity degree from Andrews University Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Winston brings a wealth of preparation to South Atlantic leadership. Of the more than 20 years he has labored in the Conference, Winston has, along the side of his devoted wife, Eula, served as a pastor and builder of churches, chair of numerous boards and committees, and, most recently, executive secretary of the Conference. More specifically, the Winstons are passionately committed to Jesus Christ, the salvation of others, and the wellness of the members (employees and laity) of the Conference. We will pray for them as they execute their new administrative ministry, as they seek not their own strength, but *His*.



*Ruth and Vanard Mendinghall*



*Eula and William Winston*

**Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union President**

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**Front Cover:** *Southern Union Conference President, Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., and his wife, Yolanda.*



## RON SMITH, D.MIN., PH.D.

### SOUTHERN UNION PRESIDENT

BY WHITNEY JORDAN

*After Ron Smith's election as president of the Southern Union Conference during the 18th Quinquennial Session in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 18, 2011, Whitney Jordan, Southern Union Communication Department intern, talked with the new president about life and his vision for the Union.*

**WJ:** Congratulations on your new position as president of the Southern Union Conference. Tell me a little about yourself.

**RCS:** Thank you. I am very grateful for the opportunity! I am a native of Brooklyn, New York, and a product of Christian education. I am a graduate of Oakwood University (formerly Oakwood College), Huntsville, Alabama, with a bachelor of arts in theology and biblical languages. I have also received a master of divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary,

Berrien Springs, Michigan; a doctor of ministry from Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary Rochester, New York; and a Ph.D. from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California.

**WJ:** How long have you served in the ministry?

**RCS:** I have served in the Seventh-day Adventist Gospel ministry for 32 years. I've served as pastor, departmental director, editor of *Message* magazine, vice president of the Review and Herald, and executive secretary of the Southern Union.

**WJ:** How does your wife, Yolanda, plan on assisting you in your new position?

**RCS:** Yolanda and I have been married for 32 years. She has been my partner in each phase of ministry through children's ministries initia-

tives, prayer ministries, home and school leadership, women's ministries, and shepherdess ministries. Yolanda is desirous of assisting pastors' wives in their quest to enhance the Gospel ministry while caring for their families. She will work in cooperation with the women's ministries leadership in the Southern Union to foster the inclusion of women in a more meaningful and helpful way.

[The Smiths have two children. Their daughter, Dawn, a graduate of Oakwood University in elementary education, is an elementary educator residing in Atlanta, Georgia. Their son, Ron II, also a graduate of Oakwood University and Andrews University Theological Seminary, is a pastor in the Southeastern Conference.]

**WJ:** How did you feel you when you were announced as president?

**RCS:** When I was elected president, I was shocked, frightened, and humbled; but, also encouraged by the reminder that God's biddings are enablings.

**WJ:** How has the previous president, Elder Gordon Retzer, influenced you?

**RCS:** Elder Gordon Retzer has been and continues to be one of the most effective leaders this Church has produced. Not only has he served at every level of the Church with distinction and deep-seated spirituality, but he has also had a tremendous impact and has made an indelible impression on my administrative ministry. He has done so by modeling a trust and reliance on the wisdom and direction of God. He has showcased a pattern of empowering the spiritual gifts of others. He has motivated others to be the best they can be in their respective ministries.

God has blessed the Southern Union with a legacy of love for evangelism, a commitment to Christian stewardship, and tremendous leadership in the Southern Union fostered by Elder Retzer.

I have grown to treasure the wholesome friendship God has provided for me through the close working association with him. His choice to retire has unleashed grief for so many; however, he continues to carry the wellness of the Church in his heart. We will miss Elder and Mrs. Retzer at the helm of the Southern Union. We pray for God's favor to surround them as they retire from Southern Union administration.

**WJ:** Tell me about your leadership style.

**RCS:** My leadership style is collaborative and communicative. I minister best in leadership when I can foster the boosting of morale in others as we labor in the heat of the day.

**WJ:** What is your vision for the Southern Union as president?

**RCS:** The vision for the Office of the President of the Southern Union is to assist in fostering the collective ministry and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Union. This must include prayer ministry priority, youth ministry, membership growth, evangelism, church planting, tithe and funding the mission, literature evangelism, Adven-



*Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union Conference president, is interviewed by Whitney Jordan, Southern Union communication intern.*

tist education, healthcare, and global ministry. The above will be operationalized by the following. Edification: (*Reaching Up* — an invitation to intimacy) Inviting all in the Southern Union territory to learn the Word of God through intentional and systematic reading of the Bible from now through the next General Conference Session 2015. Evangelization: (*Reaching Out* — an invitation to sharing) Every member of the Southern Union is invited to incessantly share their faith surrounding the imminent return of Jesus Christ, to put an end to the current course of this Earth's history, and to take us to our new home. And finally, Emancipation: (*Reaching*

*Across* — an invitation to caring) All Southern Union members are invited to reach across gender, generational, and ethnic lines in an effort to release others from the heavy burdens of marginalization and ostracism for a complete coordinated involvement in the Gospel Commission.

**WJ:** What are some of the challenges the Union is facing, and what solutions do you have to correct them?

**RCS:** I am impressed with the fine efforts and ministry to the youth of the Southern Union by the excellent works of the youth leadership in each of the Southern Union conferences. Allan Williamson, youth director, has done a great work and made tremendous strides with youth leadership. Even with the above, I believe we must make intentional efforts that include getting youth to the table of discussion for active participation in governance of the Adventist Church. The Southern Union can be a great launching pad for this.

Another challenge facing us is engaging all conferences in conjoint evangelistic initiatives ... two or three conferences teaming up for projects and campaigns that would heighten awareness of the saving grace of God. These initiatives can be fostered by two or three conferences, two or three schools, etc. This does not necessarily have to be driven by ethnicity, gender, or intergenerational concern, but by sincere intentional efforts to work together.

A final challenge currently faced is the need for the Southern Union family to be engaged in systematic Bible reading. An intentional and coordinated Bible-reading plan that all members can feel motivated to participate in can build the Southern Union members' faith in God. We can begin by adopting the "Read the Word" initiative presented to the World Church by the Annual Council of the General Conference, and embrace the initiative by distributing the "Read the Bible" document throughout the Southern Union.

*Southern Union Veterans' Day Feature*

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U.S. ARMY

ARMY

# REFOCUS

BY ALETHEA SKINNER

A deployed soldier's mom often finds herself lost in a line somewhere behind a spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, and the demands of the military--watching, waiting, and praying. In those times, it is easy to get so involved in praying for the soldier's protection and the protection of the other soldiers in the unit that she loses focus. Slowly, her own spiritual life begins to drift.



*Alethea Skinner, and her son, Shawn, enjoy a good-bye hug before he returns to Iraq from his 2010 summer leave.*

Without realizing it, I became one of those moms, until I got a phone call from my ex asking me if I had been contacted by the Army.

My 31-year-old son, my only son, a member of First Church in Huntsville, Alabama, had been deployed to Afghanistan for three months. In the first weeks, several of his comrades had been wounded or killed. While praying and grieving with the parents of the wounded and lost, I continually begged the Lord for mercy and salvation for my son and the soldiers that remained.

When the call came, I heard the question twice but never clearly understood the words beyond, "I just got a call from the Army saying, 'Your son...'" In that moment my world stopped.

Terror seized me. "O God, has my son been added to the list?"

Somewhere in the distance, I heard the words, "on 12 July at 1300 hours," "IED," "wounded," and "ear." I could say nothing, but my brain screamed, "I am his mother. If something happened to him, the Army should have called me!"

I didn't understand anything. My mind raced. At all times of the day and night I pray for the protection of my soldier and those who serve with him. Now, he's hurt? From somewhere I heard the words, "He will not give you more than you can bear." He promised. I commanded myself to think. I needed information, but I also needed to remain calm so my children (grandchildren, grandnieces, grandnephew, and my oldest daughter, who were traveling with me) would not become afraid or start asking questions for which I had no answers.

I was stopped at a McDonald's in the middle of nowhere. Why? Nothing about the call or the day made any sense. I was in the middle of the



*United States Army Lieutenant Shawn M. Skinner (center) and fellow soldiers meet with the elders in Iraq in 2008.*

state, in the middle of the day, in the middle of July. I normally begin this cross-country journey near bedtime on the day school closes in June. Normally, I take I-5 north to Portland and then I-84 east from there. Everything had already messed up my schedule — and now this. Were these coincidences?

The taste for refreshments vanished as a sick feeling engulfed me. I told the faceless form at the window, I had no order and drove out of the line and found a parking spot.

I tried to focus as the words were repeated. I finally understood that my son had been injured somehow, and after being checked by the medical team, he was already back with his unit.

As I ended the call, part of my brain was crying out to God in praise and thanksgiving that, although I didn't understand exactly what happened, my son was alive and back with his unit. As I gave thanks, through tears of gratitude I sang, "Great is Your mercy towards me, Your loving kindness towards me... great is Your grace!" On another track in my multi-tasking brain, I was simultaneously praying, "Lord, in this experience please draw my child to You. If this is a warning for him, may he surrender his life to you again, now. Father, please may he feel his need for You. Save my son, Lord."

I drove on, repeating the prayer while fighting the panic that had me nearly blacking out. I recognized the signs of hyperventilation, but I could not stop driving. I had to escape that nightmare. "God, help me!" I groped for a paper bag, but felt only plastic. "You don't want to suffocate — cup your hands over your mouth and nose and breathe." Methodically obeying, I bent forward as I brought my hands together at the top of the steering wheel. The closing blackness dissipated



and I began to relax.

Suddenly, I heard the words, "It was for you."

"For me? Why?"

"For you. You need to draw closer."

"Me?"

"You."

Crying out to a nearly cloudless sky, I struggled to comprehend the words and the reason I was hearing them. I thought God and I were "okay." "God help me see, help me understand!"

And then, as I looked out of my left window, I saw an interesting cloud formation. It could have been two halves of an apple with a stem or two halves of a heart.

A cloud watcher from childhood, I looked again. It did kind of look like a heart. It was changing rapidly, though, so I pulled to the side of the road to take a picture. A broken heart — yes, God knew.

However, instead of feeling peace that God knew, I still had that horrible sense of dread. Wave after wave of compelling thoughts crashed into my mind and then, in one flash I saw Calvary. But how did Calvary connect with my phone call and the words "It's for you?" Slowly I saw it clearly. God's heart broke at Calvary as His only Son faced the ultimate sacrifice — and it was my fault. Trembling, I sat there, unable to continue driving.

From eternity past to Eden, God lived with the terrible knowledge that I would choose wrong paths. He knew there were tests I would fail. And every day He lived with the hurt and the pain of knowing that no matter what happened, He could not help His Son out, He could not help Him go through Calvary. More than that, God lived with the pain of knowing that even Calvary would not be enough for some. Still, seeing every step I would take, He willingly sent his Son to Calvary knowing the cost, the price He would have to pay.



*Shawn Skinner (left) poses with a fellow soldier in Afghanistan this year.*

I looked at myself — sitting in the middle of nowhere, hyperventilating, and nearly hysterical over the possibility that my only son might be wounded or killed by the people he was trying to help, unable to do anything to help him, unable to save him. Unlike God's situation, though, there was no guarantee my son would die on this mission. He could even have come through uninjured. God, however, knew with certainty that His Son would be wounded and killed by the people he came to save, yet He remained committed to that sacrifice and its cost.

I asked myself the question — will Calvary not be enough for you? The immediate answer was, "If I do not accept the sacrifice and live a life that acknowledges and honors the claims made on my life, then Calvary is wasted on me." Scripture was clear: "How shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation." The thought became unbearable. I continued to watch the cloud formation slowly change.

The piece that had been extending from the middle changed and

looked like an arm with a hand making a thumbs-up sign. "Click." I snapped the picture. In awe I thought, "It WAS for me."

Without intending to and without my realizing it, my focus had shifted to my soldier and his unit on the front lines of a war in a distant country. As a result, my own defenses were low and my own soul was in danger of becoming a casualty of this war. No, I wasn't doing anything "crazy," but my focus was not on eternal things, either. In fact, my primary focus was that soldier and his comrades.

In the silence of the moment I whispered, "Today I understand, Lord, and I choose you again. I choose to walk worthy of Your sacrifice. I choose to walk with responsibility. Reorder my steps from this day forward. Hold my hand. Use me -- my voice, my pen — to tell of the price God paid for His Son's CHOICE to die for me. From this day forward, Calvary will not be wasted on me. My focus changed.

Was it coincidental that I was not driving on I-84 in the darkness? No. God's timing is perfect. He knew when my son would be injured, and He knew where I needed to be when I got the call. I was exactly where God needed me to be to get my attention focused on the sky to see the clouds and hear Him.

Still watching the sky, I turned the key in the ignition, preparing to continue my journey. The cloud shape changed again. It appeared that the fingers of that hand were outstretched and a hand was waving. I took one more picture and smiled. My soldier was still in His care, and his mom's focus was back where it belonged.



# Making Disciples

BY KEVIN KOSSICK

How do we make disciples of our children? I turned to my top secret recipe book and found the following... Experience at least four mission trips, combine with 25 Weeks of Prayer, add a minimum of 12 years in attendance at a Seventh day Adventist school, provide a nurturing church family who model Christ's character, attend church three out of four Sabbaths, participate in Pathfinders, go to youth camp every summer, and consume at least 50 pounds of veggie food annually. Bake in a home that has God-fearing parents until 18 years old, and you will "make a disciple."

All of the aforementioned items are nice, but they don't guarantee a disciple. So, what do we do?

Fortunately a successful model exists in the Southern Union: K.I.D. (Kids In Discipleship) training. This program is driven by three key verses found in Acts 2:17, Deuteronomy 6:4-7, and Malachi 4:5, 6, which identify God's dream for children and families. Here's how it works.

First, adult leaders must deepen their own spiritual journey. It is impossible to give away what we don't possess. A commitment to seek a greater personal understanding of His will through prayer, study, and lifestyle is essential.

Second, the program equips adults with practical youth discipling methods. Some examples include "Time Alone with God," prayer walks, student-owned Weeks of Prayer, classroom chaplaincy, intentional teaching of the assurance of salvation, stories of God's intervention in life, strate-

gies for Bible curriculum development, and family worship labs.

Third, encourage intentional partnerships between the home, school, and church by embracing intergenerational worship, moving from silos to partnering, and empowering children as spiritual leaders.

It is vital that parents begin to be intentional about being a disciple maker to their children. The following is a list of eight things parents can begin to do right now to disciple their children to Jesus Christ:

- Tell faith stories: It is important that children hear from parents how God has led and blessed in their own life. When children hear these stories from their parents, it helps them in their own faith journey with Jesus.
- Be intentional about involving your children with you in leading another person to Christ: Make sure to bring your kids along side and let them be a part of the process. By modeling this process to your kids, you will help to give them the courage to step out and reach one of their peers for Christ as well.
- Help them discover their own spiritual gifts: Explore with your kids what some of their spiritual gifts might be and then help find opportunities in which they can utilize those gifts.
- Maximize bedtime: This can be a great time to sit and just listen to your kids. Let them share what is going on in their life, and make a habit of praying together each night as they are in the bed.
- Make sure you are in their world: Stay connected. Whether it is sports or music, make a point to be involved and connected with

what they enjoy. By doing this, you will gain their trust when it comes to engaging them in their journey with Jesus.

- Make family worship a priority: Let your kids know that this is a sacred time and show them that you value the importance of it by not scheduling other things during that time.
- Encourage your kids to have regular T.A.G (Time Alone with God): Ask them how their T.A.G time is going and never criticize them if they say they have not spent the time. Always be encouraging and be real with them about your own struggles with T.A.G.
- Be Real: Let your kids know that you struggle with many of the same issues that they do. When you are real about your own faith journey with your kids, it will help them see that being a disciple is not about never failing, but rather it is about living a life that is completely and totally dedicated to Jesus Christ.

Thus far schools and communities that have practiced these methods have seen a difference in their children.

The Southern Union Education Department has trained trainers in each conference to continue this initiative for educators. Additionally an entire curriculum is developed for homes and churches.

Make a difference for the children in your home, school, or church by exploring the possibilities at [www.kidsindiscipleship.org](http://www.kidsindiscipleship.org) and equip them to become disciples!

*Kevin Kossick is Georgia-Cumberland Conference regional education director.*



# Church Safety and Beautification

BY DAVID FOURNIER  
WITH MONICA ALLEN AND JOHN DOUGAN

*Hamburg Community Church in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, is a model church. The grounds, roof, and structure look great.*

As I drove up to the church for prayer meeting that night, the first thing I noticed was that the parking lot was rather dark. There were lights in the parking lot, but several bulbs had burned out and not been replaced. I moved past the parking spots with fallen limbs and leaves and parked in a clear spot. Walking up the sidewalk I tripped a little over an uneven bit of concrete, but caught myself.

What struck me most was how rundown the church appeared — perhaps uncared for because of a lack of funds, or maybe the membership had dwindled and those who remained were simply unable to maintain the facility. Honestly, it made me nervous to be here. Rundown properties and buildings are not known for their safety.

Do I need to mention the burned out exit signs, the out-of-date fire extinguishers, wrinkled and torn carpeting that I found inside? I saw burn marks in the carpet where a candle had dripped



*All exit signs should work properly — no blown bulbs.*

or fallen. What a sad, neglected sanctuary.

What I saw in that neglected church were two things: ugliness and danger. They seem to go hand in hand.

## ***Ugly is Not Safe***

Have you ever thought what a safety inspection could do for the beautification of your church facility? Or what a beautification project could do for your safety? Perhaps that is unusual thought. I think it

is true, though. How much better does a church look if the parking lot is properly lit and cleared of fallen limbs and leaves? How much better the impression with level sidewalks and smooth carpets?

## ***The Cost of Safety***

It is hard to maintain your church facility though, isn't it? It is time consuming, not to mention expensive! Isn't it? Likely it is. Most



*Uneven walkway*

JOHN DOUGAN

things we consider worthwhile require time, energy, or money — sometimes all three.

Consider the cost of neglect. Beyond the moral or ethical reasons to keep your church property in good condition, can you

that it was important to God and community. They knew that people would have a certain mindset if things were not done in decency and order. This brings me to the “Broken Window Theory.”

bringing others to Christ.

It is true that people’s behavior and actions affect others. If the church adopts the broken window theory at their location, and spreads this attitude throughout the community, it could certainly cause enthusiasm for a safe and beautiful community.

Let me share with you some of the safety guidelines you can use as you seek to protect and beautify your church home.

### ***Self-Inspections***

A great way to prevent losses is to identify and correct hazardous conditions before accidents happen. At least once a year, with assistance from a member or members of the safety committee, you should perform a walk-through of the church. Because hazards can rapidly spring up, more frequent surveys are recommended, and all staff, elders, deacons, and volunteers should constantly be vigilant and report or correct problems when observed. Remember, preventative maintenance is more economical than paying for a major repair. The Church Self-Inspection Form (available on the Adventist Risk Management website, [www.adventistrisk.org](http://www.adventistrisk.org)) will help in the identification of key issues. Remember, if it is ugly, fix it!

### ***Slips, Trips, and Falls***

Slips, trips, and falls are usually a primary cause of church accidents. They can be caused by broken steps, potholes in parking areas, cracked sidewalks, torn and



JOHN DOUGAN

*Broken window*

afford a wind-damaged roof, fire, and burglary? Can you afford for someone to be attacked on your property? The cost of an incident is often significant and goes well beyond dollars. The impression your church makes in the press, in the community, and to your faithful members can be a lasting one.

So, how do you go from the church in my example to the ideal? You cannot do it alone. It requires thought, teamwork, and support.

*“For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God,”* Nehemiah 10:39.

This concept of protecting God’s house is not something new. The people of God put life and heart into building and protecting God’s tabernacle. Why? They knew

### ***The “Broken Window Theory”***

The “Broken Window Theory” is well known in the criminal justice world. Its basis is that the environment in which we live impacts our behavior. For example, people will feel more inclined to break the law in an area that is run down and dirty, hence the term “broken window.” Criminals feel less threatened and people seem to expect crime in this environment.

When applied to church beautification, it means keeping our properties uncluttered, not forsaken. It is hoped that by caring for our properties at a higher level, we create the mindset of behaving with care and safety. We create a place where our members feel the importance of their mission. That mission should be



JOHN DOUGAN

*Uneven sidewalk*



JOHN DOUGAN

*Torn carpet*



JOHN DOUGAN

*Carpet with badly worn padding*

wrinkled carpet, gravel, twigs or other debris on walkways, and wet floors from inclement weather or spills, to name a few. These accidents can often result in high-cost bodily injury claims.

### **Security**

Security is more than cameras and some alarms on doors and windows. A security program designed to protect people and property includes increased visibility through the trimming of vegetation, good lighting (inside and

out), and other elements. Everyone must be observant and responsive to suspicious activity (someone lurking in shadows or hallways, unattended packages, etc.). In some locations it may also mean the visible presence of a trained security team.

### **Emergency Plans and Preparedness**

For most churches, it's business as usual week after week, but that can change in an instant, particularly in an area prone to

earthquakes, hurricanes, or other natural disasters. In some locations, there may also be a potential for riots, while a random act of violence can occur anywhere. Determine the primary exposures to your church, and make sure your church has an emergency plan and is prepared to react appropriately to disasters as they arise. (See "Church Emergency Response and Business Continuity Planning" and "AEDs" on the ARM website.) Various codes also require that doors remain unlocked and that door-



JOHN DOUGAN

*Tripping hazard on stairs are one of the high-ranking causes of loss at churches.*



*Hazardous area: This is a fire waiting to happen.*



CORINNE LANQUETUIT

*John Dougan conducts an inspection.*

ways, aisles, foyers, and steps be kept clear of anything (yes even chairs) to ensure a clear means of egress in the event of an emergency.

### **Activities**

Safety and beautification should go beyond the physical plant. Your activities can be some of your greatest risks. The appearance of disorderliness and lack of care in this area can have the same effect as a neglected property!

List and evaluate church activities. Some are low risk and high gain, while others are high risk with little to gain and a potential for injured youth, staff, or volunteers. Establish a process where each activity is properly analyzed before approval. Ensure that the process includes provisions for

adequate supervision (quality and quantity), transportation, safety equipment, medical release forms for youth under 18, and parent/guardian permission slips for each activity. Help develop written guidelines and rules and be prepared to recommend that some activities be prohibited. Maintain a list of those approved and those that are prohibited. The board should be aware of and approve all activities.

### **Transportation**

So much can go wrong when transportation needs are not carefully thought out. A poorly maintained vehicle or a bad driver could result in disaster. Selecting too small of a vehicle for the need can lead to “overloading,” sloppy vehicle handling, and loss of

control. Know how many people need to be transported, how much gear needs to be hauled, and plan accordingly. Leasing a bus and driver from a reputable agency is an option to consider, as opposed to a lot of personal vehicles with volunteers whose vehicles or driving habits may be unsafe.

### **Accidents**

When incidents or accidents occur at the church, during an activity, or in transit, the Church Safety Officer in conjunction with the safety committee will conduct an investigation. Investigations help to identify the causes and what actions might help prevent similar accidents from occurring again.

### **A Team Effort**

Remember that you are not alone. Protecting people and property requires a team effort on the part of church pastors, elders, and deacons; Sabbath School and activity leaders; the safety committee; the church board; and ultimately, church workers, volunteers, and members. Good communication and interaction between you and these individuals is crucial.

The next time you drive up to your home church, take a second look around you. Does your church rise like a light in your community? Does it inspire people to be responsible? Does it hold a high standard of care, safety, and confidence? I hope it does. If you find opportunities for improvement, do not forget that you do not have to turn things around by yourself. Work as a church team, and make use of the church safety materials available from Adventist Risk Management.

We are a part of the brotherhood of believers, and our ministry is to help protect your ministry.

*David Fournier is manager for corporate communications for Adventist Risk Management, Inc.*

*Monica Allen is field services representative for Adventist Risk Management, Inc.*

*John Dougan, ARM, ALCM, is senior risk control specialist at Adventist Risk Management, Inc.*

# Jharell's Final Testimony

BY ROBINA JOSIAH WILLOCK, M.P.H., PH.D.

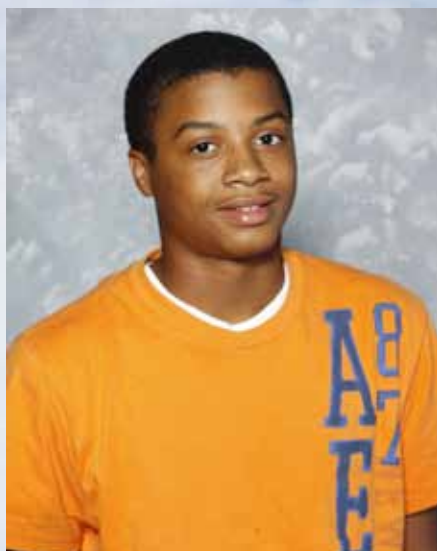
## Wednesday...

Things were finally coming together for Troy\*. The last year had been filled with one disappointment after another. He was anxious with the anticipation of finally owning his own trucking business. As he headed down Highway 78 on a muggy August morning, he was confident that he had more than enough time to get all his documents to the financing company by 11 a.m.

Then without warning he heard a distinctly audible voice saying, "You need to be about MY business." Troy had heard God speak to him before, but this time it was different. He knew missing his 11 a.m. deadline would send weeks of hard work down the drain, but he had to pull over into the next parking lot to think.

## Meanwhile...

Maxine pulled into the parking lot with a heavy heart. In less than 12 hours, her nephew, Jharell, had gone from an energetic, Christian young man with an infectious laughter, to a shell of his former self, incapacitated by an anaphylactic shock reaction. Maxine considered one parking space and then felt impressed to choose another. She quickly went into the pharmacy, picked up what she needed, and headed back to her car. She had just gotten in and was ready to pull away, when she noticed the rear windscreen of the truck parked directly in front of her was emblazoned with the phrase, "The Presence Of The Lord Is Here... I Am A Man Of God," and the license plate said "Lift Him Up." She felt impressed to speak to the man sitting



alone inside. The sign did say, "The Presence Of The Lord Is Here," and she thought, if GOD was "here" then they needed to have a little talk — about Jharell!

She struck up a brief conversation with the gentleman. She told him that she really liked the message on the back of his truck. She learned that gentleman's name was Troy, and that he was also a minister. She told him about her nephew, and asked him to pray for Jharell as well. The two strangers exchanged phone numbers and parted ways. Troy promised to visit Jharell in the hospital to pray for a miracle.

## Early Thursday...

In recent years, Troy's health had declined and he was now on kidney dialysis. While he was going through his treatment early Thursday morning, Maxine called. She had disheartening news. Jharell had been pronounced dead a few hours earlier.

Troy offered to visit the hospital

anyway to support the family. He and his wife would come by later after he left the doctor.

Maxine was apologetic, "Are you not well? Is someone sick?" Troy assured her that he was fine, but he was on dialysis.

The next phone call from Maxine a few hours later is one that Troy will remember and replay in his mind as long as he lives. Maxine called to tell him that Jharell's parents had chosen to donate their son's organs, and she wanted to find out whether he was on the National Transplant List. Indeed, he was. Troy and three other persons needed kidneys. He quickly provided Maxine with the information necessary to start the search process, and she gave his information to Jharell's parents.

In a matter of minutes, she received a text from Jharell's dad indicating that they had found a match! Maxine texted back, "Who?" The reply, "The gentleman from Georgia\*!"

Jharell Robert Dillard was laid to rest and celebrated in a stirring, heart-felt ceremony on August 28, 2011. On the dais stood Troy, a testament to divine providence...when one man, led by God, chose to be about his Father's business — he had received Jharell's kidneys.

In death as in life, Jharell was used by God to shine His love, light, and leading in a world where evil and darkness threaten at every turn.

Troy is now an adopted member of Jharell's family and their Adventist church.

*\*Real names and places were changed to protect privacy.*



# MORE THAN MONEY — A FRIEND

BY CALEB GUNDERSON

Like many students attending Adventist high schools around the country, Madison Academy students often have a great need to earn money for tuition. Some students can work as teachers' assistants, some work for the school in the maintenance or janitorial departments, and some may work at the school-owned laundry. However, the best job of all, in my opinion, is the one I am fortunate enough to have. I work as a sort of "adopted grandson" in the ASSIST program. This is more than just a job. In addition to earning money for tuition, this job offers me opportunities for friendship, service, and even evangelism.

The ASSIST program (Academy Student Service Initiative Stipend/Tuition Program) offers academy students the opportunity to help the elderly (Adopt-A-Grandparent) with cleaning and companionship tasks. The students develop a sense of accomplishment and service while helping their adopted grandparents. I don't really even consider it work, but more like visiting a grandmother or grandfather.

Students enter the program thinking good will happen, knowing that they're going to impact someone's life. They can really show the love of Christ through their actions and are rewarded with the satisfaction that comes from helping someone.

I began working in the ASSIST Program in September 2010, during my junior year. My grades were less than perfect (my G.P.A. was a 2.75 overall), and I didn't really care that I was on the fast track to failing. Then I met Mimi. Her quick-witted nature, happy-go-lucky attitude, and incred-

ible wisdom really got to me.

I remember my first day working for her. I had just finished cleaning her windows on the 11th floor when she said, "Now open the windows, lean out, and I will hold you by your ankles while you wash the outside of the windows."

I turned around and gave her a look of horror, and then she started laughing. I soon realized that she has a very good sense of humor, making jokes about many things. Not only has she made work more exciting and entertaining for me, she has turned my life around. From day one, she really touched my life, getting me to push myself, set goals, and embrace any challenge life throws at me — adding in her trademark threat of, "If you don't, I'll stab you through the heart with a butcher knife!" Through her inspiration, and the fear of being stabbed to death, I took her words to heart and really tried my hardest. At the end of my junior year, my lowest final grade was an 87 percent, and my G.P.A. was a 3.9. I received a medal for high honors and an award for the highest grade in Survey of Chemistry.

Mimi opened my eyes. This self-confidence I have now, I owe in great part to her, and the ASSIST Program. Not only did she help me succeed in school, she also helped me strive to achieve personal goals,



Caleb Gunderson

and become an all around better person emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

I believe God works miracles, and I believe that she is a miracle in my life. Her life story really encouraged me to never give up, and I consider her one of my greatest role models. She gives me a pep talk every

day I work, telling me to strive for the best. Mimi even says that I have given her a new lease on life, and that I have been as much of an inspiration to her as she has been to me. I would never trade the relationship I have with her for anything.

I don't think I am the only person to benefit in this way from the ASSIST program. Both the grandparents and the students can have the opportunity to build a relationship like Mimi and I have done.

The ASSIST program can become a life-changing experience for everyone involved. I am thankful I have been able to be a part of this program, and I personally guarantee that your life will be blessed, just as mine has been.

For more information, please contact your local Adventist academy, or call René Drumm at Southern Adventist University, 423-236-2766. For Madison Academy students, contact Julie Vega, pastor, at 615-866-4776.

*Caleb Gunderson is a senior this year at Madison Academy in Madison, Tennessee.*

# Park Ridge Health: A Legacy Hospital Inspires a Lifetime of Service

BY KIRSTEN HOUMANN

It's clear in Mary Laughter's smile that she loves to recount her story about how she started at Park Ridge Health.

"My birth certificate has my place of birth as Hooper's Creek at Mountain Sanitarium," Mary explains. "My mama told me her labor was very long, and at the worst point, she 'gave' me to one of the nurses."

On May 6, 1950, Mary was born at Mountain Sanitarium — what is known today as Park Ridge Health.

"In the Bible, Hannah gave Samuel to the Temple," she says. "My Mama gave me to the hospital, and here I am today."

Mary's story marks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the hospital that was her birthplace. For more than 30 years, Mary has been a dedicated employee of Park Ridge Health. Through all the name changes — from Mountain Sanitarium, to Fletcher Hospital, to Park Ridge Hospital, and now Park Ridge Health — and her own life's milestones, she has worked as a valued member of the hospital staff.

"Some of my first memories



Mary Laughter

of Park Ridge were to come and visit family members who were here in the hospital," Mary says. "This area is very close to my heart."

Mary started working at Park Ridge in 1980. Since then, she has moved offices three times. Today, Mary comes to

work in the same building where she was first brought into the world. No doubt, many things have changed through the years.

"When I started 30 years ago, we had one computer in our department which was used to check Blue Cross insurance cards," she says. "All insurance claims were typed by hand on electric typewriters, using carbon paper to make copies."

A hospital that inspires employees to dedicate a lifetime of service is a special place to come by. And while the facility has undoubtedly improved with changes through the years, that's not what keeps Mary at Park Ridge Health.

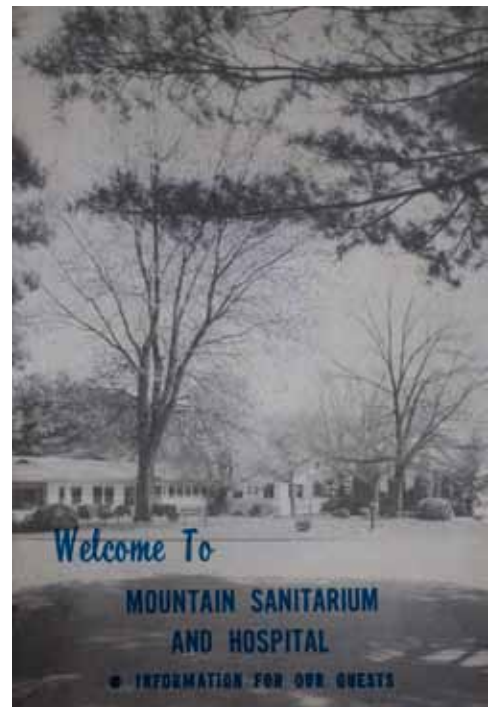
"I like the atmosphere," she

says. "At Park Ridge, if we have a patient who needs our support, we can pray with them."

Whether it's the mission-driven environment, close camaraderie of co-workers, or a personal commitment, Mary's Park Ridge story won't be over anytime soon.

"I don't know what the next 30 years hold, but I plan to be here," she says with a smile.

*Kirsten Houmann is communications coordinator at Park Ridge Health in Hendersonville, North Carolina.*



## Girl Gets Once in a Lifetime Birthday Present: A Cure to Her Sickle Cell Disease

Jasmin Baker received a very special present for her eighth birthday this year: a life without sickle cell disease. Jasmin recently received the first bone marrow transplant to cure sickle cell disease in central Florida just in time for her special day. Now, Jasmin's dreams of swimming and playing outside with her brothers are possible thanks to the Pediatric Cellular Therapy Program at Florida Hospital for Children, Orlando, Fla.

"Jasmin has spent most of her life in and out of the hospital because of the effect that the sickle cell disease had on her body," said Mariah Baker, Jasmin's



*Jasmin Baker, and her dad, James Baker, reunite with Paul Gordon, M.D., medical director of the Pediatric Cellular Therapy Program at Florida Hospital for Children, who performed her life-saving transplant.*

mother. "I couldn't have imagined a better birthday present for my little girl than a life without sickle cell disease."

Unlike most little girls, Jasmin was never able to play sports or play outside in the Florida summer sun because of her sickle cell

disease. Patients with sickle cell disease must be careful in extreme temperatures and cannot become overheated because the cells in their blood can become easily clotted, causing a variety of severe medical issues, including death. Jasmin was also prone to infections and spent a majority of her time in and out of the hospital. But, now her sickle cell disease is officially a thing of the past.

"People who have sickle cell disease often face a wide range of health issues, from shorter life expectancies to constant hospitalizations, from infection to intense pain," said Paul Gordon, M.D., medical director of the Pediatric

Cellular Therapy Program at Florida Hospital for Children. "Post-transplant, she is doing wonderfully and is expected to live a normal life."

"I have always wanted to go swimming, but I never could because of my sickle cell disease," said Jasmin. "But now that I am better, I can do a lot more things that I couldn't do before. I'm really excited to also play with my brothers and my dog."

"I feel so blessed to have found Dr. Gordon and his team," said Mariah Baker. "Jasmin's life is forever changed because of her transplant. Now she can be the little girl that she was always meant to be."

—BY SARA CHANNING

## Swans Grace Cancer Patients with Tranquility

Two new arrivals are gracing employees, patients, and community members alike at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center, Daytona Beach, Fla. They are not patients, or even human—they are swans.

Nancy Lohman, member of the Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center Governing and Foundation Boards of Directors, and her family generously donated two male swans to swim the pond in front of the hospital's

Comprehensive Cancer Center that is overlooked by the infusion room. The Lohman family knew firsthand how peaceful swans would make an environment as they had swans in their own lake.

"While the lake has always served as a place of



serenity and peace for our patients receiving infusions and chemotherapy, the swans have added a new dimension of life," said Luis Chanaga, Comprehensive Cancer Center's Executive Director. "Now it is more than a beautiful panoramic view, but a place for patients to view nature. When they see the swans, they are immediately filled with happiness and joy."

Employees and patients of Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center submitted 216 sug-

gested pairs of names for the pretty pair. Members of the executive team selected their three favorite pairs of names, and the final decision was made in an employee vote. And thus, the names Faith and Hope were given to two newest members of the hospital care team.

"Hope and Faith are not only key elements of care at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center, but they are also team members here at our Comprehensive Cancer Center," said Chanaga.

—BY LINDSAY REW

## College Hosts “Aging in Place” Design Competition

Three blueprints are spread across desks where judges sit examining designs. Next to each one is an essay explaining the cost to build or remodel a house that would accommodate the needs of an elderly couple with several medical conditions.

The Home Design Solutions competition, sponsored by the National Aging in Place Council (NAPC) and hosted on September 23, 2011, at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, gave occupational therapists, builders, and interior designers an opportunity to put their brains together to develop smart housing for the nation's burgeoning baby boomers.

Each contestant was given a case study describing the situation of an imaginary couple named Mr. and Mrs. Boomer. Due to severe arthritis, Mr. Boomer has trouble caring for his wife, who

has to use a walker because of her Type-II diabetes. The Boomers' adult children have strongly encouraged their parents to move into a retirement home, but Mr. and Mrs. Boomer want to stay put.

The situation is not uncommon, says Dr. Jeannette Steeves, one of the competition judges. According to her dissertation research, “99 percent of people want to age in place, but are not sure the best way to do it.” As a result, many end up selling their houses and moving in with family or to assisted living communities. But, there are other, more affordable options.

Bill Ockenden, competition judge and president of WAO Builders, Inc., says for the price of six months in an assisted liv-



*Tia Hughes, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Florida Hospital College, helps judge entries for the Home Design Solutions competition.*

ing facility, people could modify their homes and stay right where they are. In fact, due to the increasing partnership between therapists, designers, and builders, he says people can “get something that looks like a million-dollar house, not a hospital, but still meets their needs.”

The growing relationship between professions is exciting, says Tia Hughes, competition judge and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Florida Hospital

College. Occupational therapists have been doing home assessments for years, but now that they can share their knowledge directly with builders and designers, it's making an even bigger impact than before.

Janice Vickarous, interior designer and certified aging-in-place specialist, says most clients are surprised when they use the new features in their homes. “They're used to depending on others for almost everything — feeding, dressing, using the restroom — so it brings back a lot of joy for them to have privacy or be able to take a shower on their own.”

For more information on aging in place, visit [ageinplace.org](http://ageinplace.org).

—BY RAINEY PARK

## Student Ambassadors Lead Campus Tours

In October 2011, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences started a student ambassador program to give visitors and potential students a more authentic feel of the College.

“Last year we experienced such an increase in people wanting to visit the



*Senior health science major Richa Stevens (right) is one of four new student ambassadors who answers prospective students' questions and shows them around Florida Hospital College.*

campus that it was difficult for us to schedule tours for them all,” says Beryl Pryor, coordinator of the Welcome Center. With the four new student ambassadors, the College can accommodate more guests and offer a more in-depth look at what student life is like.

Richa Stevens, a senior health science major and student ambassador, thinks potential students

will really benefit from the program. “If I was a freshman or student visiting a college, I'd like another student to show me around and share their personal experiences. Hearing stories of teachers and classes is what helps you connect.”

—BY RAINEY PARK

## Nationally-Recognized Artist and Students Create Mural

When he was 13, Emanuel Martinez was sent to Lookout Mountain School for Boys, a correctional facility in Colorado. He needed something constructive to do during their smoking break, so he gathered burnt-out match sticks and drew pictures on paper towels. Though crude, the art work was good. A nurse recognized his talent, broke the rules, and gave him a pencil and paper. From a juvenile correctional facility, a gifted artist emerged.

In May, Advent Home Learning Center unveiled a beautiful color mural



Chris (left), LaQuon, Emanuel Martinez, Aaron, Luke P., Fabian (back row, left), Luke C., and Lance O.

Painted by nationally-recognized artist/sculptor Emanuel Martinez and Advent Home students. Because Advent Home is a residential care facility and school for 12- to 18-year-old boys with academic, emotional, and behavior problems, it provides an excellent environment for

art therapy.

Martinez explained the mural's concept, "The Awakening depicts a young man with outstretched arms, who embraces the light beaming from above. He is relaxed and open to this profound moment, when he is touched by the Holy Spirit.

The colorful dawn sky marks a new beginning for him, a turning point that puts him on a better path in life."

"I give special thanks

to the young men who worked on the mural," Martinez said, acknowledging that more than 80 percent of the painting was done by students. "They did a wonderful job, and I enjoyed working with them." Students who assisted with the mural were Fabian, Aaron, LaQuon, Chris, Kenton, Luke P. and Lance O.

—BY BARBARA GRAHAM



The Awakening is a striking mural that depicts a young man experiencing the Holy Spirit and a new beginning in his life. It was created by artist Emanuel Martinez and students from Advent Home.

## Seventh-day Adventist Launches Historic Network

Our Faith Channel (OFC), a network targeting urban communities with the message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, launched October 1, 2011, on Comcast's Video on Demand (VOD) platform. OFC was founded by Paula Sanders-Morris, a native of Birmingham, Ala., and an alumnus of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University).

Sanders-Morris has been involved in various entrepreneurial pursuits for the past 10 years. During the course of the past two

years, she has formed a team of diverse individuals who endeavor to create a dynamic media enterprise that will serve to radically transform the lives of people of color. OFC's leadership team is composed of individuals with expertise in the areas of media, film, journalism, advertising, marketing, finance, operations, and sales. The executive board includes media mogul Cathy Hughes, founder of Radio One and TV One.

OFC features an array of programming, including

dynamic preaching, healthy cooking segments, and talk shows that are biblically sound. This network presents a unique opportunity to share the unadulterated, yet balanced, Gospel of Jesus Christ from an urban perspective. As Sanders-Morris states, "I am excited that God has given us an opportunity to share the Three Angels Message with urban families."

OFC currently targets the ministry needs of urban and diverse communities in the following three markets: Atlanta, Ga.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Hunts-

ville, Ala. Comcast customers who reside in the noted markets can access OFC's VOD programming under the Religion and Faith category. For individuals residing in the Atlanta market, OFC is available on VOD Channel 988. In the Chattanooga and Huntsville markets, OFC is available on VOD Channel 888. For additional information pertaining to OFC, access the OFC website, [www.ourfaithchannel.com](http://www.ourfaithchannel.com), and sign up to receive periodic newsletter updates.

—BY D'JOANE H. MCCORKLE

## Miracles Keep Coming in Beaufort



RON QUICK

Remember the miraculous story of God providing \$10,000 to the Beaufort Church's building fund due to their pastor winning the grand prize in a Dave Ramsey Show contest in May 2010?

Since then, the Beaufort pastor, Jason Belyeu (pictured right), and church elders discovered a 33,000-square-foot shopping center for sale. They knew this shopping center could be renovated for a worship space, church school, food pantry, thrift store, etc. The church could get much more by purchasing this property and renovating it than pursuing their original plan of new construction.

The owners would not take less than \$700,000 - just out of the church's budget. The property went under contract by another potential buyer for two months. Church members prayed during that time for God to stop the sale. God answered those prayers, and in January Beaufort Church members closed on the shopping center for \$600,000.

As part of their Capital Stewardship Campaign, members held a prayer vigil where they asked God for the faith to give generously so renovations of the shopping center could be made with no additional debt.

Forty-eight hours after



RON QUICK

the prayer vigil, Belyeu received a call from a friend whom he had not spoken with in more than a year. The friend had read the story about the \$10,000 prize in the Carolina Action newsletter, and felt impressed to match Dave Ramsey's grand prize dollar-for-dollar!

"Instantly, my mind

went to Jesus' words," said Belyeu. "For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." He added, "All these blessings happened on the heels of God's people praying."

—CONTRIBUTED BY THE  
BEAUFORT CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATION

## Little Creek Member Earns Scholarship

A 16-year-old Little Creek Church member has made history this year by becoming the first student in his county to be selected for the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Michael Forde of Clayton, a senior at Johnston County



Schools Middle College, was recently informed of his selection as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the GMS Class of 2011. Michael was commended for his strong leadership, community service, and academic

achievements that contributed to his selection. His accomplishment is especially notable in context of the more than 23,000 students who applied — the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history.

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, funds are available for him to attend any United States accredited

college or university of his choice. In addition, if he pursues graduate studies in approved fields of study, he may be eligible for GMS fellowship funding through the master's and doctoral levels.

—ADAPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CLEVELAND POST IN FUQUAY-VARINA, N.C.

## Blessings Double in Eastern Carolina

For the past 20 years, the setting for the Eastern Carolina Conference Camp Meeting has been on Oak Island on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. That all changed a year ago when it was decided to establish two separate meeting places. One of the Camp Meeting sites would be in Greenville, N.C., and then the following weekend Summerville, S.C., would host the event. This two-location arraignment would make it more convenient for families to attend since there would be less travel involved. Eastern Carolina is made up of the churches east of Interstate 95, including Raleigh and Durham.

The Summerville event on September 17, 2011, featured Richard Duerksen, assistant to the president of Maranatha Volunteers International. Duerksen shared the success that



KEN FORD

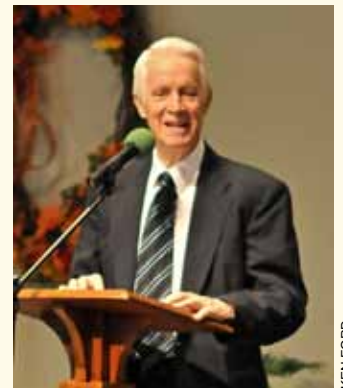
Maranatha is experiencing around the world. He shared that there are Maranatha volunteers who do not wish to go overseas, and are willing to work on church development programs in the Carolinas.

At the Greenville, N.C., Camp Meeting held September 24, Richard O'Ffill was the featured speaker. O'Ffill, an author and international revivalist, has worked in the South American Division and the Trans-European Division. At the 2010 Gen-

eral Conference, he was elected executive director of Seventh-day Adventist World Services, the predecessor of ADRA.

The Celestial Praise Chorale presented an afternoon musical concert at both events. Celestial Praise is a singing group with members from seven Adventist churches in the western North Carolina area.

If the many favorable comments are any indication, the two-location arrangement for Eastern



KEN FORD

Carolina Camp Meeting has proven to be a big success.

—BY RON QUICK

## Health Outreach in Gastonia is Successful

As part of their community outreach program, the Gastonia, N.C., Church held a free annual health fair and blood drive on June 18, 2011. The aim was to present the Gospel of Jesus in a practical, “wholistic,” and meaningful way.

Various medical and health-service personnel, as well as the Community



KEN FORD

Blood Center of the Carolinas, assisted in providing needed services, demonstrations, and information to enable people to practice healthier lifestyles. A blood drive was held in honor of the troops.

At the information booths, com-

munity members could learn more about the love of the Savior, and about the services of the Church. Church members also circulated to respond to questions, and to pray with those who requested intercession.

—BY JAMES ‘LEE’ BECKFORD

## Florida MagaBook Program Results in Changed Lives

Representing nine countries, 53 high school and university students participated in MagaBook programs held in Miami, Jacksonville, and Lady Lake, Fla., this past summer.

Students contacted more than 250,000 people, sold 30,000 books, and received donations



MARTIN BUTLER

*This past summer, 53 students participated in the 2011 MagaBook program.*

of \$190,000, of which 70 percent went directly to scholarships. In addition,

the young people prayed with customers and shared the gospel in homes, businesses, parking lots, and on street corners.

“You sold me this book last year,” said a customer on seeing the MagaBook, *Foods That Heal*. “I fol-

lowed everything in it and lost 50 pounds.” His purchase this year included health and message books.

The MagaBook programs are also a ministry to the students as they are encouraged to develop a deepened relationship with Jesus Christ. “I experienced Jesus in such a beautiful and powerful way as I canvassed for Him,” said Danielle McFazean, an Oakwood University education major, at her end-of-summer baptism.

—BY LES MCCOY

## Forest Lake Academy Students Receive Disaster Preparedness Certification

Active Christians That Serve (ACTS) World Relief held hands-on seminars, August 26 and 27, at Forest Lake Academy (FLA) in Apopka, Fla., to train a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Training was conducted under the leadership of David Canther, ACTS director, and the CERT training team from Heritage Academy, Monterey, Tenn.

FLA Servant Leadership classes, consisting of 53 students and spon-



DAVID CANTHER

*Emily Rowe and Ashlee Skinner worked together as a team in fire suppression training. Keeping a watchful eye were Heritage Academy trainer Josh Haley (left) and Dave Baker, a volunteer fireman.*

sors, received certification in disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, CERT organization, and psychological first aid. Goals of the Servant Leadership program include teaching students to reach out to the community in times of need and to help educate elementary school

students on disaster preparedness.

“The peer-to-peer training by Heritage Academy taught FLA students how to reach out and represent Jesus to neighborhoods in times of need, as well as for Central Florida to see our Academy as a caring, dependable asset to the local community,” stated Stephanie Johnson, Servant Leadership teacher.

Student responses to this training and the possibilities it brings to community involvement have been very positive. Natalie Hoefling, senior, stated,

“I like that the training was something I can use in real life. Unfortunately, disasters happen, but now I feel I can help if the need arises.” Meeting people’s needs to show them Jesus is the purpose of the Servant Leadership program. ACTS training has given students one more way to be like Jesus in the community.

—BY STEPHANIE JOHNSON



DAVID CANTHER

*Students from servant leadership classes at Forest Lake Academy graduated from Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Psychological First Aid training.*



## Wrights Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Burton and Myrna Wright were married in the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital Church, Takoma Park, Md., on July 29, 1951, shortly after Burton graduated from college. His father performed the ceremony, and Myrna's father sang.

They began denominational work at Mount Pisgah Academy, Candler, N.C., with Burton being the dean of boys and Bible teacher, and Myrna a hospital supervisor. They also served at Spencerville Junior Academy, Silver Spring, Md., where Burton taught; and at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla., where Burton taught Bible and Myrna was the school nurse.

The Wrights then

began work in Africa that included teaching ministerial students and church pastors at Bethel College, South Africa; teaching academy students at Malamulo Secondary School, Malawi; Burton serving as principal and Myrna being the dispensary nurse at Mombera Secondary School, Northern Malawi; and Burton teaching ministerial students and Myrna teaching home



Myrna and Burton Wright

economics to 100 girls at Solusi College, Bulawago, Zimbabwe.

After 12 years of service in Africa, the Wrights permanently returned to the United States where they taught at Holbrook Indian School in Arizona, and pastored at Joliet, Ill.;

Elizabethtown, Ky.; Lake Placid, Fla.; and Arcadia, Fla.

From their permanent retirement home in Avon Park, Fla., the Wrights remain busy in the Lord's work. Burton has helped with prison ministries while Myrna has worked with children's divisions of the Church. For three years, she served as assistant director of children's ministries for Florida Conference.

The Wrights have four children: Judy, James, Jeanie, and Jonathan; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK

## Pine Hills Church Family Enrichment Series Brings Decisions and Recommitment

For three weeks at Pine Hills Church in Orlando, Fla., Alanzo Smith, director for family counseling at Greater New York Conference, found unique ways to present a variety of relevant family life



Jafarie Francis, then 11, was among the six people baptized by Keith Harding, pastor, during the Family Enrichment Series at Pine Hills Church in Orlando, Fla.

relationship issues, including love, dating, marriage,

singleness, grief, and depression. Each evening

young people to frank and compelling presentations

closed by focusing on the compelling truths of a risen and still relevant Savior who holds the answer to all issues facing modern Americans.

Each Tuesday, Youth Night consistently drew unparalleled numbers of

on topics such as self-esteem, sexuality, music, suicide, depression, and violence. On Saturday evenings, attendees enjoyed local musical talent. An eagerly anticipated feature was the gospel music by soloist Claude Edwards from Jamaica.

Six individuals were baptized, and more than 70 people made a recommitment to a closer walk with the Master.

—BY JOAN DE GANNES

## Morristown School Receives Gift of Love

The Morristown, Tenn., Church family was blessed with a very special service given by J.R. McKinney, M.D., of the Greeneville, Tenn., Church on Sabbath, August 20, 2011. McKinney had come to present the Morristown Church School with a generous gift from the estate of Bernard Victor Bowen, M.D., who passed away December 11, 2010, at the age of 91.

The congregation sat spellbound as they listened to the beautiful violin music of Joshua McKinney, McKinney's grandson, who accompanied him on the piano. Joshua is the son of Mark and Barbara McKinney, who were in the congregation.

McKinney then presented his sermon, "Be Thou a Faithful Servant." As part of his sermon, he used the example of Dollie and Bernard Bowen, and gave a history of their life as they so faithfully served the Lord. The history especially centered around Dollie, who at one time had been a member of the Morristown Church, and who had many



*J.R. McKinney, M.D. (left), presents a check for \$116,666 to Pat Jones, Morristown Church School board chair. Also pictured is Jonathan Sumner, Georgia-Cumberland regional education director.*

relatives in the Morristown area, many of whom were present that Sabbath. Dollie passed away on December 12, 2003, at the age of 97.

Dollie Sykes Bowen was born November 10, 1906, in Buchanan County, Virginia, to the late Dora Ball Sykes and James Larkin Sykes. The family moved from Virginia to Morristown in 1912 when Dollie was six years of age. In the fall of 1925, the Cumberland Conference president sent E.W. Wolfe, and his wife, returned missionaries from China and Tibet, to hold a series of tent evangelistic meetings in Morristown.

Dollie's mother attended these meetings and became convinced that the seventh day was the true Bible Sabbath. Dollie and her mother were both baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 20, 1930. Dollie was a leader in the Morristown Church, serving in many capacities.

After the death of her first and second husbands, Dollie decided to fulfill her lifelong ambition and become a nurse. In 1949, she arrived on the Madison campus to begin nursing. In 1950, Bernard came to Madison Hospital to start a school of anesthesia. Bowen

told Julius Gant, M.D., that his main reason for coming to Madison was to find a good Christian wife. Dollie and Bernard met the first week he was on campus, and were married in three months. It was a marriage made in Heaven. Beginning early in their marriage, the Bowens began extensive travel throughout the United States, visiting hospitals and recruiting students for the school of anesthesia. They later extended their travels to take in the entire world, visiting hospitals around the world, teaching and starting schools of anesthesia.

The Bowens were particularly interested in education, and when he passed away he left a great deal of their estate to several schools, one of them being the Morristown Church School. So, on August 20, 2011, J.R. McKinney, M.D., presented to Pat Jones, school board chairperson, a check in the amount of \$116,666. There was applause mixed with many tears.

—BY PAT JONES

## Festival of Praise Revival and Reformation

All Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic church members in the Atlanta area are invited to attend "Festival of Praise" on Sabbath, November 19, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, Ga.

Calvin B. Rock, D.Min., retired vice president of the General Conference, will be the keynote speaker.

Other features include a multi-cultural concert; an all nations praise mass choir, youth social events, and mission and praise reports from William Win-



ston, South Atlanta Conference president, and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president.

For more information, contact SAC at 404-792-0535, or GCC at 706-629-7591.

## God Praised for Unmasked Prayers in Tellico Plains

Tellico Plains, Tenn., church plant group had been meeting in the home of one of the members since January 2008, but in October 2010, they decided it was time to move into town and into a building where they could be more visible and do some outreach programs.



The group had already had some good success with “friendship evangelism”— such as joining an exercise class, inviting the neighbors to a community picnic, conducting a ladies tea party at a local

restaurant, participating in the town’s “Trunk or Treat Event,” and a Victorian Christmas Walk.

God blessed and found us an affordable space to rent in a beautiful building on the main road into Tellico Plains.

Just as they were getting settled and enjoying the new space, in November Len Hendrickson, treasurer, announced that an anonymous donor had given \$175,000 toward the purchase of a building. This put everyone in shock. It was

hard for everyone to even get their minds around that kind of a donation. The congregation really liked the current church building and it was for sale, but the owner wanted \$329,000. Even with the money that

had already been put aside in the building fund, there was still no way a small group could afford it. But, God wasn’t done yet!

In December, there was a call from a very excited realtor who informed the group that the owner had just re-listed the property for \$219,000. A drop of \$110,000. With a small loan, the members could actually purchase the building, have use of the whole thing, and the payment would be a little less than the current rent. But, God wasn’t finished yet!

There was one other obstacle. Tellico Plains is a church plant. Church plants aren’t allowed to own property. This group needed to get to company status first, and that required having 30 members. They had only 22. The group was encouraged to submit an application anyway, and on March 1,

2011, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference made an exception and granted Tellico Plains company status. The group then found out that the Conference would help with 10 percent of the purchase price. After negotiating with the owner, they were able to purchase the building debt-free on April 24, 2011, and have money left over to remodel a room to make it an appropriate sanctuary in which to worship.

The Tellico Plains members quickly put together a decorating committee and began the renovations. The date was scheduled for the company organizational/dedication meeting with the Conference officers for July 30. They anticipated about 60 individuals, but 100-125 attended.

—BY LINDA POMEROY

## Couillards Together 65 Years



They met on a blind date and he proposed the next day. That was 65 years ago. Ben Couillard met Virginia Thrower while he was home on leave from the Navy during World War II. After his discharge, he returned to Hattiesburg, Miss., where they were married on September 1, 1946.

They were baptized into the Church and moved to Collegedale, Tenn., in 1947 where Ben attended nursing school, and later to Madison, Tenn., where he graduated from anesthesia school. Then they went to Brookhaven, Miss., where Ben was an anesthetist for 33 years, and Virginia was a homemaker and the office manager for a busy medical practice. They were very active in

the Brookhaven Church where Ben was an elder and Virginia was a deaconess and treasurer. After retiring, they were in Destin, Fla., for several years and now live near their children in Chattanooga, Tenn., where they attend the Standifer Gap Church. They are blessed with four children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## Blue Angels Parkway Holds Dedication Service

The dedication service of Blue Angel Parkway Church occurred July 16, 2011, almost 16 years to the day when Keith Didomenico, assistant pastor at University Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., had planted the church on the east side of town.

The service began with the first baptism in the new church building when the former pastor, Will Labrenz, baptized new convert Norman Schuchman into his reborn life, and welcomed Guatemalan transfer John Thomas through profession of faith. Those who knew Schuchman during his former life in the nearby "hood," could attest to the miracle that God had wrought.

After the morning service, members and visitors gathered outside the sanctuary for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The pews filled to overflowing, an unusual

occurrence in a structure built with an eye toward future membership, not current attendance. The ceremony began with music, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," as young men marched in with flags. The Jordan Street Adventist choir led the song service, and the Lucas Trio gave special music. Between the musical numbers, Mel Eisele, Gulf States Conference president, delivered the dedication message, and several former pastors participated, including Keith Didomenico, Will Labrenz, and Jeff Westberg, along with their families. One last special selection, "Total Praise," was presented by five Blue Angel members, "Voices of Praise." Neville Parkinson led the closing hymn. Members and visitors filed out of the newly dedicated sanctuary, some filled



*Will Labrenz (left), former pastor, and first elder, Neville Parkinson, cut the ribbon on the door to the new sanctuary.*

with a new perspective and reverence.

After the ceremony, the gathering would not be complete without a fellowship meal, an almost weekly tradition at the church. The fellowship hall, originally employed as the place of worship, was also filled to overflowing. Such an ending to the day was fitting, considering that the church began with a fellowship supper at someone's house, and the first local meeting included a free meal for members interested in

reaching the surrounding community. In the end, Christian service to that same community was and is the driving force behind the birth of this new church.

One of the members, Wendy Howard, describes the Blue Angel Parkway Church this way: "When you enter the church, they immediately accept you as a part of the group. They will make sure you are involved in presenting some aspect of the service within a week or two. Such is the hospitality and love of Jesus as it shines through my Blue Angel friends at this modest church on the west side of Pensacola, Florida. Even if you had other plans, after a visit or two, you will no longer want to attend anywhere else."

—BY WENDY LALONE  
HOWARD

## Technology Begins Early for Students

This year begins a new advance in education for the elementary schools in the Gulf States Conference. Students are being introduced early to technology, and how to use and care for their machines.

Last year, Bass Memorial Academy became a Microsoft IT Academy, providing students access to the latest Microsoft technologies. The computer labs have been upgraded to the latest Microsoft Operating

System, Windows 7, and to the latest office software, Microsoft Office 2010.

Students at Bass Christian Elementary (BCE) are now being educated with these technologies. Not only is BCE benefiting from this, but elementary schools across the Conference are being trained via online videos. The classes at BCE are



*Bass Christian Elementary school students enjoy learning at the computer lab.*

being recorded and placed online for other elementary schools to use in their class-

rooms. This provides the elementary classes participating expert instruction and help via email.

Future plans include extending access to the IT Academy, and live streaming of the classes, so students can interact directly with the class.

—BY BRIAN HALLEY

## Student Lives the Message in Cambodia

“Man does not live by rice alone.” Kara Wixwat learned this version of Jesus’ teachings while serving in the Adventist Frontier Mission field of Cambodia for almost a year. A sophomore at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., Wixwat was searching for her own purpose in a mission field when she accepted the challenge to serve as a student missionary and help Adventist families already living in the hard-to-reach country of Cambodia.

Back home in Pensacola, Fla., this summer she presented a Vespers program at the University Parkway Church about her experiences in this far-away land, and her plans to spend another year as a volunteer in the Philippines.

While missing modern conveniences, Wixwat, who is now 21, adjusted readily to village life in the Cambodian village where she tutored young children of an Adventist family. She described life in a place without much



*Kara Wixwat presented the Vespers program about her Cambodian mission experience while at her home church, University Parkway in Pensacola, Fla. She is wearing a “Kramah,” a useful Cambodian accessory, around her neck.*

electricity as “one that goes to bed with the sun and rises with it as well.” Doing her laundry meant washing it by hand, and a shower often consisted of a bucket of cold water. But the simple life without so many daily distractions helped her grow closer to God. “I have never been happier,” she told her parents.

According to Wixwat, spending time with people and learning their culture is a focus of Adventist Frontier Missions work. The missionaries learn the language and culture of

the unreached people groups, with the objective of establishing a body of believers committed to spreading the Gospel among their people. Kara studied the Kamai language of the Cham people while living in a hut on the Mekong River. Every day she was able to understand a little bit more of the lan-

guage, and rejoiced at being able to hold a conversation with someone without the assistance of a translator.

Wixwat’s friends in the village asked her if she was scared to live alone. “No! Allah (God in Arabic) lives with me. He loves and protects me from the evil one. So, praise God (or Allah) that we have a living and powerful God that loves us so much,” she replied. “Because it is a close Muslim community, we were not able to evangelize openly or

freely. Our witnessing had to be through the way we live our lives,” she explained.

In addition to living with the Muslim Cham people for seven months, Wixwat also spent two and a half months among the Pnong people, a minority tribal group in Cambodia. Their religion is animistic (they revere nature) instead of Muslim. A typical day in the lives of these people involved many chores — chopping wood for the kitchen fire, preparing food for the pigs, sifting and boiling rice for breakfast; and a lot of weeding, planting, gathering, and clearing the all-important rice fields by hand. Wixwat explains, “For the Pnong, Jesus is the rice of life.” She asked God what she could do for these people, and felt God telling her to show them love.

Wixwat left in September for her next missionary assignment to the Philippines. She and other student missionaries raise their own funds for their service. Wixwat said she always wanted to be a missionary. “Growing up, I heard many stories from my mom and grandparents, who were missionaries in India. Now the time has come when God has said that I am ready.” For more information on Adventist Frontier Missions, you can visit the website at [afmonline.org](http://afmonline.org).

—BY GLENDAY HASS

## Kentucky Native Authors Book

Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Harold S. Johnson, a local Avon Park resident, recently released a book titled *Just a Kentucky Boy*, which chronicles his life as a country boy from Kentucky, to his service in the United States



Lieutenant Colonel Harold S. Johnson

Army Air Force, to his work in the Middle East and Africa as a pastor and teacher.

"I hope that people who read my book will realize that our heavenly Father has a plan for each life, even when we do not recognize it. Circumstances in life are often stepping stones as we depend more on God's leading," said Johnson, who wrote the

book as a project to support student missionaries from Southern Adventist University, his alma mater.

At age 17, Johnson, a native of Middlesboro, Ky., enlisted in the Army Air Force

and was deployed to the Philippines at the close of World War II. While serving in the military, his young heart was touched through the Voice of Prophecy, and he never looked back. After accepting Christ, his faith was tested, but he stood firm for his beliefs, and God provided for his needs.

After being discharged from the military, Johnson

pursued a college education. In 1958, he graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, Tenn., with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and religion, and a minor in secondary education. After receiving his education, he and his wife embarked on a whirlwind journey of serving the Lord overseas in various positions in education and ministry in Lebanon, Iran, and Malawi, Africa. Despite tragedy, hardships, daunting responsibilities, and political unrest, Johnson faithfully served God where he was placed.

During his career as a teacher and pastor, he served in the Gulf States, Georgia-Cumberland, Kentucky-Tennessee, Carolina,

Mountain View, and Florida conferences.

Johnson retired in December 1990, but even in retirement, Johnson continues to serve his heavenly Father and others. At the present time, he is serving as a chaplain at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring, Fla., and as a volunteer chaplain for the Avon Park Air Force Range in Avon Park, Fla., as well as for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery "B" Battery (MLRS) Multiple Launch Rocket System. With more than 31,000 volunteer hours, he received the lifetime award for volunteerism from former President George W. Bush.

—BY KALIE KELCH

## Astonishing Discoveries Aired from Madison

*Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of the Bible* aired from the Madison Campus Church, September 14-18. The series led up to *Prophecies Decoded* — NET 2011 which began September 30 and will conclude October 29.

Ron E. M. Clouzet, D.Min., Th.D., and Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D., teamed up to present this special series of lectures. Clouzet is professor of Christian ministry and theology at Andrews University, and directs the North American

Evangelism Institute, both in Berrien Springs, Mich. Hasel is curator of the Lynn Wood Museum of Archaeology, director of the Institute of Archaeology, and professor of archaeology and Near Eastern studies at Southern

Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn.

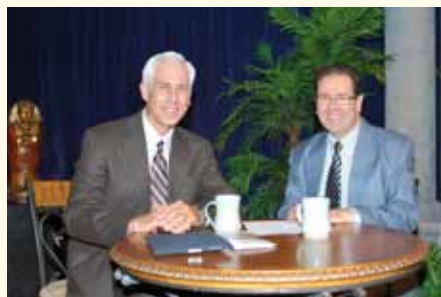
Beginning in the lands of ancient Egypt and Babylon and moving to the Holy Land, Clouzet and Hasel revealed archaeological evidence that supports the biblical records which have been in question for centuries. They explained how discoveries like the Rosetta Stone, Babylon's Ishtar Gate, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other ancient artifacts have shed light on our understanding of the Bible and corroborate its claims.

On Wednesday evening, September 14,

the opening night of the series, the Madison Campus Church was nearly full. Approximately one half of those in attendance were non-members.

*Prophecies Decoded* was broadcast live from the Madison Campus Church on the Hope Channel and Direct TV. More than 600 churches across the North American Division participated in this evangelistic opportunity to reach people in their local area with the Adventist message of hope.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN



Michael Hasel, Ph.D. (left) and Ron Clouzet, D.Min., Th.D., are on the set during the *Astonishing Discoveries* series.

## Faith Baptist Church Becomes Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist Church

Melvin Christian had a dream of planting a church in Robertson County, Tenn., — more specifically, the city of Springfield. While two other Adventist churches already exist in Springfield, there was no Anglo church. Renting a church or a store front seemed too expensive.

Melvin had been keeping his eyes open for such a place. When he visited Faith Baptist Church one Sunday while his wife played the piano, the idea of sharing a church and its expenses with another faith family seemed like a good idea. But, the time was not right. No sponsoring Adventist church was available for a new church plant to take place.

As time went by, Faith Baptist began losing its members, and after months of meeting with only five, then three members, they decided to disband. They offered their facilities as an outreach location to a large Baptist church in Springfield, and felt certain it would be only a few weeks before that church took over. God, apparently, had a different plan.

Six months later, the pastor of Faith Baptist called Melvin to ask if the



Adventist group would like to use their buildings for just the cost of the utilities. He had just learned that leadership of the large Baptist church did not feel led to take on this project at this time. Realizing that only God could work out an arrangement like this, Melvin quickly said, “Yes.” The pastor’s next question was, “Can you begin holding services this Saturday?”

While Melvin explained that he needed at least three weeks to put things together, the pastor insisted that the church must meet continuously with no break in services. So it was agreed that Faith Baptist would meet for another three weeks.

Things really went fast then. With a few phone calls to church members known to have an interest in working in the Springfield area for former church members

and new interests, a core group quickly emerged. A neighboring Adventist church was willing to be the sponsor, and their pastor was willing to direct the group. And while the new group did not totally understand how things

normally go in starting a church, they were willing to figure it out. What they did know was that God had provided a place for His church to reach out to the community. Services began on September 19, 2009.

God had a plan but no one knew all of it yet. After church had been held there for just two months, Faith Baptist offered to

sen by the group]. Debt free! No mortgage! Besides the church itself, there is a house for Fellowship meals and children’s Sabbath School. Both buildings were given completely furnished and sitting on two acres of land.

Sometimes believers have plans to do a work for God, but God’s plans are much larger. “He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.” God doesn’t need money. He already owns everything that money can buy. Truly Crossroads is a modern-day miracle. The members know that God’s real plan is to fill Crossroads with people who are in need of a Savior, searching for God’s truth, and willing to follow it.

At the present time, between 20 and 30 people are attending each week. A

regular children’s Sabbath School program has been started. The congregation holds a “Free Lunch Wednesday” outreach for businesses and individuals in the local community. Members place *Signs of the Times* and other literature in four locations around the

area. And, the members plan to be a host site for the *Prophecies Decoded* — Net 2011 series in their church.

—BY MARIE CHRISTIAN



give their church to the Adventist group. Not sell it, but give it! Time and again they said they felt impressed this was what God wanted them to do. So in less than two months the church belonged to Crossroads [the name cho-

## South Atlantic Holds 24th Quinquennium



*Pictured are 62 pastors hired during former Conference president Vanard Mendinghall's 14-year administration.*

The South Atlantic Conference held its 24th Quinquennial Session on September 11, 2011, when 937 delegates convened at River Oaks Worship and Convention Center in Orangeburg, S.C. By the end of the day, a new president was elected, William L. Winston.

Winston served as the former Conference executive secretary and communication director. Before becoming an officer, he served as a pastor in South Atlantic since 1984. Winston follows Vanard J. Mendinghall, who served as president since 1997. Mendinghall requested that he not be considered for the new term of office, and shared his plan to retire from full-time ministry in 2012.

Under his leadership during the past 14 years, the Conference's membership grew from 26,442 to

42,796, and experienced a 106 percent title increase; the construction of a 4,400-seat adult pavilion at the River Oaks site and a youth pavilion, including a gymnasium; and, in May 2011, the grand opening of the new River Oaks 80-room, hotel-style housing units.

One of the highlights of Mendinghall's presidential report was when he recognized all of the pastors hired since his tenure. Sixty-two pastors came forward, representing 80 percent of the current pastoral team. At the end of his report, the delegates gave him a standing ova-



*Ruth Mendinghall retired after 43 years of teaching in the Adventist school system. Vanard Mendinghall, outgoing president, decided to follow her lead, and is retiring from full time ministry after 38 years.*

tion as he and his wife, Ruth, exited the rear of the auditorium.

Replacing Winston as executive secretary is Stephen Ruff, former pastor of Atlanta Boulevard Church in Atlanta, Ga. Larry E. Johnson was returned as treasurer, and Lawrence Hamilton was elected as



*Pictured are William Winston (left), newly elected Conference president, and his wife, Eula; Stephen Ruff, executive secretary, and his wife, Diane; Carol Johnson, and her husband, Larry Johnson, treasurer; and Laurence Hamilton, general vice president and trust services director.*

general vice president and trust services director.

Also stepping down from her position as vice president for education is Pennie Lister-Smith, Ed.D. She served faithfully for more than 13 years as leader of the education department.

Others elected and re-elected:

- Adventist Book Center Manager - Sylvia Coleman
- Community Services/Personal Ministries - Alvin Freeman
- Disabilities Coordinator - Rosemary Graham
- Family Ministries/Singles Ministries/Retiree Affairs - Melvin Preston
- Health Ministries - David Moore
- Ministerial/Evangelism - Calvin Watkins
- National Servicemen's Organization - James Reid
- Publishing/Family Health Services - Carl McRoy
- Sabbath School/Children's Ministries - Alex Todd
- Stewardship/Religious Liberty - Oscar Sherrod
- Vice President for Education - James K. Lamb
- Women's Ministries - Sylvia Wilson
- Youth Ministries - Patrick Carter

Communication, associate superintendent, and Hispanic ministries were referred to the executive committee.

—BY JAMES K. LAMB



## Children Make a Difference



Augustus Maxwell baptizes his grandson, Hubert Michael Henderson.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., newly elected president of the Southern Union, conducted an evangelistic seminar at West End Church in Atlanta, Ga., resulting in 70 baptisms.

One of the persons baptized was six-year-old Hubert Michael Henderson, the son of Aormeese and Hubert Lee Henderson.

Hubert Michael attended

the three-week seminar without missing a night. As he listened to Smith and watched the pictures on the screen, he decided to be baptized.

He also went through the neighborhood each day before the meeting to invite his friends. As a result, four guests and friends attended the seminar with him, and they too decided to be baptized. Each of them completed the *Real Truth* Bible studies and received their certificates of completion.

Augustus Maxwell, a local elder and personal ministries leader at West End, assisted in the baptism service and baptized

his son, grandson, and a neighbor.

Hubert Michael continued to witness during the summer, holding a Bible study class at his grandparent's home, and going through the neighborhood inviting his neighbors and friends to church; many of them attended the Operation Hope Revival, which was conducted at Maranatha Church in Atlanta. As a result of Hubert Michael's efforts, six of his friends, including one of their mothers, were dedicated and baptized.

It is true that, "even a child shall lead them."

—BY BERNICE MAXWELL

## Pathfinders Receive Honor in Literature Evangelism

Thanks to the inter-departmental vision of Patrick Carter, Conference youth director, there was a historic revival of youth outreach at the South Atlantic 2011 Camporee in Orangeburg, S.C. Pathfinders and Master Guides from Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina worked to distribute 272 life-transforming books, and raised \$452 en route to earning their honor. Many others now look forward to signing up for the honor that pays participants as they learn evangelistic principles.

What better year than 2011, "The Year of Revival and Reformation," for this



Pathfinders completed the Literature Evangelism Honor during the South Atlantic Conference Camporee.

ministry to experience a surge of youthful enthusiasm through the ranks of the Pathfinders.

The Literature Evangelism Honor is not a

new one. It was actually developed in 1928. The program would not have been possible without the assistance of Pathfinder leadership. Especially

noteworthy were William and Terrilyn Cameron, Kelvin Paxton, Lavunda Martin, Luwana McCoy, Olive Sease, Charles Parker, and Angela Wakefield. Additional appreciation of Todde Bliss must be expressed for his untiring effort to capture all the activities of the 2011 Camporee on his camera.

The partnership between Pathfinders and the Publishing Department will continue to grow as these two departments seek to fulfill the aim of getting "the Advent message to all the world in this generation!"

—BY CARL MCROY

### Spartanburg Welcomes New Pastor



Shiloh Church members in Spartanburg, S.C., welcomed their new pastor on July 16, 2011.

During Sabbath services, Carl Nesmith, pastor, was installed as the new leader at Shiloh by Lawrence Hamilton, Conference ministerial secretary. Nesmith conducted the worship and baptismal services.

Nesmith stated that this was the first time in his ministerial career that he had ever conducted a baptism service on the day of his installation to a new church.

The baptismal candidates had completed an extensive Bible study class instructed by Joseph Bethea, a church local elder. Tiara Carroll and brothers Brian

and Jonathan Carbon were added to the Shiloh congregation through baptism.

Nesmith and his new congregation are looking forward to even more great things happening at Shiloh, and will continue to labor in God's vineyard until Christ returns.

—BY ANGELA SELF

### Williams-Mosley Elected Conference Treasurer

The executive committee voted July 24, 2011, to elect Merkita Williams-Mosley as South Central's new treasurer. She has served as associate treasurer of the Southern Union Conference in Decatur, Ga., where she used the talent of accounting to assist with the financial responsibilities of the worldwide Church. Prior to this position, she was undertreasurer and risk manager at South Central.

Williams-Mosley was raised in Greenwood, Miss., in a Christian environment, and chose to serve God at the age of 12. Since that time, she has served in the mission field for more than 10 years, and is heavily involved in

music and youth ministries.

The Lord has blessed her to conduct numerous evangelistic meetings with Share-Him, which resulted in more than 50 baptisms. Since that time, God has opened doors for her to share His love at women's conferences, local conference Camp Meetings, and



*Merkita Williams-Mosley*

local churches. She is a graduate of Oakwood Uni-

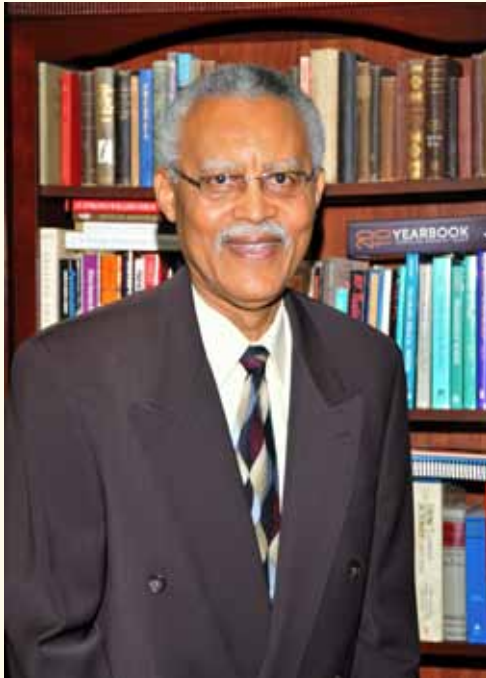
versity with a bachelor's in accounting, and a master of business administration from the University of Phoenix. She is married to David Earl Mosley, from Jackson, Miss., and they have a nine-year old daughter, Davia.

She realizes that God has a calling for her life, and she's excited about the Word of God and has a passion for spreading the Gospel around the world. Her daily prayer is that her life will be a living testimony for God, and that men and women, boys and girls, will come to know Jesus.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

## Newborn Elected Director of New Gift of Prophecy Department, Sabbath School

During the June 26, 2011, South Central Constituency Session, Craig H. Newborn, Ph.D., a native of Seven Springs, N.C., was elected the director of a new department, Gift of Prophecy, as well as the director of the Sabbath School department. He completed his college education at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., earning a



*Craig H. Newborn, Ph.D.*

B.A. in history and religion, and an M.A. in histo-

ry with a secondary education emphasis. Thereafter, he spent four-and-a-half years as a Bible teacher at San Diego Academy before accepting a call to overseas missionary work. He served more than 14 years in Kenya, Iran, and Lebanon in varying capacities, including church pastor, Bible teacher, evangelist, field president, departmental director, and university chaplain.

After returning to the United States, he accepted a teaching position at Loma Linda Academy. He earned an M.A. in theology and a Ph.D. in theology and personality from Claremont School of Theology. In 1997, Newborn moved to Huntsville, Ala., where he became

vice president for Student Services at Oakwood University. From January 1999 through August 2006, he was the founding director of the Oakwood Branch Office of the Ellen G. White Estate, and was also a professor in the University's Department of Religion and Theology. From August 2006 through July 2011, he served as the senior pastor of Oakwood University Church.

He is married to Janis Stephens Newborn, director of institutional effectiveness at Oakwood. They have two adult children, one daughter-in-law, one son-in-law, and four grandchildren.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

## Watson Elected Personal Ministries Director

Jeffery L. Watson was voted the new personal ministries director at the June 26, 2011, South Central Constituency Session.

Watson has served as a pastor in the South Central Conference for more than 20 years at churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He attended Oakwood University and graduated in 1989 with a bachelor of arts degree in ministerial theology.

He earned a master of arts degree in religion with an emphasis in homiletics

and preaching from Southern Adventist University; and a master of divinity with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy from Southern Christian University.

He is a certified "Prepare" and "Enrich" facilitator, and is a member of several professional counseling organizations, such as AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors) and AAFLP (Adventist Association of Family



*Jeffery L. Watson*

(Life Professionals).

Watson has demonstrated his passion for evangelism, and this passion has led him to conduct several evangelistic revivals throughout the Conference, resulting in hundreds of baptisms.

He has been married for 28 years to the former Marilyn Burden of Montgomery, Ala. He recently served as the senior pastor of Bethany Church in Montgomery.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

## Carlton Byrd Accepts Call to Pastor Oakwood University Church

Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., currently the senior pastor of the 4,000-member Atlanta Berean Church in Atlanta, Ga., and speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Broadcast for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, has accepted the invitation from South Central Conference to serve as the senior pastor of Oakwood University Church on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala. Byrd will be installed at the Oakwood University Church in January 2012, along with the accompanying Breath of Life Television Ministry.

Byrd is a graduate of Oakwood University with dual degrees, a bachelor of arts in theology and a bachelor of science in business management. He is also a graduate of Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn., where he earned a master of business administration; and a graduate of Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich., where he earned both master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees.

In his more than 17 years of pastoral leadership, Byrd has served in three conferences, including South Central, where he began his ministry; Southwest Region; and South Atlantic. During this



*Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Breath of Life Television Broadcast speaker/director, was voted at the July 24, 2011, South Central executive committee meeting, the new senior pastor of Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala.*

period, he has constructed and renovated churches, baptized more than 2,500 individuals, participated on numerous denominational and community boards, and served as a guest minister on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN).

While serving as the senior pastor of Atlanta Berean Church since August 2006, more than 1,700 individuals have been baptized, church attendance has doubled, the church

building has been remodeled, and a television ministry has been launched in collaboration with the Breath of Life Television Ministry,\*DELETED at Atlanta Berean here] which currently airs weekly on four national television stations. Under Byrd's leadership, Atlanta Berean was awarded a \$5.2 million grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in

January 2009 to construct a 50-apartment senior citizens' housing facility, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2012. In October 2009, Atlanta Berean was named the North American Division's 2009 Innovative Church of the Year. In January 2011, Atlanta Berean held the ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Outreach Ministry Center (across the street from the main sanctuary on Holmes Drive), a community-based ministry that houses a youth activity center, barber shop, beauty salon, health/fitness center, vegetarian sandwich shop, clothes closet, and food pantry.

The recipient of numerous honors and achievements, Byrd received the coveted "Chosen Pastor Award" for Atlanta's Gospel Choice Awards in 2007, was named as one of the prized residents for "Who's Who in Black Atlanta" for 2008 and 2009, was selected as the Oakwood University Alumnus of the Year for 2008, and in April 2008 was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

Byrd is married to the former Danielle Mounter, and they are the proud parents of two girls, Christyn and Caileigh.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

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## Perrine Church Members Honor Graduates

Perrine Church members, Miami, Fla., honored 30 students who had graduated, from pre-kindergarten to graduate school, on June 11, 2011.

Each year the education department of the church celebrates their accomplishments by giving them a graduation ceremony.

Morning and evening services were held. The theme was "Empowering Students for Service."

Claude Matthews was the speaker for the morning service. "Some will be doomed because they lack wisdom," said Matthews.

"When we refuse to follow God, there is a problem."

To begin the afternoon service the graduates marched in to "Pomp and Circumstance."

The keynote speaker was Carlita Mells. "Don't do anything foolish, don't embarrass your family, and don't go anywhere by yourself," Mells said as



*Perrine Church members honored 30 students who graduated, from Pre-K to graduate school.*

she implored them to take Jesus with them as they embark on the next phase of their life.

The charge was given by Monique James, M.D.,

one of the graduates and a daughter of Perrine.

She encouraged the graduates never to give up, but to always reach for their goals. "God is always there, so be not afraid to call on Him," said James. "We are all life long learners."

The graduates were given trophies, medals, cash, or plaques, depending on the level of accomplishment.

—BY MILICENT TAYLOR

## Youth Baptized After Taking Amazing Facts Course

Ten youth from the Ephesus Church, Jacksonville, Fla., recently completed the Amazing Facts Amazing Adventures Bible study course.

The youth, Treyvon Christopher, Andreas Taff, Senai Wilds, Sydnee Jamison-Wright, Nadia Jamison-Wright, Naya Jamison-Wright, Lauren Quashie, Lydia Hanson, JaMaine Mills-Henderson and Joshua Tramel, were baptized on August 27, 2011, as a result of the course.

During an Adventist Youth Society program, the youth shared with the church how the lessons changed their lives and an Amazing Fast Fact.

They also learned what their names meant in

the language origin, and read a Bible scripture that related to it.

"Studying with Jesus, makes my life more comfortable," says Treyvon Christopher. Nadia Jamison-Wright proclaimed her excitement about the upcoming baptism with an excited fist pump."

Sydnee Jamison-Wright said, "Getting baptized is marrying Jesus."

This was the second year the teachers taught the course, touching a total of 25 students' lives, assisting in making a deci-

sion for Christ.

Their enthusiasm and excitement in teaching the word of God made the studies interesting and enjoyable to the young Bible students.

Andreas Taff commented, "Keeping the Sabbath is the right way to worship."



*Ten youth from Epheusus Church, Jacksonville, Fla., prepares for baptism after participating in the Amazing Facts Amazing Adventures Bible study course.*

Lauren Quashie solemnly told what smoking does to the lungs, and how all should remember their bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

Their instructors, Aurelia Sykes and Linden Britton, met with the children each Sabbath afternoon.

"Their determination to learn about God, His love and care for them, and developing a personal relationship with Him, shows that these young people have supportive families who encourage their learning about our Lord and Savior," said a member of Ephesus.

—BY DENISE JACKSON

## Berea Hosts First Homecoming Service

Berea Church, St. Augustine, Fla., recently celebrated its first Homecoming Service after 71 years of existence.



The church was organized in 1939 under the leadership of John C. Thomas. More than 200 individuals attended the service.

After a year of planning by former members of the church, Henry Oston and Clara Oston Moody, and the church planning committee, chaired by Gregory Boone, the dream of a church

homecoming celebration came to fruition.

Former pastors that spoke during the weekend celebration were Michael Ross, pastor of Macedonia Church, Lake City, Fla., and Nazareth Church, Live Oak, Fla., and Theus Young, Southeastern

Conference publishing director.

Lauraine Powell Washington (who is 99 years old), Louise Gardner, Virginia Givens, and Lois Mitchell were honored for their many years of dedicated service in God's vineyard.

A plaque was presented to the church in memory of deceased members. Many former and current members donated to the church's building fund in honor of their deceased loved ones. This special offering netted

approximately \$7,000.

"It was encouraging to see God's keeping power on a little church started 71 years ago," said Curtis Crider, current pastor of Berea.

Former pastors of Berea are F.H. Stevens, M.T. Battle, J.B.E. Williams, F.S. Hill, H.M. Barker, R.B. Hairston, R.A. Sloan, I.L. Harrell, L.R. Hastings, Herman L. Davis, Clarence Wright, W.C. Byrd, Michael Ross, Curtis Powell, and Willie Irvin.

—BY CLARA MOODY

## Young Ladies Inspired to Succeed in Life

It was while attending Oakwood University that Lanisha McMiller Turner was inspired to reach out to the young women of her home church, Mt. Pisgah Church, Carol City, Fla.

While at Oakwood she heard that some of the youth she grew up with were losing sight of their Christian values.

After graduating from Oakwood in 2003, Turner returned home with a burden on her heart to reach out to the young women of Mt. Pisgah.

With approval from the church board, and help from a few volunteers, Turner launched DIVAS (Divinely Inspired Vivacious Adventist Sisters).

DIVAS is a mentoring program for young ladies, ages 10-22. Each DIVA is assigned a female mentor

from the church.

The mentors are encouraged to build a rapport with the young ladies, and be a support system for them.

With more than 50 participants, the mission of DIVAS is "To prepare young ladies with the moral fortitude needed for a successful life."

DIVAS offers the young ladies a variety of activities, including Bible studies, workshops, fitness training, etiquette and health classes, community outreach, fun days, and sleepovers. DIVAS get-togethers often end with a rap session where the young ladies eagerly discuss everyday issues with their mentors and peers.

The Mt. Pisgah Women's Ministries Department



*Members of the DIVAS program pose for a picture. DIVAS is a mentoring program that is designed to develop in young ladies the moral fortitude needed for a successful life.*

is actively involved with DIVAS, along with other volunteers. "Mentors have to be prepared to hear anything," says Turner. Young girls anxiously await their 10th birthday when they are eligible to join the group.

Hillary Martin, a graduate of the DIVAS program and a student at Washington Adventist University

(formerly known as Columbia Union College), Takoma Park, Md., praises the program. As a member of DIVAS, she enjoyed especially feeding the homeless, the "Dress for Success" workshop, and of course the rap sessions. "Lanisha is an amazing person and she truly loves working with the DIVAS," said Martin.

Although newly married and busy with her career as an occupational therapist, Turner wants to see DIVAS continue to grow. As the young ladies of Mt. Pisgah come of age, she wants to make Christ-centered activities available to them as an alternative to what the world has to offer.

—BY NANCY WELLS

## Southern's Wellness Program Earns National Award

Students and faculty in Southern Adventist University's School of Physical Education, Health and Wellness, have long believed they were part of a special program. Now they have the hardware to prove it!

Phil Garver, dean of the school, recently traveled to Wisconsin to receive one of only two awards presented by the National Wellness Institute (NWI) to outstanding undergraduate health promotion programs across the United States. In

citing why Southern was chosen, the NWI press release describes the school as having "one of the most innovative programs in the country." Benjamin Parrish, a senior at Southern majoring in Corporate and Community Wellness Management, couldn't agree more.

"I am not surprised at all that our department is being recognized for its quality and holistic teaching," Parrish said. "The dedicated work that my professors are doing deserves high praise."

Another testament to the program's strength lies in just how Southern came to be nominated for the

award in the first place. It wasn't Southern faculty, staff, or students who were seeking to promote themselves. In fact, it was a leader at another institution altogether.

David Gobble, director of Ball State University's Fisher Wellness Center, nominated Southern for the NWI award after seeing program results firsthand. Ball State is a frequent destination for Southern students seeking graduate degrees in wellness management, and Gobble's been impressed with the quality of students Garver has sent his way — so much so, that for years now he's been actively re-

cruiting Southern students, placing most in teaching fellowships that offset student tuition.

While rightly pleased with the recognition the NWI award brings to the School of Physical Education, Health and Wellness, Garver has no plans to lean very long on present accolades. In fact, he's busy working on the next big step to keeping this program relevant on the increasingly visible stage of wellness management.

"Right now we're planning to host our very own International Wellness Conference in June 2012," Garver said. "This will be a huge deal as we seek out

ways to better share the message of what a Christ-centered program like ours can do."

And that last point is crucial to both Garver and his students, setting this program apart from other schools in a manner more meaningful than any award could ever do.

"I was drawn here not just because of the state-of-the-art facilities or strong scientific approach to wellness," Parrish said, "but mostly because of the consistent emphasis of Jesus Christ as a necessary source for permanent changing and healing of our lives."

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON



*Phil Garver (left), dean of the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness at Southern Adventist University, accepts the program's award from the National Wellness Institute.*



## Southern Archaeologist Team Excavate Judean Fortress

An archaeology team from Southern Adventist University, under the direction of School of Religion professor Michael Hasel, Ph.D., is in the final stages of a three-year excavation project that brought to light several new discoveries.

The excavation was conducted in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the directorship of Yosef Garfinkel, a leading archaeologist in modern Israel. This past summer Southern sent a group of 50 to help excavate at Khirbet Qeiyafa, the biblical site of Shaarayim (1 Samuel 17:52).

This archaeological site is presumably the location



FLORIAN HASEL

*Volunteer Joliann Penn, senior at Southern Adventist University, holds a thumb-imprinted Hellenistic jar-handle.*

of the historic battle between David and Goliath, and has recently been a topic of much scholarly de-

bate between those denying the existence of the kingdom of David as described in the Bible and biblical scholars who uphold the historical authenticity of David. CNN has featured this controversy in a recent report with footage that includes Southern Adventist University volunteers. The site is visited daily by Bible scholars and tourists from around the world who are interested in the findings.

Garfinkel believes that Khirbet Qeiyafa, along with Hebron and Jerusalem, was a key city in the Davidic administration. Unearthed evidence indicates that the site was fortified and occupied during the Iron Age

period, which corresponds to the time period of the biblical David. Proponents of the minimalist school continue to contest the dating of the occupation levels at Khirbet Qeiyafa.

Although dig participants say that new architectural features are coming to light on a daily basis, the interpretation of the site and its objects is still tentative.

"This season's excavation has attracted major attention for the important buildings excavated from the time of Alexander the Great and the special finds from the time of David," says Hasel. "Biblical history and prophecy are becoming tangible in the 21st century!"

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY:** The Gulf States Conference is seeking a qualified **full-time bilingual Assistant**. Must be fluent in English and Spanish and have technological aptitude. Please contact Ruwie Vazquez at [rvazquez@gscsda.org](mailto:rvazquez@gscsda.org) or 334-272-7493 for more information. [11]

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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**WILDWOOD WEIGHT REDUCTION & HEALTH RENEWAL:** November 27-December 11, 2011 & January 1-15, 2012. 14-day program focusing on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$740 (group discounts available.) Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com). [11]

**WILDWOOD HYDROTHERAPY & MASSAGE WORKSHOP:** January 22-29, 2012. Intense 7-day seminar focusing on practical hands-on hydrotherapy treatments and back massage. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$349 (includes room, vegan meals). Contact: Darlene 931-724-6706. [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com). [11]

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**2012 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR** March 30–April 12, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax 269-471-5172, email [gctours@mac.com](mailto:gctours@mac.com). [11]

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**PEOPLE OF PERU PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:** Orphanage for abused girls, medical/dental clinic, family crisis intervention, education/ministry. Churches, schools, medical/dental groups, families, individuals. Adult/children's ministry, well drilling, construction. Also, long-term program director, girl's dean, child care, food service, maintenance. Email Paul Opp at: [U4peru@aol.com](mailto:U4peru@aol.com), [www.Peopleofperu.org](http://www.Peopleofperu.org). [11]

# Advertisements

## Announcements

### 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 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 9:30 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 from 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 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.

### Witnessing Training Class

– Dec. 3. Asheville Foster Church, Asheville, NC. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Learn the simple methods of witnessing to thousands of people at the race tracks! Join John Earnhardt for two hours of in depth training on how to witness to fans at Nascar races. The doors are open to reach thousands of people. Asheville Foster Church, 375 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, NC. Details: 864-985-2908.

**"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@elimnsda.com.

### Union College Homecoming

– April 5-8. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to Homecoming 2012. Honor classes are 1942, '52, '57, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, and '02. Special Unionaires reunion—celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. Details: contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

SDA Vacations Presents A Family Restoration Cruise June 10-17 2012

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina

**High Country Campout** – Nov. 11-13. Table Rock State Park, Table Rock, SC.

## 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](mailto: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.fhdland.org/>

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

**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](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Dec. 3. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Dec. 4. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale, 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.

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

**Jennings Lake Church Drive-through Live Nativity** – Dec. 16-18. Robertson Farm, 5610 SW County Road 313, Trenton. 6:30-9:00 p.m. Additional information and map: <http://www.jenningslake.com/>. Questions: [dtroyer1404@bellsouth.net](mailto:dtroyer1404@bellsouth.net) or 352-463-0599.

**Retired Denominational Workers' Retreat** – March 16-18, 2012. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Guest speaker: Adventist Review Editor Bill Knott. Details: [laura.gonzalez@floridaconference.com](mailto:laura.gonzalez@floridaconference.com) or 407-644-5000 x164.

**Greater Miami Adventist Academy Third Annual Golf Tournament** – April 22, 2012. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. 12:00-7:00 p.m. Part of Greater Miami Adventist Academy's centennial celebration. Reception dinner included. Hotel and spa discounts available upon request. Details: <http://gma.edu/html/pta.html>, [ctrevilcock@gma.edu](mailto:ctrevilcock@gma.edu), [cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com), 305-220-5955 x151, or 954-254-9249.

**Greater Miami Adventist Academy 100th Anniversary Alumni Weekend** – May 18-19, 2012. Greater Miami Adventist Academy. Guest speaker: Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life speaker/director and GMAA alumni. Details: <http://gma.edu/html/alumni09.html>, [ctrevilcock@gma.edu](mailto:ctrevilcock@gma.edu), [cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com](mailto:cleopatratrevilcock@yahoo.com), 305-220-5955 x151, or 954-254-9249.

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Hispanic Small Groups Evangelism** – Nov. 5-12. Metro Atlanta, GA.

**Elementary Choir/Bells Festival** – Nov. 10-11. Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Calhoun, GA.

**Enduring Love Marriage Retreat** – Nov. 11-13. Rome, GA.

**Steve Darmody Concert** – Nov. 19. Apison, TN.

**Festival of Praise** – Nov. 19. Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, Decatur, GA.

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online** <http://www.gcsda.org>

**Teen Retreat** – Nov. 11-13.

Camp Alamisco.

**Senior Presentation** – Nov. 19. Bass Memorial Academy.

**Executive Committee** – Dec. 13. Conference Office.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Complete calendar online** – **Conference Association Board** – Dec. 6, Jan.24, March13.

**Conference Executive Committee** – Dec. 6, Jan.24, March13.

**Highland/Madison Academy Boards** – Nov. 10, Jan. 26, March 15, March 22.

**Highland Academy Youth Rally** – Nov. 11, 12.

**Elders' Training** – Nov. 11-13. Indian Creek Camp.

**Ministers' Meeting/Retreat** – Jan. 9-12.

**Board of Education** – Feb. 9.

**West Tennessee Festival of Faith** – March 3.

**Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting** – March 9-10.

Prestonsburg, KY.

**Music Festival** – March 5-17. Highland Academy.

## Southeastern

**Pathfinder Federation** – Nov. 10-13. Hawthorne, FL.

**Retirees Banquet** – Nov. 10. Conference Office. Mt. Dora, FL.

**Leadership Summit** – Dec. 9-11. Buena Vista Palace, Buena Vista, FL.

## Southern Adventist University

**Christmas on the Promenade** – Nov. 29.

**Winds Symphony Christmas Concert** – Dec. 3.

**School of Music Christmas Concert** – Dec. 10.

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Sunset						
	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9
Atlanta, GA	6:41	5:36	5:32	5:30	5:29	5:30
Charleston, SC	6:24	5:20	5:16	5:14	5:13	5:14
Charlotte, NC	6:24	5:18	5:14	5:12	5:11	5:12
Collegedale, TN	6:41	5:36	5:32	5:29	5:28	5:29
Huntsville, AL	5:48	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35	4:36
Jackson, MS	6:06	5:01	4:58	4:56	4:55	4:56
Louisville, KY	6:38	5:32	5:27	5:24	5:23	5:23
Memphis, TN	6:01	4:55	4:51	4:49	4:48	4:49
Miami, FL	6:36	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:30	5:31
Montgomery, AL	5:50	4:46	4:42	4:40	4:40	4:41
Nashville, TN	5:46	4:40	4:36	4:33	4:32	4:33
Orlando, FL	6:37	5:33	5:30	5:29	5:29	5:30
Wilmington, NC	6:14	5:09	5:05	5:03	5:02	5:03

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