

T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



Ministerium 2013

We are Seventh-day Adventists

Here in the great Southern Union where God has blessed our feeble efforts to touch people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are intentional about sustaining our focus of inviting all of our members to the following: an intimate relationship with Jesus; evangelizing and discipling; and including every man, woman, boy, girl, and ethnicity in the work of introducing people to Jesus.

I'm excited to showcase two pastors, Georges Fleurimond and Ron Hoffecker. One is assigned to a Florida Conference church, and the other to a Southeastern Conference church; both are in Lakeland, Florida. They have creatively embodied our quest to efficiently collaborate in responsible conjoint ministry. Be blessed as you observe. --RCS

We are Seventh-day Adventists. We have one message, one hope in the soon coming of our Savior. Despite differences of culture, ethnicity, and distance, we are one movement, preparing a people for that grand event. Each of us is baptized into a local congregation of the World Church. The fact still remains that whether our church is called Ewing Memorial or Lakeland First, the sign out front says "Seventh-day Adventist." We may not be identical, but we are, and always will be, identifiable.

We trust that wherever we go, we will find someone who knows someone we know. We trust that, as we step into any Seventh-day Adventist church, we will find those "who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." There may be differences, but the message is the same. When we go to a church in another conference across town, we can rest assure that we will encounter "this same Jesus."

The Spirit of Prophecy describes our unity as important enough to dispatch a repeated message, "Again and again the angel has said to me, 'Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgment.' Christ is the Leader, and you are brethren; follow Him," Christian Leadership, 11.4. There is a secret to our success apart from marketing, programs, and tactics. "The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people ... We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart," *Christian Service*, 75.1.

When the Lakeland First pastor invites the Ewing Memorial pastor to present the evangelistic series in his church, he takes no risk that the Gospel preached will be of another sort. When the Ewing Memorial pastor accepts the invitation, he takes no risk of variation between his message and the deportment of local members. When souls are won, which church they join is of little consequence because, praise God, they are now a part of the remnant! This is no abstract theory. Rather, this is tangible practicality and our testimony. Together, both pastors and church members of the Lakeland First and Ewing Memorial Seventh-day Adventist churches, located in the city of Lakeland, joined hands and worked successfully in concert to deal Satan, our only true adversary, a deadly blow during a month's-long evangelistic meeting. Lives were changed, the Gospel was preached, and souls were baptized.

The issue of separate conferences is complex, but addressing it starts with these two simple ingredients: trust and heeding the voice of the Lord's messenger, "press together" in service to others. Do not wait for an invitation; do not wait for opportunities. Make an invitation. Erase lines. Forget differences. Make opportunities. Press together on youth outreach, a food pantry, or anywhere the Lord leads. Christ is the Leader, and we are His people; follow Him.

"Follow Him." Jesus trusted erring humans. We can trust each other. He led them to unity. He will lead us to unity as we "press together...heart to heart."



Ron C. Smith,
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Georges Fleurimond Ron Hoffecker

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COVER CAPTION: Many of these pastors, spouses, and their children attended the 2013 Ministerium Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida, January 6-9.



Ministry is Better When We're Connected

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ



“Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving **one another**, and working together with **one** mind and purpose,” Philip-
pians 2:2 (NLT).

The following has probably never happened to you. You need to make a phone call on your cell phone while the battery is low and running out. It seems that the importance of the call is directly proportional to the bars in your smart phone. In my own experience, the battery has sometimes gotten so low, that the phone shuts itself off temporarily even while connected to a power source. The lesson here is this: phones that are disconnected permanently lose their effective-
ness. Same is true in ministry. Church is a spiritual organization, and the secret for success is to stay connected.

The Southern Union held Ministerium 2013 two months ago, January 6-9. It's a convention for pastors and families from the eight conferences that compose our Union. The theme was ... **Connecting To God, To Family, To Each Other!**

It took Dennis and Jacquelyn Ross, retired former Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director and associate, along with the conference ministerial directors, three years to prepare for the event for more than 1,600 individuals. As I reflected on the event after its conclusion, one phrase described our objective: **Ministry is better when we're connected.**

Here are 10 principles we learned:

Ministry is better when we are united.

Unity multiplies impact. That is one key lesson we wanted leaders to understand. While it's easier to do it alone, it's more effective when we involve others. There is a small word, with big power, and that word is: *and*. It's one thing to say, "It's me." Another thing to say, "It's me *and* _____" (fill in the blank). *Unity multiplies impact.* We need each other. We can grow as we learn from each other. One of the most beautiful moments in the Ministerium was Communion, where there were no conferences, no small or large churches, no titles or degrees, just pastors washing each other's feet. Ministry works better when, instead of building silos, we build His Kingdom.

In order to finish the Work God has entrusted to us, we need everybody: traditional *and* contemporary, men *and* women, youth *and* adults, first *and* second generations, accredited colleges *and* self-supporting ministries, lay members *and* paid denominational employees. We are one Church. When we attack each other it creates confusion in our youth, discouragement in our members, *and* delay in our progress.



PASTOR MAXWELL BERKEL

PASTOR E. L. JONES JR.

Attendees came together to pray for the Southern Union.

Ministry is better when we are intentional about growing.

One of the most common questions I ask leaders, when I speak to them, is, “What’s your personal plan for growth?” Ministry can be so overwhelming with the “tyranny of the urgent,” that we fail to intentionally set aside time for growth. We must not confuse activity with progress, or action with achievement. At the Ministerium, we had more than 50 seminars on a variety of topics that sought to inform, inspire, and intentionally grow the pastors and their families in a specific area.

Ministry is better when we strive for excellence.

Excellence honors God and inspires people. Someone has said that good is the enemy of great. One of the greatest dangers in our lives can be summarized in two words: Routine, Average. At the Ministerium, pastors were encouraged to never settle for good, when best is available. Great attention to detail from the organizing group sought to model the principle of excellence. Early in my ministry, I heard this line (I’m not sure where) that has shaped the way I do ministry. “What are you doing, that if God is not completely involved and comes through in a big way, will absolutely and utterly fail?” Many of the things we do, we could do without divine intervention. What have you attempted in the last year that took you out, way out, of your comfort zone? What risks, without being reckless, have you proposed to the people you lead? What innovative, daring, out-of-the-box idea have you implemented? God did not call you to the ministry of beige. When was the last time you came home excited to tell your family about the beige building you saw? Beige. Safe. Familiar. Known. Beige.

Use God’s paintbrush and repaint with vivid colors. Do whatever it takes to rediscover His passion for your life. You were meant for bold passion — definitely not beige. (I apologize to the beige lovers of the world — all three of you.)

Ministry is better when we have a clear vision that is put into action.

A powerful vision can inspire the Church to be what it was intended to be. Not just a source of biblical information to store in our brains, but a force of transformation to share with our communities. Vision, simply defined, is being able to “see it before you see it.” Before every great invention, before every great accomplishment, before every transformational idea, someone had vision. Someone “saw it, before he saw it.”

What you say is not as important as what you do. Opinionology (a word I coined meaning “to share with others the opinions no one else is asking you for”) is not a spiritual gift.

When I was pastoring a church, we always had a church soccer team to build community and make friends, and I always got to play. As the game got started, so did the crowd. Everyone had an opinion. It was interesting to hear some misguided soul yell, “Take the pastor out, he’s horrible!” At halftime, individuals from the crowd would come into our huddle, and offer unsolicited advice, strategy, and ideas. Not only were they very straightforward about what we should be doing, they became upset if we did not do it the way they prescribed.

Isn’t that a lot like the work of the Church? Someone said that church is like a football game. 22,000 individuals in the stands who are in desperate need of exercise, watching 22 individuals on the field working who are in desperate need of rest. It sometimes seems like 20 percent of the congregation does 80 percent of the work.

God does not expect us to do everything, yet He does expect us to

do something. A vision that is activated inspires your followers, develops your strengths, and catches God’s attention. Perhaps you have on your computer right now the blueprint of the next big idea for your organization. What’s stopping you from implementing it? Instead of waiting around for the right circumstances, you change the circumstances.



Southern Union President Ron Smith (center), D.Min., Ph.D., and Southeastern Conference President Hubert Morel listen as Florida Conference President Mike Cauley (right) addresses a question during a panel discussion.

Ministry is better when we take time to “get away.”

One of the areas that I struggled with the most in my first 10 years of ministry was taking time to “get away.” I was a good pastor, but a terrible husband, and an average dad. It was hard for me to go on vacation; there was so much still to do! Even when on vacation, I would call home to see how church had been on Sabbath, and members called me regularly during all hours. I had no days off. That is called “living with no MARGIN.” It’s dangerous. It’s sinful. It’s counterproductive to ministry.

At the Ministerium, pastors were able to get away. Cell phones didn’t work in many of the rooms. (That was a good thing!) It was very rewarding for the planning committee to see pastors and their families walking together on the boardwalk, just enjoying each other. Tuesday afternoon was family afternoon: no required meetings, no-

where you had to be at. Most pastors will tell you that this is an area they struggle with. Getting away is not easy. But, it's necessary.

Ministry is better when we're challenged.

The speakers not only inspired us, but also challenged us. One of the most powerful messages was given by Alejandro Bullon, pastor. The title of his presentation was catchy: "Pastors Can Also Be Saved." He related a story about a young boy that wanted to work in a chocolate factory. The first day of work, his boss told him he had one assignment — to eat chocolate all day. Every 10 minutes the boss would come to check on the boy to make sure he was eating chocolate. After one day, even while working in the chocolate factory, the boy never touched chocolate again. Bullon stated that the "greatest temptation for pastors who work for God, is to neglect personal communion with the God they work for." We don't want to end up like the individuals who built the Ark, and then drowned in the flood. We were challenged, stretched, and encouraged at the same time.

Ministry is better when we value diversity.

Among the 1,600 pastors and families, we had a wide diversity — African American, Anglo, Hispanic, Korean, Russian, African, West Indian, and European. It looked a lot like Heaven. It's interesting to note that when Jesus selected his disciples, He did not choose 12 carpenters from Nazareth. A close look at the personality of the disciples reveals anything else but uniformity. They were different, and that was a good thing: different backgrounds, different social status, different politics, different jobs. They were blue collar and white collar, a Hebrew revolutionary and a Roman sympathizer. One had a questioning mind, one spoke too soon, and one hardly spoke. Some were more interested in position than preaching, and one was constantly taking a piece of the pie for himself.

What message was Jesus trying to send us through the picking of the disciples? A simple one: if Jesus was able to transform and use them, He can do the same with me. Evangelism was their common denominator.

Ministry is better when we are connected to family.

One question was asked many times and in different ways about the pastor's family: Are we too busy trying to preach impressive sermons about Him, bring healing to many homes for Him, even working to cast out the evil in society in His name, yet our family life is lacking? These three things have been helpful to me in my own journey:

1. **Choose the important over the urgent.**
2. **Choose the best over the good.**
3. **Choose the permanent over the temporary.**

There were programs for the ministerial spouses and children. Ministry is a family affair. So we sought to minister to the whole family.

Ministry is better when we are connected to each other.

accomplish more in less time. Pastors were encouraged to find three individuals:

Mentors: These are wise individuals you can *listen* to. They have experience and can help you find ways to deal with your present situation.

Friends: These are caring individuals you can *lean* on. They might not have all the answers, but knowing that they are there for you makes a difference.

Students: These are individuals who can *learn* from you. Every experience you have had is a lesson that can be shared to encourage, inspire, or warn others.

Ministry is better when we are connected to God.

As a child living in Puerto Rico, a tropical paradise, I loved flying kites. We were almost never short on wind. Once in a while, however, there was a windless day. On those days, if you still wanted to fly a kite, you could, only it was much harder. First, you needed to go to a big field. Then, get a running start. Follow that with run, run, and then run some more. Need-

less to say, kite flying soon became a bothersome chore, instead of a pleasant endeavor. Same thing happens in church. When you are running around, doing things in your own strengths, eventually you will wonder where did all the "pleasure" of serving the Lord go. Kites fly with almost no effort when there is wind present. Is there wind in your church? In order to fly a kite we need wind. In order to pastor a church, we need to stay "Connected To God, To Family, To Each Other."

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage **one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near," Hebrews 10:25. 🕊

Roger Hernandez is the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union.



Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, and his wife, Kathy, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism special services coordinator, demonstrate the process for a powerful communion service.

God created us for community. God usually gives the vision to the leader first, but not exclusively. A right vision, shared with the right people, at the right time, for the right reason, will

PASTOR MAXWELL BERKEL



SOUTHERN UNION MINISTERIAL

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ

Michael Hyatt, former CEO of Thomas Nelson Publishing, says that in order to be successful in today's world you need two things:

- a. A compelling *product*, and
- b. A meaningful *platform*.

I believe we as Seventh-day Adventists are good at the first one. Our message is powerful. Our beginning was providential. Our emphasis is prophetic. From a handful of disappointed North Americans, we have become a worldwide, multicultural movement that seeks to point people back to Scripture. We can make a compelling argument directly from the Word, and we seek to inspire people to return to a more biblical approach to Christianity.

Yet, more than 50 percent of people in the United States do not know who we are, many others confuse us with Jehovah Witnesses or Mormons, and yet others identify us only by our diet and what we don't do.

Today, we start a new adventure together. The purpose of this column is to grow together in four areas that can help us become more effective in "*platform building*." The word to remember is...

LEAD:

- L
- E
- A
- D

Leadership
Evangelism
Accountability
Diversity
During the next few months, we

will become better acquainted with each other. For now, let us pray and work to build a more meaningful platform. When the platform catches up with the message, watch out!

LEAD — Leadership

John Maxwell loves to say, "If you are leading and no one is following, you are only taking a walk." The first component of **LEAD** is Leadership. I grew up in a church where leadership wasn't taught, explained, modeled, mentored, preached, or practiced much. It got a little better in my formal education, but most of the leadership concepts I learned came about in two ways:

1. Personal **interest** in the subject.
2. Personal **mistakes** that taught me leadership lessons.

I remember arriving at my first church (some might identify with what I am about to share), and having my first board meeting. I was coming in with all these plans, dreams, and was absolutely sure who the leader was: Me! After all, I was the pastor! That lasted about 30 minutes. My plans and ideas went out the window faster than you can say, "I'm in charge." I remember feeling very discouraged. I survived, but noticed immediately my very present need to grow in the area of leadership. It took me a while to understand that I am none of these three things:

*I am not the **man**. In other words, I can't make ministry be about me, because it isn't.

*I am not the **Messiah**. I am not indispensable. There is only one Messiah and his name is not Roger.

*I am not the **manager**. I am not called to just maintain the status quo, to just run programs and keep everyone happy. I was called to lead, not manage.

Here are some leadership concepts that have been beneficial to me. They are keys to successful leadership:

1. *Relationships*. People follow leader, then the vision. You first connect, then convince.
2. *Innovation*. The enemy of future success is past success. Just because it worked in the past, does not mean it will work the same way in the future.
3. *Connections*. I decided to have three people in my life: a teacher I can learn from, a companion I can share with, a student I can teach. Those were my choices. God brought me a fourth person — an antagonist that will keep me on my knees. (There is one of those everywhere!)
4. *Purpose*. It's easy to confuse activity with progress. What we do, when we do it, and who we do it with must fit in the overall purpose that God has for our lives. The clearer the purpose, the easier it is to say no and yes to invitations, requests, and

demands for our time.

So, leader, would you lead, please?

LEAD — Evangelism

Here is a quote we know very well:

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me,’” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 143, 144.

Here is a quote that we don’t share often: (hint — it follows the previous one!)

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The **poor** are to be relieved, the **sick** cared for, the **sorrowing** and the **bereaved** comforted, the **ignorant** instructed, the **inexperienced** counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accom-

panied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, **this work will not, cannot, be without fruit,**” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 143, 144.

This quote seems to suggest that evangelism and service should go hand in hand. Here are some principles to remember:

1. *A service lifestyle is part of a divine expectation.* It would be helpful to understand that when standing before our Maker, instead of asking us to recite the eschatological timeline, God asks “What did you do about my children that needed help?”

2. *A service lifestyle takes us out of our comfort zone.* It’s more than outreach, it’s reaching out — even to those who don’t look, believe, speak, or act like us. That includes our enemies!

3. *A service lifestyle breaks down barriers.* It’s all about love, and love can indeed “conquer all.” When we express love, we break down preconceived concepts about the Church and God.

Remember, there are **37** recorded miracles of Jesus in the New Testament. There is one written sermon of Jesus — Sermon on the Mount. This goes along with the counsel given: “If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen,” *Ministry of Healing*, page 143.

The take-away from this article is simple: Our **earthly** kindness can have an **eternal** impact. ✨

Questions:

1. What are some creative ways your church is reaching the community?
2. If money was no object, what would you do? What project would you start?

Comments? Questions? Suggestions? I invite you to connect with me:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/leadSU

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Blog: www.leadu.blogspot.com

Roger Hernandez is the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union.

CREATION Health

Rest: Trading Pace for Peace

REST

A new term was recently coined, it’s called “quickaholics” — people who live in a frenzied rush. Who wants that kind of life? Are we trading peace for pace?

GOD’S PACE, GOD’S PEACE

God created the Earth in seven days, and still found time to rest.

Rest is about replacing chaos with calm. It is about intentionally taking the time to enjoy life just as God did — He rested to enjoy.

THREE TYPES OF REST

Do you enjoy life? If

your answer disturbs you, then perhaps you might consider how much rest you are really getting.

The three types of rest we need are physical, mental, and spiritual. We need a good night’s sleep, regular breaks, and annual vacations. We need a weekly day of spiritual rest because today’s pressures create an overall dis-ease with life. Celebrating the seventh-day Sabbath as God did keeps us from becoming a “human-doing.”

Rest refreshes our mind, body, and soul,



CREATIONHealth.com

and helps us to function at our best. In fact, missing just two hours of sleep on any given night compromises the immune system by 50 percent — a weakened state that lasts 30 days!

Research indicates that taking time to relax on a regular basis lowers blood pressure, enhances mood, and counteracts the effects of stress.

Rest is a powerful antidote to the unhealthy stresses of this world. But more than that, it allows us to trade pace for peace so we can finally enjoy life.

That’s CREATION Health!

—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Radio Station FINDS A HOME

BY CHET JORDAN

An orchard of pecan trees stretched out before Raul Ortiz as he shook his head in disbelief. For years, he carried a burden in his heart for a full-power radio station to preach the Gospel. Raul and a group of laymen obtained a license, received the call letters and frequency WGTT 91.5 FM, and were assigned a broadcast area. Next, they needed to find a location, central to the broadcast area, where they could establish their radio station. As Raul stood at the ideal location on Emerald Island Road in Leesburg, Florida, his dream was fading fast as he viewed nothing but countryside and a pecan orchard. There was no building to rent, and he had no money to build.

After some time elapsed, Raul revisited the area and was surprised to find a church built on the site of the pecan orchard. Amazingly, it was home to an Adventist congregation! He was elated and decided to present the possibility of a radio station to North Lake Church members.

Members expressed an interest, but they had no available money for the project and no experience operating a radio station or preparing programming. Shawn Lathrom, pastor at the time, then remembered someone he met years before. He

located at the church, with a radiated power of 1,600 watts. In the church attic, a room was constructed with adequate electricity and an air conditioner. The station began broadcasting in May 2011 with a 24/7 schedule covering a radius of 24 miles.

Family First Radio Network provides the programming and allows for locally produced programs and advertising. Speakers are largely well-known Adventist evangelists, while a number of time slots feature health presenters.

People are listening and are attending Adventist churches in the area. Several listeners have been baptized, including Sandra and David Yandoh, who joined North Lake Church in December 2012.

Beginning January 1, 2013, North Lake Church hired a Bible instructor to follow up with the growing number of interests and contacts generated through the radio station.

See the February Florida Conference In Mission video at <http://www.floridaconference.com/?p=5228> which shares more of the special story of Sandra and David Yandoh's conversion that progressed through contacts at Florida Hospital Waterman, the WGTT radio ministry, and Bible studies with members of North Lake Church. ✦



Sandra and David Yandoh (right) gave their hearts to the Lord through the ministry of Chaplain Faye Rose (center), director of spiritual care at Florida Hospital Waterman; and through listening to WGTT, which led them to Bible studies with Obed and Coretta Grabam (left). The Yandohs were baptized by Rose at North Lake Church on December 15, 2012.

contacted Linda De Romanett, owner of the Family First Radio Network in Keene, Texas. She was interested in purchasing the station if the church would provide a place for operation.

Engineers determined that the new station could be permanently

CHESTER GRAHAM

ARIC TURLINGTON

Ministering With Loaves, No Fish

BY MERLENE DAVIS

Tony and Susan Higdon (background), and volunteers Anna Greiner (front, left) and Ann Keating (front, right), unload bread and pastries to be distributed to senior citizens and churches.

The Higdon's have been waking in the wee hours for about 11 years, regardless of weather, and collecting day-old bread and pastries that are then distributed free to senior citizens and churches.

"At the top of the article put 'C-R-A-Z-Y,'" said Tony Higdon, who turned 75 this month. "And then under that, put 'blessed.'" "Our formula is simple," said Susan Higdon, 63. "To be blessed, you have to bless. There is no other way. That is where the contentment and peace is. You can't buy it or sell it. It only comes from God."

Matthew Ransdell is volunteer coordinator for Kentucky Harvest in Lexington, Kentucky, a non-profit organization that uses volunteers to pick up surplus food from various businesses and deliver it to people in need and the groups that serve them. The Higdon's are two of the organization's most "seasoned volunteers," which number 12 to 15, he said.

Those volunteers visit most of the Krogers in town and collect baked goods that are then taken six or seven days a week to the Lexington Senior Citizens Center by the Higdon's, and to the Salvation Army, Lexington Rescue Mission, and the men's and women's Hope Centers by other volunteers.

"We are 100 percent volunteer," Ransdell said. "We have no offices, no trucks and no warehouses. We basically have a very, very small operation budget. It is all volunteer-driven, and all volunteer-run. Kentucky Harvest does not reimburse for gas, either."

The Higdon's pick up items from the Pepperidge Farm warehouse in Lexington about 4 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. They take the bread directly to the senior citizens center on Nicholasville Road, where other volunteers unload it and set up a distribution table. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, they also pick up donated bread and pastries from the Krogers at Regency Centre and at Brannon Crossing.

The couple began the volunteer effort about 11 years ago when they were asked by Mary Lou Campbell, now with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, to help on a rotating basis because Campbell was having to back off from volunteering with the program. After about six months, the couple became the main volunteers during the week, with help on weekends.

"It is a labor of love that we both enjoy," said Tony, a lay minister at their Seventh-day Adventist church. "When Jesus came to this Earth, He

said He came to serve, not to be served. If you stay active, regardless of what it is, you see a result of being in service to whomever. If you can't love here, you can't love in Heaven."

For fun, the Higdon's have a pleasure farm in Madison County where they can let go of stress and refocus. They also take a bit of time for themselves by attending "Third Thursday Thing," a series of monthly educational workshops at Kentucky State University for those interested in agriculture. "We drop off the bread here and go there," Susan said. They also volunteer at the Center and take classes with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kentucky, and are caregivers for someone they know.

And still they have time to collect and deliver bread.

Susan said she is driven to do that. "Waste not, want not," she said. "I can't stand the thought of throwing it away. I want to share with those who could use it. If we don't love and share with each other, what else is there?"

Not much of anything, I guess.

Thank the Lord there still is a cadre of folks like the Higdon's who live their beliefs. ❖

Merlene Davis is lead columnist for the Lexington Herald.

Florida Hospital Launches Mobile Health Program for Women

Florida Hospital has a new set of wheels to make health care more accessible to women. The Healthy 100 Women's Mobile Health Coach will bring health services into the community to make preventative screenings more convenient for women.

"We know women are extremely busy and are more likely to put their own health concerns on hold," said Marla Silliman, senior vice president of Florida Hospital. "Part of our commitment with the Healthy 100 Women's Mobile Health Coach is to make health care more accessible for every woman by bringing the Coach to women throughout central Florida, to their homes, places of work,

worship, etc."

Community leaders and Florida Hospital employees recently got a sneak peek inside the new mobile Coach to see the screenings that will be offered. These

analysis. The Coach will also feature wellness and spa services, including various types of massages.

Hospital officials and physicians also broke ground on the site of the

women of all generations. The dedication of the site signals the beginning of construction on the new 12-story patient tower.

The 12-story, 400,000-square-foot hospital will lead the way in a new era of women's health and offer comprehensive services, including obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine (high risk obstetrics), gynecologic oncology, minimally invasive women's surgery, neonatal intensive care, digital mammography, women's cardiovascular, wellness and education, a lactation center, and the High Risk Breast Center. The hospital is expected to open in 2015, and will contain more than 300 patient beds.

—BY SARA CHANNING



include mammography, ultrasound, DEXA scan, electrocardiogram (EKG), body mass index (BMI), and skin

new women's hospital at Florida Hospital Orlando that will provide comprehensive services for

Home Care Agencies Rank Among Best Nationwide

Seven Adventist Health System home care agencies have been named to the 2012 HomeCare Elite™, a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. Now in its seventh year, the HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25 percent of more than 11,000 agencies, and further highlights the top 100 and 500 agencies overall. Agencies are ranked by an analysis of performance measures. This year those

measures include quality of care, quality improvement, patient experience, process measure implementation, and financial management.

OCS HomeCare, a product of National Research Corporation, uses publicly available data from Home Health Compare and the CMS Cost Reports to create the HomeCare Elite List of agencies. The following Adventist Health System agencies were included in this year's HomeCare Elite:

Chapel Home Health in Zephyrhills, Florida
Florida Hospital Home Care Services in Orlando, Florida

Florida Hospital Memorial Home Health in Ormond Beach, Florida
Gordon HomeCare in Calhoun, Georgia (also recognized as a top 100 agency)

Home Care of Metroplex in Killeen, Texas
Memorial Hospital Home Health Care in Manchester, Kentucky

Shawnee Mission Home Health Care in Shawnee Mission, Kansas

"It is great to receive this prestigious national recognition affirming our commitment to providing patients with the best possible care while managing the business side effectively," said La Donna Blom-Antonio, corporate director for home care at Adventist Health System.

—BY MELANIE LAWHORN

Forty-five Volunteer for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Rather than taking a day off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Adventist University of Health Sciences students had a “day on,” with 45 students, family members, staff, and community members volunteering to serve at two organizations.

The first group went to the Mustard Seed of central Florida, a non-profit that provides food, furniture, and clothing to the economically distressed of central Florida. The volunteers sorted clothes, organized the warehouse, and cleaned outside the facility.

“The most memorable part was seeing the reac-



A volunteer organizes toys at the Mustard Seed of central Florida on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 21, 2013.

tion of the staff when we finished cleaning and organizing,” said Khadeeja Sweeney, second-year biomedical sciences student, who decided volunteering was the best way to celebrate her birthday weekend.

While the first group worked behind the scenes at the Mustard Seed, the second group visited patients at the Orlando Health and Rehabilitation Center, a facility that provides care to long-term patients of all ages. Sasha Valente, first-year nursing student, felt a bond with one dementia patient in particular.

“I painted a woman’s

nails, and as I spoke to her she held my hand like I was her own daughter,” Sasha said. “I could tell that my visit with her really meant a lot.”

One thing both groups had in common was realizing how much need there is in local communities.

“There are things I take for granted that thousands of people are really grateful for,” said Stephanie Acimeus, first-year biomedical sciences student. “It was a great experience, I was lucky to be part of something so meaningful.”

—BY SARAH CROWDER

Scholars Featured at Weekly Academic Symposiums

When the first academic symposium was held in September 2012, a new tradition began at Adventist University of Health Sciences.

The weekly symposiums bring healthcare professionals and Adventist University faculty, administrators, and students together to discuss scholarly interests, academic specialties, or intellectual and clinical accomplishments.

The symposiums are a venue to learn simply for the sake of learning. Russ Butler, professor in the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences, said that this environment

allows for a stimulating educational experience.

“It instills interdisciplinary thoughts and team scholarship. Students are learning contemporary intellectual interests,” Butler said.

The symposiums also provide information about future professions. At one symposium Rick Stevens, Dr.P.H., area TB coordinator for Florida Department of Health, spoke and encouraged students to go into a field they were passionate about.

“Some of you may be wondering about your future careers,” Stevens said. “I had a passion to protect



Rick Stevens, Dr.P.H., area TB coordinator for Florida Department of Health, spoke to Adventist University students and faculty at the symposium on January 23, 2013.

the public, and I’ve been very fulfilled in my profession.”

So far the weekly meetings have been well-received.

“Sometimes the students are blown away by what they hear,” Butler said. “There are no tests; it’s an environment for them to listen, learn, and interact with faculty, administrators, and professionals in the field.”

—BY SARAH CROWDER

Eric Hagan Ordained in Wilkesboro, N.C.



RON QUICK

Pictured with Eric and Christin Hagan are Rick Russell, Conference treasurer; Leslie Louis, Conference president, and his wife, Carole; Gary Moyer, Conference secretary; Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial director; and Mike Hill, pastor.

Even the icy roads on Sabbath, January 26, 2013, couldn't stop them. Many traveled the slippery roads to the country church in Wilkesboro, N.C., to witness Eric Hagan, pastor, as he was set aside in the sacred act of ordination to the Gospel ministry.

It was in the summer of 1999 when Hagan's aunt, Linda, was impressed

to share a book entitled, *Truth That Matters*. Once Hagan read it, he wondered how the previous churches he had attended could have missed so much. Instead of blaming others, he took responsibility and planned to attend the Seventh-day Adventist church in his home town of Pulaski, Tenn. Hagan invited his aunt to join him

the following week. He and his aunt were baptized October 9, 1999.

After his baptism, he sensed a call to full-time ministry. He attended both Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University, where he graduated in 2006. Hagan received a call to the Gulf States Conference to be the associate pastor in Panama City, Fla. It was there in Panama City

where he met Christin. The couple were married in the summer of 2008. Immediately following their wedding, they received a call to join the Carolina Conference to pastor the Wilkesboro and Lenoir district in North Carolina.

The Hagans have one son, Eastan. Together they are truly a ministry team for the Lord.

—BY RON QUICK



RON QUICK

Church Planting Creates Healthy Churches

Mark Patterson lives in Huntersville, N.C., but commuted every Sabbath to University City Church in Charlotte, N.C., a nearly half-hour drive each week.

"Why not plant a church right here in Huntersville?" Patterson thought to himself.

Well, that's exactly what he did. He approached fellow members of University City Church, and with much prayer and divine guidance, they've established the Huntersville

Lighthouse Church.

And one remarkable side note: University City Church's average yearly attendance is the same today as before members left to plant the new congregation. Instead of losing members, they've gained a sister church which now has a membership of nearly 40! As they say...when God is for it, who can be against it?

—BY RON QUICK



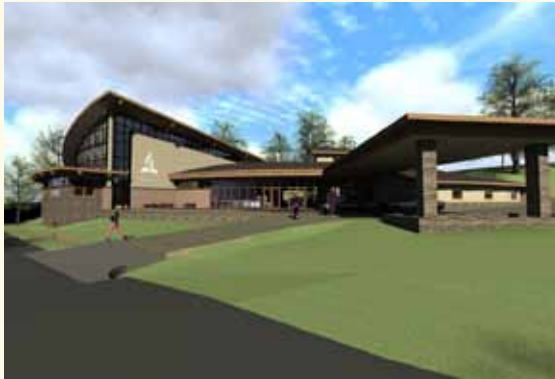
RON QUICK

Ryan Asblock (left), University City Church pastor, and Mark Patterson proudly pose with the new Huntersville Church plant.

Asheville North Enters Phase Two of Building Project

Eleven years after celebrating their first worship service in their new facility, Asheville North Church in Asheville, N.C., is beginning a major fundraising campaign toward building phase two of the project: the sanctuary building. Though the church has been debt-free on phase I for three years, continuation of the project has been delayed due to the unstable economy. The time has been well spent in the architectural planning phase, working with Mark Gillis, a Seventh-day Adventist architect in the local Asheville area. The plans he has drawn reflect both a functional and beautiful facility.

Phase two will house a 250-seat sanctuary, a lobby, classrooms, and an activ-



ity room in an economical two-level design of approximately 18,000 sq. ft. Additional parking and a covered entry will also be included in this phase.

After approval of the plans by the church board and church membership, efforts have already begun toward making the new facility a reality. The growth will enable continued focus on sharing Christ with the community and growing the existing membership, which is currently more than triple the original

charter membership.

Asheville North is involved in on going evangelistic efforts, health education for the community, and outreach to the nearby university population of UNC Asheville. A new mission this year is monthly participation in the nearby Mt. Pisgah Church's "Sonrise Community Outreach" project of feeding approximately 120 homeless people a fresh, hot breakfast on Sabbath mornings. The atmosphere is one of Christian music,

free literature, opportunity for Bible study, and brotherly love through the personal service of around 30 church volunteers.

Asheville North members know they are where the Lord wants them to be, and that He has a great work for them in north Asheville.

For more information on the expansion project and outreach opportunities, go to www.ashevillesda.com.

—BY FLORIE ROGERS

Sumter Makes Community Services a Priority

The Sumter, S.C., Church recently celebrated three and a half years of service to Sumter and surrounding communities through their community services program. The church's Lifeline Community Service Center has been operational since February of 2009. They distribute food

and clothing to residents of Sumter, Lee, and Clarendon counties.



Samuel Bonham, pastor, is pictured receiving a commendation during their three-year anniversary celebration in May of last year.

At the end of 2012, the community services center had distributed food to more than

1,300 families. This number includes repeat client services for those who come back once each month. They desire to exceed this number in 2013.

—BY ALICE R. JOHNSON

CORRECTION:

Upstate Christian Academy was featured in the February 2013 *Southern Tidings* as being located in Greenville, N.C.; it is located in Greenville, S.C.

Eliathah Members Experience the Upper Room

“Have you ever wondered why the disciples had such death-defying faith? What gave them the courage to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the Earth in spite of such overwhelming odds? Why were they so different after Pentecost?” asks Mark Finley in *10 Days In the Upper Room*. Captivated and convicted by his study of the Upper Room experi-

ence, Noel Rose, pastor, led members of Eliathah Church, Tamarac, Fla., into a life-changing experience prior to the start of a fall revival.

Results of earnest intercession were visible from the opening night of the revival, the Family Enrichment Series, presented by Alanzo Smith, D.Min., Ed.D, director of personal ministries, Sabbath School, men’s

ministries, and family counseling at Greater New York Conference, Manhasset, N.Y. As on the day of Pentecost, the church was filled to capacity with record attendance. Even with two morning services, Sabbath celebrations saw overcrowding as a serious challenge.



ERROLBLAKE

Noel Rose, Eliathah pastor, baptizes Gabrielle Williams, one of 40.



ERROLBLAKE

Eliathah Church hosted a record attendance during Alanzo Smith's, D.Min., Ed.D., Family Enrichment Series.

Smith exposed Satan’s crafty deception on the family as meetings progressed, and attendees continued to experience the abundant presence of the Holy Spirit as men, women, boys, and girls surrendered their lives to Jesus. True Pentecost was realized as 40 precious souls gave their lives to the Lord in baptism on the final Sabbath.

Walking in the footsteps of the disciples as they followed the instructions of Jesus, to tarry and earnestly pray, believe, confess, surrender, be in one accord, and wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, was the sole reason for this Pentecost experience.

—BY WENDY FORREST AND DAVID THOMAS

Gainesville Pathfinders March in Parade

Marching in the University of Florida Gator Homecoming Parade, down one of the busiest streets of Gainesville, Fla., 35 Pathfinders in their uniforms, with

a color guard, decorated float, and drum line, made themselves known in a city recognized mostly for its secular college atmosphere. Young people from Gaines-

ville Spanish Church were joined by those from Southeastern Conference’s Bethel Church to represent Seventh-day Adventists in the annual Friday parade.

It is the second year for Pathfinder involvement in this fall classic that sees thousands of residents lining University Avenue to witness the city’s largest parade of the year. The club invested hours of planning and decorating into their preparation that led to the privilege of being shown



KARLA RIVERA

Local PBS affiliate WUFT Channel 5 provided a live broadcast of the parade.

on a local television station.

The Pathfinders of Gainesville continue working hard to further the advancement of God’s truth, and welcome each opportunity to be a beacon of light in their community.

—BY ADRIAN PANETO



LEONARDO VELEZ

Thirty-five Pathfinders from Gainesville Spanish Church and Southeastern Conference's Bethel Church participated in University of Florida's annual Homecoming Parade.

Kendall Church Members Honored

Five long-time, active members of Kendall Church in Miami, Fla., celebrated age 90-plus birthdays during 2012.



Hugh Crarey



Ethlyn Gordon



Marjorie Mundell



Jean Richards

25 years ago. Before Kendall Church was built, Mundell's home was the site of many prayer and board meetings.

With thankfulness to God, the lives of these individuals were recently recognized for service in His Work and for the blessing they are to the congregation.

Pearl Bell (no photo available) is known as a strong supporter of her church. Her friendly smile and gentle demeanor helped Kendall Church become recognized as the

friendly church.

Hugh Crarey served as an elder and interim pastor during his service of more than 24 years at Kendall Church. He still attends every Sabbath and blesses the services singing hymns of praise with his rich baritone voice.

Ethlyn Gordon holds the distinction of being the oldest member. She has

mentored and inspired both young and old. Seeing her on Sabbath mornings gives every age group the inspiration that being 95 is not too old to faithfully serve the Lord.

Marjorie Mundell, along with her husband, Roderick, are charter members of Kendall Church after it grew out of its mother church, Miami Temple, more than

She strongly supports the work of her church in the community it serves.

Jean Richards has willingly served her church as an officer for more than 20 years. She was employed for many years as a nurse and still gives sound medical advice to her church family.

—BY ALRIE MUNDELL

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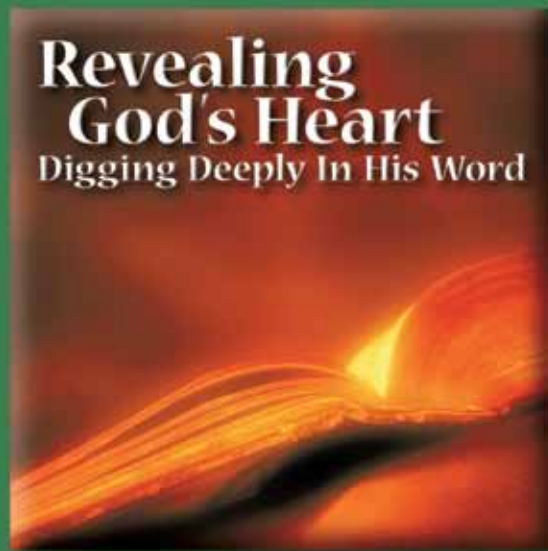
Dave Smith

Senior Pastor,
Collegedale Seventh-day
Adventist Church,
Collegedale, Tennessee

Richard Davidson

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<http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

Daniel's Blog: Whose Hand is Your Brain In?

Daniel Harper was a young man who threw himself unreservedly into everything he did — from skateboarding, guitar, schoolwork, and videos, to going after the girl of his dreams. Daniel loved a challenge and didn't do anything halfway.

Daniel was bold, he was a risk taker, and he was competitive. When Daniel was diagnosed with a malignant glioblastoma brain tumor in the summer of 2007, his approach was pretty much the same: go after it with all the energy and intelligence he had.

The same summer he was diagnosed with brain cancer he proposed to his high school sweetheart, Logan Ehlert. The two met at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Logan said, "yes," in spite of Daniel's uncertain future. They would take on this new challenge together, and they did.

Cancer changed Daniel's life. While he never lost his passion, enthusiasm, sense of humor, drive, or desire to achieve, Daniel's focus began to change. His once held desires to achieve big things were radically changed as God transformed and renewed his purpose for living.

Sixteen months

before Daniel died, he began sharing on a blog, "Precision Points of a Called Christian." Daniel was a great writer, and his edgy humor and articulate way of driving home an important spiritual truth caught the attention of many who followed his blog. Daniel shared his thoughts and ideas, but as his walk with Jesus deepened and the intensity of his illness progressed, his writing became a channel

for communicating what he was learning about faith, suffering, priorities, relationships, and more.

As his faith deepened, Daniel began to see his cancer in a new light. Just shy of a year before he died he wrote:

"If I could go back three-and-a-half years to my first diagnosis/surgery, when the docs said I had about a two percent chance of making it three years, I wouldn't change anything. I wouldn't wish it away or somehow undo what has taken place in my life. It has totally

changed me, and each step in the journey is a lesson to learn."

God provided what was needed to bring *Daniel's Blog* into existence. The book became a reality December 2012.

Daniel's voice is only going to become stronger, and the impact of his testimony will grow as people read *Daniel's Blog*.

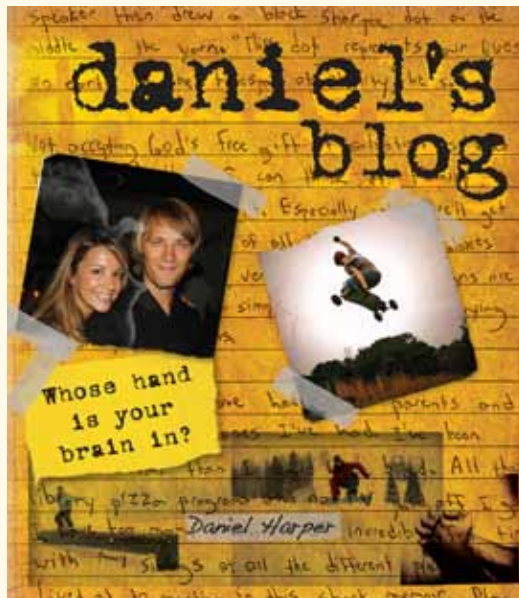
To get a copy of this book, contact Nancy Gerard at Georgia-Cumberland Academy: nagerard@gcasda.org, 706.625-7166, or go online to www.gcasda.org.

Special pricing is available for groups wanting to use the book for outreach.

—BY NANCY GERARD



When Daniel Harper was diagnosed with a malignant glioblastoma brain tumor, he started writing a blog on the experience. His quick wit and love for God shine through in a recently released book, *Daniel's Blog*, that shares about his experiences. The book is available at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, www.gcasda.org. He is pictured with his wife, Logan.



Daniel Harper lived life with gusto. He didn't let a thing like cancer change his intensity, but cancer did change his life as his walk with Jesus strengthened. This book shares Daniel's blog until his death at age 25 in August 2011.

“Raw, Vegan Meet-Up” a Community Winner

It's true. On the fourth Monday of the month, people travel up to an hour to take part in a “Raw, Vegan Meet-Up” at the Johnson City Church in Tennessee. About a year ago Nancy and Mark Clayburn started the group that has 20 to 40 participants. Each person brings a dish for the potluck, plates, tableware, and a card with the recipe. While the creatively prepared food is an attraction, what keeps people coming back is the practical teaching sessions presented by the Clayburns



The “Raw, Vegan Meet-Up” group at the Johnson City, Tenn., church meets the fourth Monday of each month. They sample dishes, share recipes, and enjoy fellowship.

and the fellowship.

The group sessions begin by interviewing two or three people who tell their story of lifestyle change.

For example, at a Meet-Up session several months ago, Vlad Stefanovic shared how he had recently gotten so strung out on junk food — a caffeine soda and something sweet every hour or two — that he was tired all the time and started developing health problems. He adopted a strict vegan diet. “I couldn't be-

lieve it — within a couple weeks my energy came back, and I feel great,” he shared.

The teaching sessions have included demonstrations on dehydrating foods, juicing, and culturing veggies, as well as lectures on lifestyle change, and videos. The advantage of the Meet-Up is not just the opportunity to sample new, healthy dishes, but the support from others — some starting and others who just want to increase their knowledge.

Meet-Up (www.meet-up.com) costs \$144 for listing a group's activities, and is a great way to promote. Contact Nancy Clayburn at mncayburn@gmail.com or by calling 423-823-8443.

—BY PAULL DIXON

Duluth Launches Day of Prayer, Blessing

The Duluth, Ga., Church launched its “Day of Prayer and Blessing” on businesses in the Duluth area on December 8, 2012. Each year the Worldwide Church, as part of its missions, asks its members and friends to donate to Hope for Humanity (formerly called Harvest Ingathering). This is a time where individuals participate and actively solicit donations that will be used in building schools, clinics, orphanages, and provide food, equipment, and medicine in poor countries.

Hope for Humanity is the new face of one of the longest and most effective humanitarian ministries in the history of the Church. For more than a century, Seventh-day Adventists

have reached out to their communities to share in the support of the compassionate ministry of Jesus.

This year, church members dressed in their various ministry T-shirts or Adventurer and Pathfinder club uniforms, and took to the streets and malls of the busy Duluth shopping corridors of the Pleasant Hill and Satellite Boulevard areas. They asked local small businesses for permission to pray for the success of their business as they left cans for donations.

Hope for

Humanity is all about hope. The Church helps build schools and hospitals because they are places where hope will flourish. They work with mothers and children because strong families are built on

hope. They teach adults to read and write because of the optimism and confidence in the faces of the women and men. That's why for more than a century the work of Hope for Humanity has been to

reach out with hope to those impoverished by poverty, disaster, or misfortune (www.hope4.com).

One hundred percent of donated funds are used to help someone in need.

—BY SONIA RICHARDS



Members of the Duluth, Ga., Church went out into the community to pray for local businesses, and left donation cans for Hope for Humanity.

F3 Tornado Strikes Adventist Families in Georgia

Several families were impacted when a F3 tornado hit Gordon and Bartow counties in Georgia on January 30, 2013.

The home of Del and Elsa Patton, Calhoun, Ga., Church members, was hit hard.

The tornado caused great damage to the Patton's home, their son's home right next door, their car, and their boat. Thankfully, both Del and Elsa are safe and praise God they have a heavenly home waiting for them.



Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response coordinator Terry Haight (left), and warehouse manager, John Veldhuizen, stand in front of Georgia-Cumberland Academy volunteers as they sort and unpack items to be distributed to the tornado disaster victims.

ing in our house, about 11:20 a.m., the weather radio went off and said a storm was coming by Kingston. It went off again, a neighbor called, and the electricity went off," Ivan said. "We decided to get to a closet. Two minutes later, the trap door to the attic went up in the air and landed in front of us. I looked up and saw daylight."

Part of their roof and their entire living room was gone. They knelt and thanked God for their safety.

Ivan said the community has really helped. Their church members have brought them food, the local middle and high school have provided meals, and he especially appreciated GCA sending students to help.

"It is encouraging to see Adventist members' support," said Gary Rustad, Calhoun Church pastor.

Mirako Pozo, a sophomore at GCA, is originally

from Ecuador, and has never seen anything like the damage from a tornado.

"We got here, and it was really shocking," Pozo said. "We got into it — picking up wood, throwing wood in the fire, picking up trash and glass. I'm happy I took time out of my day to help someone."

Hudson Feliciano, a GCA sophomore from Tennessee agreed. "I think it is good we get to come together and help people. You have to be a family in times like this, and this really brings people together to help those in need."

Even more importantly, it gives students a practical application of a Christ-like response, said Greg Hudson, GCA chaplain.

"You learn lots in the classroom, but we want to instill in students a sense of service," he said.

That sense of service is a thread that runs throughout the Adventist community. Along with the students' help in cleaning up the destruction, Terry Haight, Georgia-Cumberland Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (GCC ACS DR) coordinator, was notified of the situation, and the State

of Georgia requested help on a government level. ACS DR set up in a warehouse in Calhoun, and began working with the disaster victims and sharing supplies on February 7.

ACS DR is taking donations and needs items like food, cleaning supplies, or work gloves. At a later date, they will need items to help people re-establish their homes.

"Things do appear to happen more and more often," Haight said. "Two years ago, we had a tornado go through our area in April, the next one was in March, and now here we are in January with tornadoes."



Elsa Patton (far right) looks at the tarp covering the majority of her home. This Calhoun Church member's home was hit hard by the tornado. She was not at home, but her husband Del was, and he took cover in the bathroom.

Items may be dropped off at 647 Highway 53 E., Calhoun, GA 30701. Details: 706-879-2870 or email acs-drgc@gmail.com or acswarehouse1@yahoo.com.

You can find the most recent updates about ACS DR on gccacs.blogspot.com.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



Elsa and Del Patton

Elsa said the church family support has been wonderful, and having the Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) students has been great.

A few miles away, the home of Calhoun Church members Ivan and Barbara Hansen was also struck.

"Last Wednesday morn-

Praise Tabernacle Members Enjoy Outdoor Family Life Day

Family Life Day had a new twist for the members of Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C. Family Life leaders Jessie and Portia Davidson thought out of the box, and created a Sabbath to “Experience God in Nature.”

Sabbath School was held as usual, but it was unique. Every member met together and families were grouped together. If there was a member who didn't have a family present, they joined or were adopted into a family for the day. A written Bible quiz was passed out to each family, and time was given to complete the items as a family. The Bible verse answers told of things that were a part of God's nature. Who would've guessed that “spider web” was in the Bible?

After Sabbath School time, the entire congrega-

tion, who had come casually dressed for the day, carpooled to Lake Waccamaw National Park — an idyllic area complete with trails, lake access, beautiful foliage, and wonderful weather. Families were given maps of the trails, and time was spent in finding those items that were discussed in the Bible text during Sabbath School. Picnic lunches brought by the families supplied the afternoon meal, and visitors and members alike had plenty to eat as families shared their food.

One particular visitor was so impressed by the congregational closeness and love that he promised to bring his family back. He was one of the nurses who cared for a previous patriarch at Praise Tabernacle,

Smith J. Mills Sr., more than 17 years ago during a terminal illness, and was happy to see his surviving widow, Bettye Mills, who greeted



Praise Tabernacle youth listen to the Park Ranger talk about reptiles.

him with thankfulness and open arms.

After lunch, the children were excited to get a visit from the Park Ranger who gave a nature lecture on reptiles. Real specimens of an alligator and snakes added to the interest and appeal of

the lecture as smiles and tentative touching of the reptiles were done by the children. Taking advantage of the whole Sabbath — discussions, interactions, trail walking and just sitting in nature — rounded out the Sabbath hours.

Jesse Davidson, family life co-leader, did Vespers after a rousing round of songs by the energetic worshippers. “Side by Side We Stand”

was the closing song as the shadows fell over the park, and the memories formed of what a Sabbath in nature combined with church family love can be.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.

Ephesus Church Holds Revelation Seminar

God's message came alive as Godwin Mitchell Jr., presented the Revelation Seminar message to the members and visitors of Ephesus Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Lives were touched, and many souls were saved. Visitors gave



Godwin Mitchell Jr., pastor, congratulates Kathy Bailey for making the choice to get baptized and follow Jesus.

testimonies of how the Revelation Seminar enhanced their lives. “The key thing to me now is being obedient to God, regardless of how I was brought up,” said Tonya Pemberton. Pemberton indicated that

she had always worshiped on Sunday, but she was enlightened that Saturday, the Sabbath, is the right day. “I have always lived as a Christian and carried myself in a good manor. I was really amazed about the information given,” she stated.

Sisters Lila and Kathy Bailey attended the seminar faithfully, expressing that they “didn't want to miss out on anything.” At the end of the Revelation Seminar, Kathy Bailey was

convinced that she needed to be baptized, and wasted no time getting herself prepared with God and arranging to be baptized. “Now I know the truth, and I really want to do what is right,” said Bailey. She was baptized, and went back to Philadelphia where she resides. She is now a member the South West Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

—BY E. JEAN PITTS

Defuniak Springs Hold Special Communion

When the Defuniak Springs, Fla., Church members scheduled their communion for a Friday evening, they had no idea what a blessing it would be. The first part of the service followed a normal routine, which included a short sermon, followed by the service of humility, and then partaking of the bread and juice. After a heart-touching story centered around the theme, "The Way of the Cross," the members were asked to stand on paper that had been unrolled and completely covered the center aisle; a long stemmed rose was handed to each participant. When everyone had a rose they were reminded

that Jesus was the Rose of Sharon as a passage in Isaiah 53 was read.

Members were then told to drop their roses on the papered floor and stomp on them. One member said, "It was a hard thing to do, and then the connection began to sink in. It was my sin that crushed Jesus. It was my sin that broke Him apart and hung Him on a cross."

After prayer, members left quietly, and were asked to place their name on slips of paper using red watercolor markers which they tacked on a six-foot cross that stood outside.



Participants were asked to drop their roses and then stomp on them.

paper on the cross, and their names written in red watercolor had begun to run. It looked as if they were written in blood that was dripping. "It was our sins that put Him on the cross, but it was His blood that saved us," declared many.

"We've now decided that this communion service is the best we've ever experienced," explained Martin Fancher, pastor.

—BY MARTIN FANCHER

The next morning the participants noticed that the dew had permeated the

Auburn-Opelika Members Journey Through Bible Prophecy

Five individuals who made their decisions to follow Christ were baptized on December 8, 2012, at the Auburn-Opelika Metro Church, Opelika, Ala. Beginning October 26, 2012, the members invited the community to go on an eight-week journey through Bible prophecy, under the direction of Paul Kulakov, pastor. The subject for the first night



Paul Kulakov, pastor of Auburn-Opelika Church, welcomes the new members.

was "What Does the Future Hold," and the series ended on December 1 with the subject, "The Best is Yet to Come." Kulakov made a few promises that dur-

ing the nightly seminars, the Bible would be the only textbook, and everyone would be blessed, challenged, and encouraged as they attended.

The members joined together to help. A health program was conducted by Benson and Victoria

Akingbemi. Special music was presented by various members and children's groups. One member said, "The Holy Spirit was amidst

us each evening and we could see God's blessings in the hearts of those attending."

Special books *The Desire of Ages* and *Steps to Christ*, along with other reading materials, were given each evening, and those who attended 12 nights were given a Bible along with copies of the nightly lessons for each one to take home for further study. Kulakov is continuing further studies with others who attended.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA

Literature Evangelist Shares His Experience

At the end of January, David Sigamani, publishing director for the Gulf States Conference, reported a more than 300 percent increase in literature evangelists' sales over the previous January. A part of this increase has been the recruitment of several new workers. One of those workers is Stacy Banks, who works in the Birmingham, Ala., area.

In 2003 Banks moved with his family to Alabaster, Ala., as a result of a job transfer. "Never did I imagine this move would be a transitional point that would forever change our lives," says Banks.

Banks had been studying the Bible and became convinced that Saturday, not Sunday, was the biblical Sabbath. He began looking for a church congregation that worshiped on Saturday. After much



Mel Eisele (seated, left), Conference president, and David Sigamani, Conference publishing director, with literature evangelists and their families

searching, Banks found a Seventh-day Adventist church, and with his family he began attending. He says, "I was impressed by the wisdom of the elder who was conducting the Sabbath School study, and how he expounded upon the Scriptures and compared Scripture with Scripture."

Not long afterward, Banks was aroused by his 100-pound pit-bull/boxer mix, Buddy, barking. Buddy never allowed strangers to enter the Banks' yard, so

Banks was surprised when he opened the door and a young man about 15 years old stood there. Banks exclaimed, "Young man, do you know that my dog may have attacked you for entering

our property?" The young man answered, "Oh, I am not afraid." His calm demeanor and boldness contrasted to his small stature amazed Banks so much. He allowed the young man to show and sell him a set of *Bible Story* books. "The Lord confirmed His will by sending His faithful messenger shortly after we attended the Adventist church. Those books served as a daily devotional for my family for many years," he said.

Since becoming a

literature evangelist, Banks has heard that people always remember the person who sold them the books. "I know this to be true because I will never forget the countenance of the young man who presented the books to me more than eight years ago. It is now

abundantly clear that the Spirit of the Lord was upon this young man, and holy angels where at his side, confounding my faithful guard dog. Never would I have imagined years later that

I would be going door-to-door sharing the Gospel and *Bible Story* books with families. The young man must be around 23 years old today, but I will never forget my first experience with a literature evangelist," Banks concludes.

—BY REBECCA GRICE



Stacy Banks

New Pastors Dedicated to Pastoral Ministry

Both-Montgomery, Ala., First Church and Columbia, Hattiesburg, and Laurel, Miss., church district have new pastoral couples. On January 12 Samuel and Amber



Amber and Samuel Riemersma



Amy, Shane, and Henry Hochstetler

Riemersma were welcomed to the Montgomery Church, and a few weeks later Columbia, Hattiesburg, and Laurel, Miss., churches

welcomed Shane and Amy Hochstetler, and baby, Henry. Riemersma and Hochstetler were both ordained in their churches as local elders and dedicated to the special work of pastor by Mel Eisele, president of Gulf States Conference.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Madison Academy Students Make Christmas Special for Homeless Family

It is funny how God puts you where He wants you to be at just the right time. That's exactly what happened this past Christmas season.

The students from Madison Academy were out serving the community in various locations in and around Nashville. Two of the locations were a men's homeless shelter and a women's facility. Somehow there was a mix-up, and the students were told to go to the women's facility when they were actually scheduled to go to the men's shelter.

When they arrived at the women's facility, there was mass confusion; they had brought an extra 10 students that they were not prepared for, and the men's campus across town was 10 volunteers short. There was not enough time to drive across town and be able to help at the men's shelter before the lunch rush. So, the students stayed, and they were gracious enough to find jobs for each of them.

A woman in her 20s walked in with tired eyes, tired feet, and a tired soul. She was pushing a double stroller with three children, all under 26 months, jammed into the stroller. She got in line, got two plates, took them back for the twins, Jayden and Jordan, and got them started on their meal. Then she got another plate for her-



Alex Hill, Madison Academy junior, prepares for party.

self, and in between bites helped her seven-month-old son, Dillon, eat his finger food and drink his bottle. It was obvious that our collective hearts were going out to this family. The world had worn her down, and we just wanted to be a blessing to her in some way.

I went over and sat down next to her and started talking with her. She told me about her children and a little about her story. Her name is Rochelle, and they lived in the shelter, had no privacy, and could only stay there for a limited time. She told me about her husband, Brian, who lived at the shelter across town, and could only see his family a couple of times a week because he couldn't afford bus fare every day, and was busy selling papers on the corner to help support his family. He used the money he made to buy diapers and formula for the



Krista Min, Madison Academy junior, wraps gifts.

baby. Her greatest hope was to be able to move into the "projects" across the street from the shelter, so the whole family could be together.

I thought about Christmas, and the fact that they would spend it in a shelter with no money to buy gifts for the children. The students and I knew what must be done. I got a contact number, we said our goodbyes, and started to hatch our plan. The students got back to school and spread the word about the family. We formed a list of needs and things they might want for Christmas, and sent them out to the students and their families. The response was overwhelming! Presents were piled under the Christmas tree in the chapel. More than \$1,000 and gift cards came in. The students decorated the chapel, and set up a table filled with food and goodies. They were

going to give this family the greatest Christmas party they had ever experienced.

They came in that night, eyes wide open. The children had never seen anything like it. Wrapping paper was being torn off of gifts with reckless abandon. Dillon was being passed around like a brand new doll in the dotting arms of one student to another. Pure joy was echoing out of the chapel that evening! Brian was so overwhelmed by emotion that he broke down in the middle of the celebration. He told me later that he had never experienced such love by strangers in his entire life. He had been to many churches and church-related events, but the love of the Madison Academy students blew everything he had ever experienced away.

I can't help but think that we are a lot like Brian and Rochelle. We are broken, tired, and hurting. We are constantly looking for a "better way." Jesus is preparing the greatest celebration for us right now! I can't wait to experience that love face to face, and be held in my Father's dotting arms.

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON,
MADISON ACADEMY CHAP-
LAIN

Conference Welcomes New Education Superintendent

On January 9, 2013, the mantle was passed from Larry Boughman, Ph.D., who has served the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for 13 years as education superintendent, to Chris Juhl, Louisville Adventist Academy (LAA) principal. The Education Department is excited to have Juhl as the new superintendent. With his new role, he will also continue to be principal at LAA until the end of this school year.

Besides being a principal, teacher, and coach, Juhl has been an exceptional leader in the Conference. The first school he was assigned to as principal/teacher was a school that was slowly losing students. With his hard work, dedication, recruiting skills, and love for Adventist education, enrollment almost doubled the following year. He started a five-day hot lunch program, music lessons, P.E. uniforms, and an organized athletic program. Again, his ability to grow a school was evident when he became principal at Louisville Jr. Academy. Under his leadership, the school with 35 students went from grades 1-8 to a thriving K-12 school with 80 students. Because of this growth, a building was added for 11th and 12th grades, and the name changed to Louisville Adventist Academy. Juhl also started a sports program at LAA. This program is more

than just fun. It is an opportunity for ministry and outreach in the community.

Because he is a gifted writer and loves literature, Juhl has authored literacy units for grades 5 through 8 for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. These literacy

dedication and talent to their classrooms. Last year, Juhl was one of 10 teachers across North America to be selected to receive the Alumni Awards Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award.

Juhl graduated from

Cumberland, Florida, and Indiana conferences.

He is married to Regan Juhl, who is presently the school secretary at LAA. The Juhls have five children, including twin daughters who attend Highland Academy.



Larry Boughman, Ph.D. (right), turns over leadership reins to Chris Juhl, newly elected education superintendent.

units have gained popularity, and are being used as the reading curriculum by a number of conferences throughout the North American Division.

Quality teachers are the heartbeat of great schools. The Alumni Awards Foundation honors excellent Adventist teachers who have brought untiring

Washington Adventist University (formerly CUC) with a B.A. in English and teaching certifications in religion and history. He holds an M.A. in English from East Tennessee State University. He began his teaching career 26 years ago, and has taught everything from kindergarten to college. He has also taught in Georgia-

This is an exciting time to be a part of the education team in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, as Juhl takes the leadership role in helping the schools grow and be the best they can be.

—BY PAM WILLIAMS,
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT
OF EDUCATION

South Central Team Assist in Hurricane Sandy Recovery

FEMA and the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services (ACS) Disaster Response requested South Central Conference (SCC) Adventist Community Services Disaster Response to deploy to New Jersey a “strike team” for recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic tropical system on record made landfall on October 29, 2012, along the northeastern seaboard.

SCC assembled the strike team from among the hundreds of trained ACS volunteers within the Conference. There is on-going disaster response training throughout SCC. Federations within the Conference are encouraged to have first-response teams that are able to respond to disasters. FEMA and other courses that will

enhance the effectiveness of all teams involvement in disaster recovery are encouraged.

A strike team is a highly specialized team that travels by invitation to areas outside of the Conference to manage goods in warehouses, distribution, and/or collection sites.

The travel invitation came from FEMA and NAD to assist the New Jersey Conference and the state of New Jersey to manage the donated goods that were sent for the survivors.

The SCC strike team arrived in Robbinsville, N.J., on November 30, 2012, to assist in the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort.

While on site, the strike team trained other ACS volunteers to continue the management of the facility once their deployment was over, keeping



South Central Conference “Strike Team 6”: Betty Lee (left, front), Lillie Buckingham, Pearl McGinnis, Willie Bridges (left, rear), Veronica Edwards-Johnson, and Wayne Blanding

in mind that all disasters begin locally and end locally.

The team consisted of team leader Lillie Buckingham, Betty Lee, Veronica Edwards-Johnson, Willie Bridges, Wayne Blanding, and Pearl McGinnis.

This is not the first time a strike team from South Central has received an invitation for

deployment to a disaster operation outside of its territory. Teams have been deployed for the 911 attack in New York City, the Iowa flood, and the 2012 Indiana killer tornadoes.

The team returned home prior to the Christmas holiday.

—BY LILLIE BUCKINGHAM
AND BARBARA BARNES, ACS
CO-DIRECTORS

Bethany Members Hold Community Relations Day

Community Relations Day is an annual event at Bethany Church. It is community connection with family, friends, and community leaders. On October 13, 2012, the theme was “Extending our Walk With Jesus.” As the members grow personally in Jesus, it is with joy to extend this valuable knowledge of His love and the hope of His soon coming to a dying world.

Jeffery L. Watson, pas-

tor, and members invited many to a wonderful day of fellowship. The 2012 Community Services Award recipients were William Abemathy Jr., M.D., (retired); Edward Nettles Sr., pastor (“Enough is Enough”); Bryant Kelly; and Kevin King (Common Ground Montgomery Ministry). The afternoon concert featured the Alabama Boys, Bethany Gospel Choir, and other special guests.

During the years,

Bethany has served as a beacon of light to many in need of spiritual, physical, and mental nurturing. The members sponsor a daycare program and a Christian academy to equip boys and girls for a productive life.

The outreach ministries include a community services center which operates in heeding Christ’s admonition to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. The outreach connections include

ministering to inmates behind prison bars, nursing home ministry, evangelistic meetings, and senior adult ministries.

As God’s representatives and co-workers, the members are committed to extending the walk with Jesus and making known “the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

—BY DOROTHY SANDERS

Outreach Church Members Hold First Disability Awareness Day

And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ...So God created man in his [own] image...And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good," Genesis 1:26-28, 31. These words were echoed at the first Disability Awareness Day (D.A.D.) on June 16, 2012, at Outreach Church in Opelika, Ala.

Sabbath School kicked off a series of events facilitated by Nettie Henderson, South Central Conference director of disabilities ministries. Henderson, through the Holy Spirit, was able to connect the lesson, "Let the Church Know," to report witnessing efforts to the church members with regard



Antonio Holmes painted this beautiful mural that hangs over the baptismal pool at Outreach Church. (Artwork mural published with permission. Antonio Holmes ©2012.)

everyone would have an opportunity to support, become a friend of, be available for, and celebrate individuals with disabilities and special needs.

of impairment. Each individual shared their personal testimony, and how through God's mercy and grace they were able to overcome their challenges. They shared pain initiated by individuals who are unaware of the challenges experienced by people with special needs, or simply just insensitive to the needs of others.

Outreach members experienced an awesome character revival as a result of the Disabilities Awareness Day. They pondered, "Do we treat individuals with disabilities as silent members, or do we treat them with dignity and respect?" That is what D.A.D. is all about — teaching others to celebrate and embrace humanity. They came to the conclusion that all are created equal in God's eyes, everyone has some form of disability, and Christ came to restore loveliness to a world ruined by sin.

Carlena Barker, disabilities ministries coordinator at Outreach Church, states, "With this awareness, Outreach included in its Awareness Sabbath a concert by Mary Grace, an inspirational pianist who has a special need."

In the words of Antonio Holmes, "I do not see myself as a person with a disability. I just look to the Bible where God said that after He created everything, He looked at it and said, 'It was good.'" Antonio Holmes was born with an orthopaedic impairment, but the works of God are made manifest in him. God has given



As seen on 3ABN and pictured in this article, Mary Grace does a stunning job as she plays the piano with one hand.

Holmes the talent of art. He was asked to paint a mural to hang over the baptismal pool at Outreach Church where James Norman is pastor.

—BY CARLENA BARKER



Robert Barker (left), Nettie Henderson, Valeria Gibson, James Hudson, Tebran Mubammad, Antonio Holmes, John Wilson, and Janice Chambers pause for a group photo.

to individual successes and challenges. She encouraged utilization of the initiative called "Friends of People with Disabilities," where

The panel of guests included the blind, orthopaedic impaired, visual impaired, those suffering from depression, and other forms

Wintley Phipps Sings During President Obama's Inauguration Prayer Service

Wintley Phipps, pastor of Palm Bay, Fla., Church, performed during a prayer service at the National Cathedral during the inaugural festivities for President Barack Obama's second term. Phipps has performed for United States presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

Phipps is also founder and chief executive officer of the Dream Academy, a nonprofit that provides educational assistance for some 18,000 at-risk children in 10 cities across the country. It focuses on the children of prisoners with the goal of "breaking the cycle."

The 58-year-old ordained minister has produced 22 albums since 1984, and was nominated for Grammy Awards in 1988 and 1989. He has



Wintley Phipps, pastor of Palm Bay, Fla., Church, poses with President Barack Obama prior to singing during the prayer service that was held at the National Cathedral during the 2013 inauguration festivities.

been interviewed on the Oprah Winfrey Show; appeared on Robert Schuller's television program; and performed for Billy Graham Crusades, at Rosa Parks' 77th birthday gala

at the Kennedy Center, at the Vatican, and at the 1984 and 1988 Democratic National Conventions.

The Dream Academy raised \$2.6 million in the most recent year of record,

including nearly \$900,000 from government grants, a million dollars from individual donations, and more than \$600,000 from benefit concerts. Board members include a number of prominent Seventh-day Adventists, such as Admiral Barry Black, chaplain of the United States Senate; Ben Carson, M.D., a medical school faculty member at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.; Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.; and David Williams, Ph.D., a faculty member at Harvard University.

Phipps was born in Trinidad and grew up in Montreal, Canada. He graduated from Oakwood University and completed a seminary degree at Andrews University.

—ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK STAFF



President Barack Obama, his wife, Michelle, and Vice President Joe Biden applaud after Wintley Phipps' performance at the National Cathedral.

Brent Waldon Appointed Conference Ministerial Director

On December 9, 2012, the Southeastern Conference Executive Committee appointed Brent Waldon to serve as Conference ministerial director, a post that was left vacant by the sudden death of Milton Sterling on October 11, 2012. Prior to this appointment, Waldon was serving as Conference stewardship and trust director, a post that he was



ROBERT HENLEY

appointed to during the Southeastern Session held May of 2012.

Waldon possesses a bachelor of arts degree in theology from Oak-

wood University, Huntsville, Ala.; and a master of ministry degree from the Andersonville Theological Seminary, Andersonville, Ga.

Waldon, who has

served as an Adventist minister for more than 30 years, has pastored the following churches in Southeastern: Berean Church, Brunswick, Ga.; Daughter of Zion Church, Delray Beach, Fla.; Ebenezer Church, Dania, Fla.; Lebanon Church, Miami, Fla.; Mahanaim Church, Pahokee, Fla.; Maranatha Church, WayCross, Ga.; Mt. Olivet Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Mt. Pisgah Church, Miami Gardens, Fla.; Mt. Sinai Church, Orlando, Fla.; and Trin-

ity Temple Church, Belle Glade, Fla.

As ministerial director, Waldon will serve as the pastor's pastor. He will also oversee the ministries of elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

One of his goals is to better equip the pastors of Southeastern to shepherd their flocks in this post-modern era.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

Grace Youth Power Initiative Produces Baptisms

Grace Youth Power (GYP) is a youth group that meets every Friday night at Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga. More than 20 young people meet with Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship, and his wife, Kamala, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., simply to talk. Taylor guides the group's discussion on various topics, but the purpose of the group is simply to provide a confidential and safe environment where the young people can talk about the things of life.

Several Friday nights ago, Johnathan Welch, a GYP member, brought his friend, Joel Anderson, to the group. Anderson enjoyed it so much that he visited Grace Fellowship

that Saturday morning, prayer meeting that Wednesday night, and was back at GYP on Friday night.

Anderson kept coming to church, and on December 22, 2012, he became a member of Grace Fellowship Church through baptism. On that same day, Deandre Robinson was also baptized. Robinson has been visiting the church with his girlfriend, Lauren Dobson, for quite some time. Approximately two weeks before his baptism, out of the blue, he called



Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Valdosta, Ga., baptized Joel Anderson on December 22, 2012. He joined the church as a result of attending the Grace Youth Power youth group initiative.

Winston Taylor and asked him, "What must I do to be baptized." The words from Acts 16 formed the pastor's response — believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Robinson, having professed his belief in Jesus Christ, was baptized along with Joel Anderson.

—BY ANAKAYE FAGAN

Oakwood University Professor Receives Highest Certification from Human Resource Certification Institute

Prudence LaBeach Pollard, Ph.D., received certification on January 9, 2013, as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR®) from the HR Certification Institute (HRCI).

Pollard who was previously certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR®) is professor of management in the School of Business, and assistant vice president for faculty development and research at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. Her areas of scholarship include leadership, human resource management, evaluation, and research design.

Pollard earned her Ph.D. in evaluation, measurement, and research design from Western Michigan University, and maintains an active research portfolio on executive



leadership and on gender issues in compensation.

The HRCI, established in 1976, is an internationally recognized certifying organization for the human resource profession. Today, more than 120,000 HR professionals worldwide proudly maintain the HR Certification Institute's credentials as a mark of high professional distinction. The HR Certification

Institute is a global leader in developing rigorous exams to demonstrate mastery and real-world application of forward-thinking HR practices, policies, and principles.

The SPHR® certification is the highest certification available to HR professionals. The certification exam can be written by HR professionals with demonstrated professional HR experience who design and plan, rather than implement HR policy; focus on the "big picture"; have ultimate accountability in the HR department; typically have six to eight years of progressive and increasingly complicated HR experience; have breadth and depth of knowledge in all HR disciplines; use judgment gained with time and knowledge application; understand the business

beyond the HR function; and influence the overall organization.

The three-hour exam covers six areas of human resource management: business management and strategy, workforce planning and employment, human resource development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations, and risk management.

Pollard has authored a number of scholarly papers and recently published *Raising Leaders*, which is available in print and eBook format at www.amazon.com, www.adventistbookcenter.com, and through Oakwood University at www.ougiving.com.

Pollard is a 1995 and 2012 graduate of Leadership Huntsville, and is married to Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University.

Announcements

Southern Singles Ministries Spring Retreat – March 15-17. Camp Lookout, Rising Fawn, GA, near Chattanooga. Theme: God Has a Mission for Each of Us. Speakers: Jim and Carolyn Sutton from Adventist World Radio. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend – March 22-24. Contact sfacundo@swuc.org or julioamim@hotmail.com with questions.

Atlanta Metro Church 40th Homecoming Anniversary – March 29. Friday at 6:45 p.m.,

Metro musicians' music program, and speaker Jon Green. March 30, the Sabbath speaker is Ed Wright, GCC president, and Chris Montrose, pastor, will lead a rededication service.

Former members and friends are especially invited. Details: Keith Ruybalid, 404-289-6540.

Oakwood Academy Alumni Dinner – March 30. Von Braun Center South Hall. Huntsville, AL. Ticket purchase: <http://www.oa.oakwood.edu/>, click Alumni. Details: Hazel Richardson, 256-890-0513. Deadline is March 20.

Union College Homecoming – April 4-7. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend – April 12-14. Visit www.wau.edu/alumni or call 301-891-4133 for details.

Napoleon B. Smith SDA Academy Alumni Weekend – April 12-14. Details: Franchis Cook at nbsmithalumni@gmail.com. Visit: www.nbsmithalumni.com.

Southern Singles Ministries Welcome Spring Party – April 13. Don Howe's Farm north of Chattanooga, 6 p.m. Details: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

Oklahoma Academy Days – April 19-21. Details: 405-454-6211 or www.oklahoaaacademy.org.

org.

La Sierra University Homecoming – April 19-21. Celebrating 50 years of Adventist Colleges Abroad. Details: Julie Narducci, alumni@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2578, www.lasierra.edu/alumni.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend – April 26-28. Celebrate our 91st year! Details: 951-351-1445, x244, jnelson@lsak12.com and LSA website, www.lsak12.com/alumni.

Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend – April 26, 27. N. Aurora, IL SDA Church. Details: Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net or 630-232-9034.

VeggieTales Creator Warns Students: Don't Allow Dreams to Become Idols

If you like to talk to tomatoes, and a squash can make you smile ... Southern Adventist University's guest speaker Phil Vischer had a show for you!

The *VeggieTales* creator, and voice of numerous characters in the series, made a special visit to campus in January for several talks and meetings with students. During the morning convocation, Vischer spoke of how he worked tirelessly to create *VeggieTales* before losing everything in a bankruptcy court. His company was sold in a public auction, leaving Vischer to wonder why God would take away something He used for good. But once he stepped away from the situation for a while, the



VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer spent the day at Southern speaking with students, including a question-and-answer session in the School of Visual Art and Design.

answer became clear.

"Dreams, even good dreams, can become idols

if they become bigger than God," Vischer told students. "The work I was doing for God was not as important to Him as the relationship I had with God."

Later on in the day, Vischer stopped by the School of Visual Art and Design for a question-and-answer session that kept returning to a common theme: how to understand God's will.

"The more you walk with God, the more the creative ideas coming out of your head will be in line with what God wants," Vischer said. "Don't focus on outcomes, focus on obedience."

Vischer's topic for the evening convocation was

burdens. After bankruptcy forced him to take a sabbatical from the entertainment industry, Vischer found that he was able to continue doing spiritual work without the enormous strain and burnout previously endured. His new series, *What's in the Bible*, is the product of that newfound energy.

After his last presentation, Vischer spent a gracious amount of time talking with the audience, doing the voices of Bob the Tomato and other characters for the "children" in attendance, and emphasizing one of *VeggieTales*' biggest messages: "Remember kids, God made you special, and He loves you very much."

—BY RAQUEL LEVY

Southern "Intersects" with Community Through Massive Volunteer Effort

For the last 20 years, the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Southern has had an added significance as students and faculty go out into the greater Chattanooga, Tenn., community to give back. Event participation has grown each year, and 2013 was no exception as approximately 1,000 students and faculty volunteered at more than 40 sites on January 21. The University's Christian Service Program and Student Association partnered with the United Way of Chattanooga's Center for Nonprofits to coordi-

nate the day's activities.

Before students left campus to begin volunteering that morning, Savannah Maxwell, community service director for the

Student Association, took the stage in Iles P.E. Center and gave a short worship that included a challenge to students and faculty.

"Jesus' whole ministry

was about intersection, and we have an opportunity to intersect with people today," Savannah said.

This year each student organization was assigned a specific location, and the president of that club was designated as site leader. A variety of institutions were served, ranging from nursing homes to nature centers. Event planners anticipate organizations will make lasting connections with these sites and return on their own to volunteer more in the future.

—BY CHARLES CAMMACK



Approximately 1,000 students and faculty volunteered in the Chattanooga, Tenn., community for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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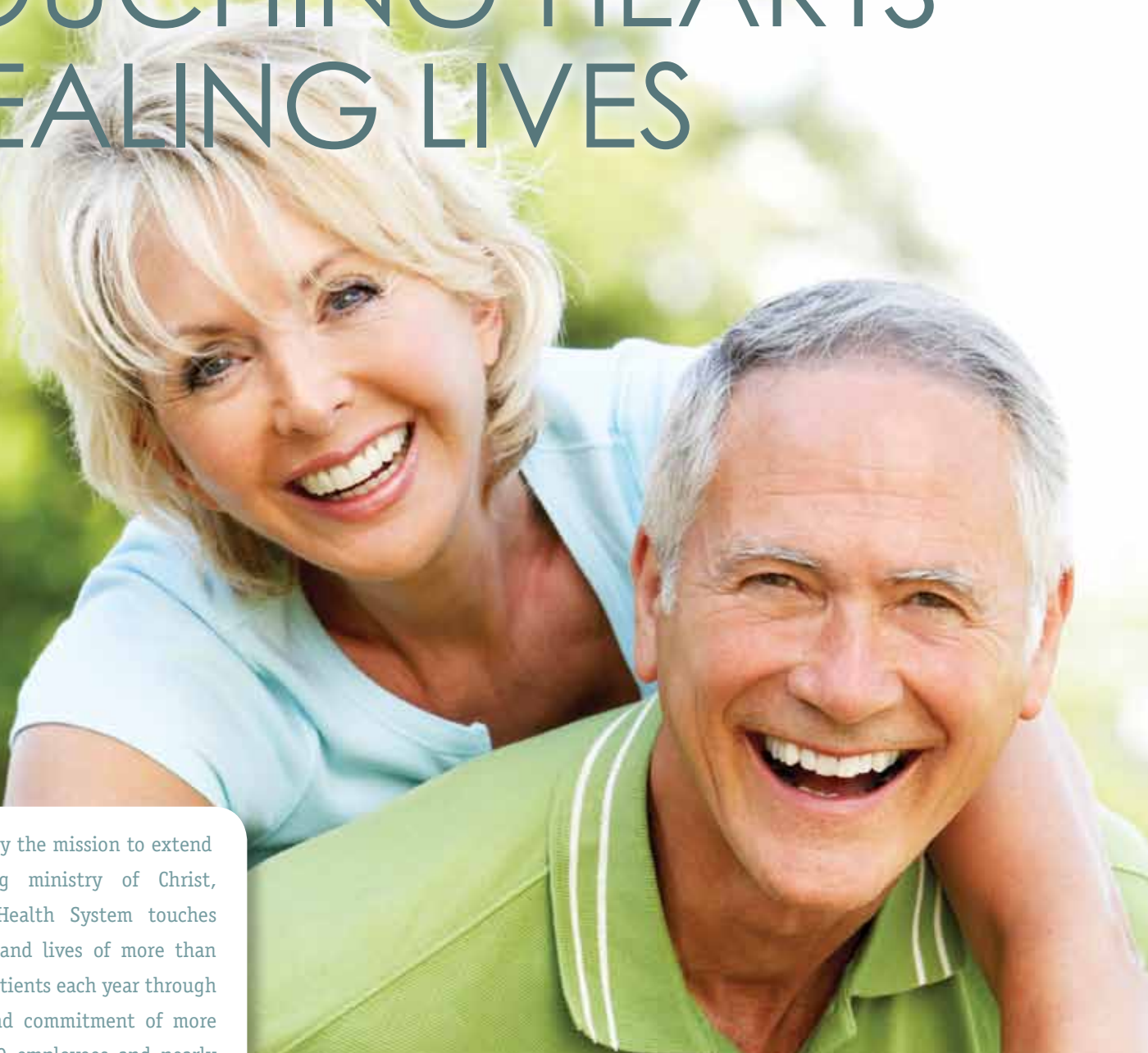


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art come to the kingdom for
such a time as this?"*

Esther 4:14

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JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL is looking for physicians to work in our hospital. We are currently seeking the following positions: **Family Practice, Family Practice/OB, Orthopedic, Nephrology, Internal Medicine**. Please contact Jason Dunkel @ jason.dunkel@ahss.org or 423-784-1187 for more information. [3-8]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a **law student** for a 6 to 8-week summer clerkship in 2013. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send resume and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org! [3]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Social Work seeks full-time faculty. Candidate must have MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and a PhD in related field. Candidates should be able to demonstrate CBT skills. Must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, an SDA church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a curriculum vita via email to René Drumm (rdrumm@southern.edu), Dean, School of Social Work, Southern Adventist University. [3, 4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Computing invites applications for a **computing professor** for fall 2013. A graduate degree in computer science, software engineering, computer information systems, or computer engineering is required; candidates with a doctoral degree are preferred. Duties include teaching undergraduate computing courses, directing student projects, research, advising computing majors, and serving on University committees.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **graduate faculty** to join our mission-focused team at the MSN and DNP levels. Candidate must hold current family/adult NP certification. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching and advanced practice nursing experience, flexibility, and commitment to SDA education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the SDA Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [3-5]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for the position of **Program Director for a new Physician Assistant program**. A master's degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Adventist University is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to: Dr. Len M. Archer, Assoc. VP for Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; len.archer@adu.edu. [3, 4]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, Orlando, FL is seeking a **Physical Therapist Program Director** beginning 2013. The Program Director will provide overall academic leadership developing this program and salary will be competitive. Requirements: doctoral

degree from regionally accredited school, PT academic experience, eligible for FL PT licensure. Preferred: senior faculty status. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vita, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams, Sr VP Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; don.williams@adu.edu. [3, 4]

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for an **accounting, finance or economics professor** for their new Master of Healthcare Administration program. A doctoral degree is required. Submit CV to: Dr. Benita David, Chair of Healthcare Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; benita.david@adu.edu. [3-5]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as **Dean of the School of Education & Psychology** to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. [3]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an **Associate/ Full Professor for Physical Therapy**. Qualified candidates should have an earned entry level physical therapist degree from a CAPTE accredited program. An earned advanced doctorate is preferred. Must have two years of teaching experience and two years in management serving in a leadership role. For more information and to apply visit: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi. [3]

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ANDREWS ACADEMY seeks a **Religion Instructor** for 2013-2014 school year. Master's

degree preferred, with teaching experience. For more information and to apply visit: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi. [3]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **full-time nurse educators** in the areas of mental health, community health or pediatrics. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Contact Dr. Lenora Follett at 817-202-6670 or lenora.follett@swau.edu. [3-5]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a **Director of Academic Support and Advising**. Master's degree in developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Contact Dr. Amy Rosenthal at 817-202-6212 or arosenthal@swau.edu. [3, 4]

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking **physicians in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology**. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; emailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our website at www.adventistclinic.com. [3]

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking an experienced **Chief Clinical Nurse** to provide strong leadership and operational support to our multi-specialty medical team. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; emailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our website at www.adventistclinic.com. [3]

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Advertisements

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PHYSICIAN: MD/DO/Naturopath. NP/PA: Opportunity of a lifetime at Wildwood Lifestyle Center! Two physicians and one NP/PA needed to complete our medical team. Will train in lifestyle and natural therapies. Missionary positions available at the only SDA facility of its kind in the USA! E-mail Dr.Zeno@wildwoodhealth.org. [3, 4]

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LOSE WEIGHT, FEEL GREAT! SEMINAR. Change your life – eat healthfully, control stress, exercise for energy. Hands-on cooking classes (total vegetarian, whole foods). Mar 24-April 7; April 14-28; May 5-19 (\$790). Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [3]

COUNTRY LIVING FAMILY FUN! SEMINAR – For all ages. Hands-on practical skills classes; devotionals focus on Reviving the Heart; interesting and spiritually rejuvenating. April 7-14; June 30-July 7 (singles \$370; family discounts available). Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. See daily schedule: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [3]

VICTORIOUS LIVING SEMINAR – Victory over alcohol, stress, depression, smoking, appetite, drugs. God's simple, scientific, and Biblical plan for living a victorious life. Hydrotherapy treatments and massage. Presentations include: Decision Making, How the Brain Works, Breaking Habits, How Drugs Affect the Mind, The Shaping Influence of Environment, etc. Mar 17-24; April 28-May 5 (\$795). Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. Contact Lew Keith: 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org. [3]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees. [3-5]

HIGHLAND ACADEMY, HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HIGHLAND SDA CHURCH, & SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE are located approximately 35 miles north of Nashville away from the busyness of city life. All teachers are certified using cutting edge curriculum. Our national test scores are above the national average. Student employment abounds at Signature's 100 bed nursing home. Our church family is active and welcomes all. Come visit Highland: 615-325-3925. [3]

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Piedmont Community Services Federation – March 9. High Point.

Pathfinder Work Bee/Campout – March 15-17. NPR.

Alive Youth Rally – March 22-24. Spartanburg Church. Speaker: Sam Leonor, La Sierra University Campus pastor. Admission is free. Details: www.alivesc.com.

Women's Ministries Certification Workshop – March 22, 23. Charlotte.

Children's Sabbath School Workshop – March 24. TBD.

Elders' Retreat – March 29, 30. NPR.

Church Planting/Growth Rally – April 6. Charlotte University Church.

Adventurer Fun Day – April 7. Nosoca.

Florida

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

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

March 23. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

March 24. Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

March 23. Norland in Miami.

March 23. Wesley Chapel Spanish.

April 6. Apopka.

April 11-13. English-language Camp Meeting. Camp Kulaqua.

April 19, 20. Spanish-language Camp Meeting. Camp Kulaqua.

April 27. Jacksonville Southpoint.

New Beginnings Health Revival Week – March 24-31. North Miami Church. Details: tnobrega@bellsouth.net or 786-344-3155.

Forest Lake Academy Annual Alumni Golf Tournament – March 25. RedTail Golf Club. Details: lebrunc@forestlakeacademy.org, or 407-772-3729.

119th Annual Florida Camp Meeting – April 11-14. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: "Revealing God's

Heart—Digging Deeply In His Word." Speakers: Dave Smith, Richard Davidson, Roscoe Howard. Details/registration for accommodations/meals: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

Campestre Hispano (Spanish-language Camp Meeting) – April 18-21. Camp Kulaqua. Theme: "Conociendo el corazón de Dios—profundizando en su Palabra." Speaker: Homero Salazar. Registration for accommodations/meals: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

Greater Miami Adventist Academy 4th Annual Golf Tournament – April 21. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Details: <http://www.gma.edu/html/pta.html>, ctrevilcock@gma.edu, or 305-220-5955 x151.

Spanish-language Singles' Retreat – May 23-26. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: rebeca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 321-439-1321, or 407-6440-5000 x138.

Georgia-Cumberland

GCA Days – March 15, 16. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

God in Shoes – March 15. Chatsworth, GA.

Women's/Teens Retreat—"God's Greatest Random Acts of Kindness-Love" – March 15-17. Cohutta Springs Camp. Crandall, GA.

"Invitation" LifeGroups Training – March 16. Sharpsburg, GA.

Pathfinder Drill Event – March 17. Lee Univ. Cleveland, TN.

Sustainable Preparedness Seminar – March 18, 19. Johnson City, TN.

Hispanic Women's Retreat – March 22-24. Cohutta Springs.

Youth/Young Adult Festival – March 23. NW GA Trade & Convention Center. Dalton, GA.

Health Rally – March 23. Rogersville, GA.

Atlanta Metro Church 40th Homecoming Anniversary – March 29. The weekend will start Friday evening with a music program by Metro musicians and speaker Jon Green at 6:45 p.m. Sabbath, March 30, the speaker is Ed Wright, GCC president,

and Chris Montrose, pastor, will lead a rededication service. Former members and friends are especially invited. Details: Keith Ruybalid, 404-289-6540.

Adventurer Family Fun Weekend – March 29-31. Cohutta Springs.

Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries

March 30. Savannah Church, Pooler, GA.

April 6. Algood Church, Cookeville, TN.

South GA Camp Meeting – April 5, 6. Macon, GA.

ASI Southern Union Spring Conference – April 11-13. NW GA Trade & Convention Center. Dalton, GA. Details: www.asisouthernunion.com. Call to register or exhibit: 404-299-1832, x449.

Sweetwater Church Community Guest Day – April 13. All are welcomed. Keynote speaker: Lonnie Melashenko, former Voice of Prophecy speaker/director. Services 9:30 a.m. Lunch provided. Details: 770-906-6058. Church address: 3630 Humphries Hill Rd., Austell, GA. 30106.

Family Ministries Training – April 13, 14. Conference Office. Calhoun.

Pathfinder Camporee – April 19-21. Cohutta Springs.

Gulf States

BMA Board/ Board of Education – March 5.

Cross Examination – March 16, 17. Huntsville, AL.

Outdoor School – April 8-11. Camp Alamisco.

Executive Committee-Budget Analysis/Statistics – April 9.

Spring Motorcycle Ride – April 13, 14.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 8, 9.

Music Festival – March 14-16.

Highland/Madison Academy Boards – March 14. May 9.

Louisville Festival of Faith – March 15, 16.

Conference Executive Committees – March 26. May 7.

Prayer Conference – April 12-14.

Pastors'/Elders' Retreat – April 19-21.

Board of Education – April 25.

South Central

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Institute – March 6-10. Oakwood University. Huntsville, AL. Details or to register: 615-226-6500, x143.

Oakwood Academy Alumni Dinner – March 30. Von Braun Center South Hall. Huntsville, AL. Ticket purchase: <http://www.oa.oakwood.edu/>, click Alumni. Details: Hazel Richardson, 256-890-0513. Deadline is March 20.

Southern Adventist University

Symphony Orchestra Concert – March 17. Collegedale Church. Concert is free and open to public. Details: 423-236-2880.

PreviewSouthern – March 21, 22. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Details: 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Sunset						
	Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Apr. 5
Atlanta, GA	6:38	6:43	7:49	7:54	7:59	8:05
Charleston, SC	6:21	6:28	7:31	7:38	7:41	7:46
Charlotte, NC	6:23	6:29	7:35	7:40	7:46	7:52
Collegedale, TN	6:40	6:46	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:08
Huntsville, AL	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:03	7:09	7:14
Jackson, MS	6:02	6:07	7:12	7:17	7:22	7:27
Louisville, KY	6:41	6:48	7:54	8:01	8:07	8:14
Memphis, TN	5:59	6:05	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28
Miami, FL	6:25	6:29	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:42
Montgomery, AL	5:46	5:51	6:56	7:01	7:06	7:11
Nashville, TN	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:04	7:10	7:16
Orlando, FL	6:28	6:33	7:37	7:40	7:44	7:48
Wilmington, NC	6:12	6:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:39

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