

January 2015

TSOUTHERN TIDINGS

Stand
firm
and **see**

Religious Liberty

Holy
Bible

The Thankfulness Habit

We hear a great deal said about habits in school, at work, and at play. However, it nearly always means bad habits. Why should we not think and speak much about good habits? They are as real — and almost as great — a power for good as bad habits are for evil.

We do our work largely by the aid of habit. Habit fosters one in playing the piano or writing on a computer. As a matter of function on pianos and computers, the fingers fly with the very smallest amount of attention and exertion. A person who is aged will daily engage in a quantity of work that will surprise their friends, and it is possible because they work in the trends of lifelong habit. Besides, the only possible way to keep out of bad habits is to form good habits. If a person has been the slave of evil habits and wishes to be permanently free, he or she must proceed by systematic and persevering effort to establish corresponding good habits. The education of our children both at school and at home, the self-education of our early life, consists mainly in the formation of habits.

The thankfulness habit tends to quell repining. We are all prone, especially during the holiday season, to complain of our lot when most things aren't going well. All of us have at some time imagined, and perhaps declared, that we have a particularly hard time in this world. It is to be hoped that in other moods we are heartily ashamed of ourselves for such repining. How does one prevent its recurrence? A most valuable help will be the habit of thankfulness to God.

The thankfulness habit tends to enhance enjoyment. We all know during the holiday season that when we receive a gift with any true sentiment and any suitable expression of thankfulness, the reaction of gratitude augments our gratification.

The thankfulness habit serves to soothe distress. Persons who are greatly afflicted with no identifiable propensity to thankfulness sometimes find the memory of past joys only an aggravation of present sorrow. It is otherwise with one who has learned to be habitually thankful.

Remember, too, how our seasons of affliction make real to us the blessed thought of divine compassion and sympathy. When you look with parental anguish upon your own suffering child, then you know as never before the meaning of those words, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those that fear him," Psalm 103:13. When you find the trials of life hard to bear, then it becomes unspeakably sweet to remember that our High Priest can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, having been "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," Hebrews 4:15. Thus affliction brings to the devout mind blessed views of the divine character, which otherwise we should never fully gain.

I challenge you during this New Year to consider the fact that good habits cannot be maintained without attention. They require a certain self-control and a studious self-constraint. Is not the thankfulness habit worth taking pains to maintain?



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

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Stand firm and see

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

“Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you,”

1 Chronicles 20:17

It was a normal workday in early June 2008 when I responded to a call from a Georgia-Cumberland Conference church member, Kimberly Crider. Kimberly had recently moved to the Knoxville, Tennessee, area, and she was having problems at her new job in the first week of work. Oh, no! But, this is one of the things we live for in the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty — helping Church members get accommodated in the workplace. Kimberly was excited about the prospects of working for the University of Tennessee (UT) in the Center for International Education as a programs abroad coordinator. She quit her job in Michigan and moved to Tennessee. Working with both American and international students is a fast-paced and ever changing job, perfect for Kimberly’s warm and enthusiastic personality. It sounded like a case that would easily be resolved.

Being diligent, Kimberly approached the issue of weekend work during the job interview. She had carefully vetted the program itself to see if a Sabbath accommodation was going to be possible in this new job. She had paid careful attention to the job description and the hours. When she initiated the conversation about weekend work with the search committee, Kimberly was told that weekend work was flexible and she should not worry about it. Her response to the committee was, “Good, because I can’t work on Saturdays.” Throughout the hiring process and in every interview, she was constantly told that weekend work was all flexible. She felt safe in accepting the position when it was offered to her. In fact, she had prayed to get this job and felt it had been sent from God.

Within a few days of starting work, a new job duty was presented to Kimberly that had not been

listed in the job description or addressed at any of her interviews. Kimberly was going to have to be on-call rotating weekends, and she would have to carry an on-call cell phone. When she informed the director that she could not perform the duties of the on-call cell phone on Sabbath for religious reasons, the director gave her an ultimatum of working or finding another job. Suddenly the director was telling her that weekend work was a critical requirement of the job, and she would not have been hired had UT known she could not work on Sabbath.

Kimberly called our office and we put our heads together coming up with options we could submit to UT for a method of accommodation. Kimberly was resolved in her commitment to the Sabbath and felt that she could not, in good conscience, carry the phone when she knew that it would require working on Sabbath should it ring. Offers were made to carry the cell phone every Sunday. She offered to go and pick up the cell phone from whomever had it at sundown on Saturday evening. She offered to carry the phone for double the weekdays that the other two employees would have it. This would mean that other employees would only have to carry the phone for one week per month, while she took it for two weeks each month and every Sunday. None of these options was accepted because they were all deemed “unfair” to the other employees by the program director.

Within a month of getting the job, Kimberly, despite our best efforts, was terminated. I’ve worked more than 2,000 Sabbath cases for Church members, and I have to say that her case had better facts and evidence than almost any other single case I have worked on. She had given notice of her needs for an accommodation. She had provided the employer with options that gave her the brunt of the workload for the issue at hand, and she had even vetted the job in advance to ensure that Sabbath problems would not be an issue.

Kimberly had some rough times after she was fired. Both she and her husband were now unemployed. Because she was fired in 2008, just as the economy was going under, she remained unemployed for three years and did not find a full time job until 2011. All that time she continued to trust in God. God often shows us how he will take care of us through little things in life. Kimberly





had just been hired for a temporary job, and that evening he came home bearing gifts. His job had given him a couple of little bottles of dishwashing liquid. Kimberly says she remembers looking at those bottles and understanding that God was there to see them through, even in the little things. “I lifted up the situation to God in daily prayer, and He made sure that I knew that He was in charge, and that He would provide. Throughout the ordeal He showed me over and over again, ‘I’ve got you, Kim!’”

On average only one in every 300 Sabbath accommodation cases are good enough to take to court. Kimberly’s case was one of the few. At the trial the University of Tennessee acknowledged that they had not disclosed the required Sabbath work in advance. There was also no evidence that the on-call cell phone had received any calls during the Sabbath. Not only was accommodating Kimberly the right thing to have done, but it would not have created an undue hardship on UT to have accommodated her. Despite all this evidence in our favor, we were unable to prevail in the case against the employer.

For most people losing a legal battle would be a huge let down, but not for Kimberly. She still claims the promise of 1 Chronicles 20:17. She has taken her position, she is standing firm, and she knows there are things she has yet to see come out of her story.

I wish I could tell you that we resolve every Sabbath problem that we work with, but I cannot. I wish I could tell you that we win every case we take to court, but I cannot. What I can tell you is that the Religious Liberty Department is still working diligently with our members to help to protect your conscience beliefs. I’m convinced through evidence that “those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” will not have an easy life. But, it also doesn’t mean that we as a Church should sit by and do nothing to defend liberty of conscience. Imagine going before Jesus and having to answer for the things you have not done. ✨

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of public affairs and religious liberty at the Southern Union Conference in Norcross, Georgia.

remembers a day when she was washing dishes. Down to the last few drops of dish washing liquid, she started to wonder how she was going to be able to afford more dishwashing liquid. Her husband



"Security
doesn't
come from
a job. It
comes from
trusting in
the Lord."

KIMBERLY CRIDER

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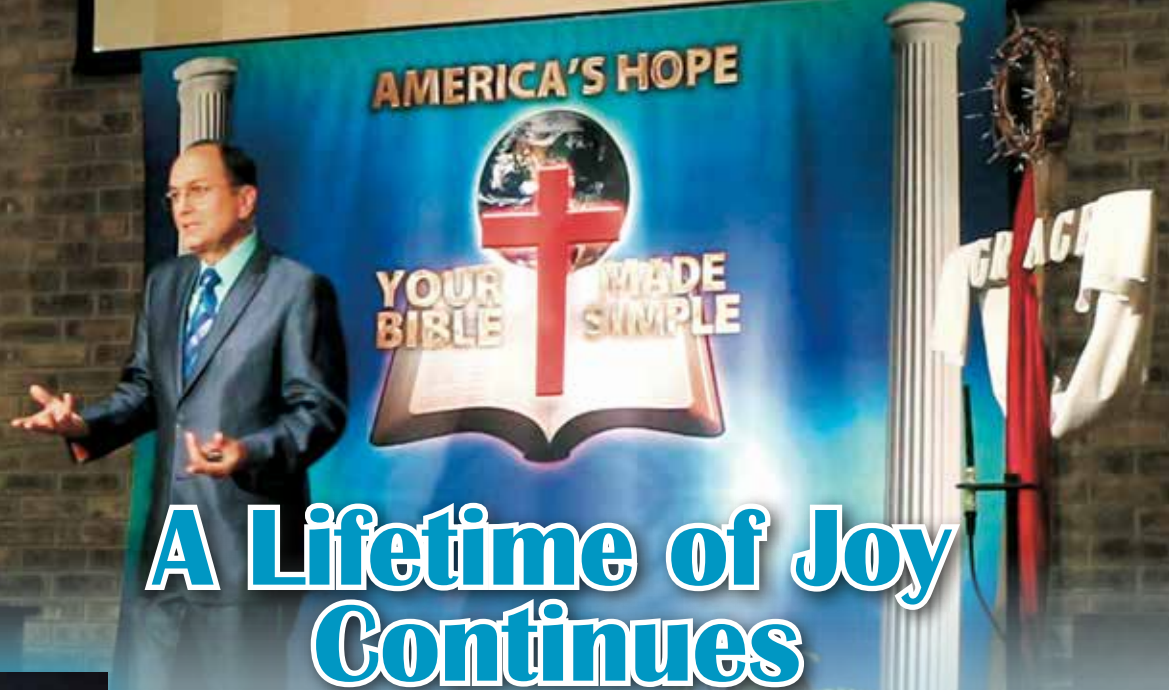


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Religious Liberty Association (NARLA) today. **Join**
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Having a **Sabbath Problem?**

Here is what you
need to know:

1. You must give your employer notice that you are in need of a religious accommodation.
2. Let your pastor know or contact the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty as soon as you know you have the problem. Do not wait until the last minute to handle a Sabbath problem!
3. Don't quit. This can affect your ability to get unemployment benefits.
4. Don't let your employer pressure you into agreeing to something you are unsure of. Explain that you will need to check on the issue and get back with them. Then call or email us.
5. Keep the issue before God in prayer.
6. Stand firm and see ...



A Lifetime of Joy Continues

BY GLADYS NEIGEL



RON QUICK

Evangelists Bill and Sunshine Waters are still working for Jesus in their retirement.

What do evangelists do when they retire? Do they move from their house on wheels to a permanent place in a retirement community? Do they move to a desert island?

Upon their retirement in December 2014, Florida Conference evangelists Bill and Sunshine Waters chose to reduce the number of series they conduct, yet continue the work they love. On a contract basis, they will still hold evangelistic presentations throughout the Southern Union.

“Any conference or church would be blessed to contract Bill and Sunshine in their semi-retirement for a series of meetings,” says Ralph Ringer, director of church growth/evangelism training for Southern Union Conference.

The Waterses began their ministry in college by assisting pastors Douglas Bennett and Smuts Van Rooyen with evangelistic meetings. “During this experience,” says Sunshine, “we felt the Lord calling us

to our passion for souls, which has brought us a lifetime of joy.”

They began this ministry 45 years ago, using a blackboard to illustrate the finer points of the Adventist message. Since an evangelist must be on the cutting edge of technology to draw an audience, Bill added a slide projector and screen. He later upgraded to three screens with nine slide projectors and a movie film projector, and currently uses computerized projections. The couple also use social media to further connect to audiences.

Bill and Sunshine Waters have changed lives relationally as well as through technology. They have planned weddings, organized youth departments, initiated outreach ministries, and started mentoring programs.

Out of their evangelistic meetings, they have saved lives both spiritually as well as physically. Temple Tips and Happy Heart Humor became part of the program, with Bill presenting food demonstrations. During a routine blood pressure check before a meeting, a man was immediately sent to

the hospital and most likely avoided suffering a stroke.

Even with baptizing thousands of people through the years, there are still faces and places that come to mind. One example is when Bill baptized Keith Morrison, Fernando Munilla, and Josie Oates, who made a difference in their churches serving as head elders. Oates, who serves on the Florida Conference Executive

Committee, says, “I thank God for an evangelist like Pastor Waters and his wife, Sunshine, who are mentors to me.”

Another example is when the pair arrived at a church of 10 members, and exercised their

faith by setting up 200 chairs in an auditorium. Police had to help direct traffic after 659 individuals came to the opening meeting. From that series, 61 were baptized. Later, one member started a radio program, and another was chosen as Layperson of the Year.

To schedule this highly qualified evangelistic team on a contract basis for your conference or church, or to order DVDs of past presentations, email evangbill@me.com or call 888-684-7172. ☞



Chef Bill Waters shares a healthy food sample during a portion of his Temple Tips presentation.



Bigger and Better

BY AMY CIRIGLIANO

Highland Academy students were on a mission for Bigger and Better during the month of October. The Bigger and Better game was the beginning of one of the many Highland Academy outreach days.

The students were separated into groups and given \$1 to begin their assignment. Each student group with a faculty member went into residential neighborhoods, knocked on doors, and asked if they would be willing to trade something that was bigger and better for the dollar. In turn, the item(s) or money collected would then be donated to help those in need in the greater Nashville, Tennessee, area.

After each group played Bigger and Better, students took their items to a local mission store to help the needy. Then the student groups went to downtown Nashville with \$10 per group and had a second assignment: find someone to help. Students went in search and soon found ways to help a variety of individuals. For example, a guitar string was purchased for a homeless man so he could play his guitar again, and a sweater was bought for a homeless woman whose sweater had been stolen.

Chaplain Nolan Williams shared, "It opened the students' eyes to others' situations, and their ability to meet the needs presented." Junior Isabella DeWeez added, "I noticed when we were asking

for donations for the needy, the larger homes gave less than the smaller homes. It reminded me of the widow in the Bible

who gave all she had. It inspired me to help those in need. As a result, several residential neighborhoods were able to participate with Highland Academy students in helping them meet the immediate needs of several



Student body dressed in outreach shirts

who gave all she had. It inspired me to give more."

As a result, several residential neigh-

borhoods were able to participate with Highland Academy students in helping them meet the immediate needs of several homeless individuals, and a significant donation was made to a local mission store for those in need. ❧



KENNETH HINES, JR.

BREATH OF LIFE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF DYNAMIC MINISTRY

BY RAMONA L. HYMAN, PH.D.

Excellence in Breath of Life Ministry during the years — Walter Artis, founder; Charles D. Brooks, retired speaker/director, Walter Pearson, retired speaker/director; and Carlton Byrd, D.Min., current speaker/director.

“In 1974 Walter Artis got a divine hunch, and God smiled on him as he launched the Breath of Life Ministry,” says Alvin Kibble, vice president for the North American Division and Breath of Life Board chairperson. Breath of Life, the first black religious broadcast in America, was conceived during a politically and socially transformative period in the American historical narrative. “It was after the first series of riots in southern California ... that the vision to develop a ministry to reach the black community was born.” Forty years later, Breath of Life continues to shine and flourish as an empowering ministry with a dynamic mission: “To present the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people groups from a contemporary, urban perspective.”

Oakwood University Church hosted a celebratory weekend on

November 7-8, 2014, honoring the Ministry, legacy, and history of Breath of Life. The weekend began with a Friday evening worship service. Attendees were musically “marched into Zion” by the current Breath of Life Quartet, Dynamic Praise, and Walter Artis, pastor. Meaningful tributes were sent via digital media from devoted Breath of Life supporters, including Ted N.C. Wilson, Ph.D., General Conference president, and Daniel Jackson, North American Division president. A beautiful memorial was presented in honor of Reginald Robinson, pastor, former associate speaker/director of the ministry, and Linda Walter, former manager of the Ministry. Sealing this God-filled evening was Walter Pearson, pastor, who served as the second speaker/director for Breath of Life, from 1998 to 2010. Pearson admonished the

audience to “do whatever will be the best for the honor of Jesus Christ and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Sabbath morning began with the church at study.” Kibble inspired a soul-convicting conversation around the Sabbath School lesson, “Faith That Works.” He reminded the audience that a faith in Jesus requires an “active response ... motivated by the Spirit of God.” Kibble’s advice for the audience: “If your faith is alive, then there should be some works there.”

A Prelude of Praise concert featuring high school and community choirs, including Oakwood Adventist Academy Choir, Pine Forge Academy Choir, Miami Union Academy Choir, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Choir, and Voices of Triumph, prepared the congregation for the divine worship experience. The participation of the choirs was

important to the celebration, as music has been a foundational chord for the Breath of Life Ministry.

The workshop service was a synergistic representation of Heaven: soul-stirring music; a beautiful baptism; and a heartfelt, seriously funny children's story about Hannah Green, a missing church member,—all of which prepared the audience for a thoughtful presentation honoring the Breath of Life Ministry by Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University. Showing collaboration and support, the University donated \$40,000 to the Oakwood University Church to purchase state-of-the-art viewing screens. Carlton Byrd, D.Min., the dynamic anniversary host and current speaker/



KENNETH HINES JR.

and started Breath of Life.” Carmiele Wilkerson, Ph.D., associate English professor at Oakwood University, said, “The Breath of Life anniversary

was an amazing tribute to an historic group who can easily be defined as one of the pillars of black Seventh-day Adventism.”



KENNETH HINES JR.

director, delivered a sermon of honor and praise for Breath of Life. In addition to honoring the Ministry's founder and former speaker/directors, Byrd reminded the audience that God “breathed, ordained,

and started Breath of Life.” Carmiele Wilkerson, Ph.D., associate English professor at Oakwood University, said, “The Breath of Life anniversary

was an amazing tribute to an historic group who can easily be defined as one of the pillars of black Seventh-day Adventism.”

was an amazing tribute to an historic group who can easily be defined as one of the pillars of black Seventh-day Adventism.” turing Charles D. Brooks, pastor and the first Breath of Life speaker/director, and a soul-stirring concert featuring some of the most talented Seventh-day Adventist musicians, including the original Breath of Life quartet, and the first guest soloist, Brenda Joyce Spraggins. Brooks, who also serves as the chaplain for the General Conference office, crowned the 40th anniversary celebration by encouraging the attendees: “I believe [the Seventh-day Adventist Church] is the Remnant Church ... I believe in the Spirit of Prophecy. The night cometh. Everyone of us will be tested as by fire. Don't lose sight of the presence of God.” “Breath of Life is a vehicle. God is using Breath of Life as a conduit to breathe

life into His people,” says Carlton Byrd. “God is using Breath of Life to usher in His last day message to prepare His people for His soon return. Praise God for Breath of Life!”

MEN: SETTING A STANDARD

BY ZACHARY BOYD

Earnest W. Miller Jr. was a faithful church member at Longview Heights Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He served as a dependable deacon who took care of his church. He was quiet and kept to himself, but was a hard worker, and consistently reached out to help people. He was known for seeing life through positive lenses — never angry or complaining about anybody or anything.

Miller exemplified standards the Longview Heights men's ministries is cultivating by effectively engaging and influencing the men in the church. It is not impossible with God's guidance, but it seems like a challenging task when viewing the statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice. Black males ages 30-34 averaged 93 percent of sentenced male prisoners under the jurisdiction of state and federal correctional authorities. The imprisonment rate consistently ranks higher than non-blacks and other minorities.

African-American men are criticized, placed under a microscope, and portrayed in negative ways. Longview Heights' men have decided they will not let negative stereotypes shape or discourage them. These strong, inspiring, intelligent, and spiritually-led men are encouraging others, especially young men, to do better for themselves and their families while spreading the Gospel of Jesus.

Longview men choose to encourage and support each other. An intentional attempt seeks to keep the men engaged in ministry at Longview and, more importantly, with God, "That the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good works," 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 2 Timothy 3:4.



The men and youth who attended the 2014 Men's Ministries Retreat in Coldwater, Mississippi, took a moment after church for a group photo. Under the leadership of Terry Keller, they work hard to help every man be the best he can be personally and spiritually.

Terry Keller, men's ministries leader, says, "Anytime I see another male going through something, I share my testimony with him." He says a simple, kind gesture would have kept many men from prison, or off the streets. Talking and listening to their problems and concerns, and helping them in any way possible can help many avoid jail.

Every October the men of Longview Heights take a 30-minute drive to Coldwater, Mississippi, for their annual men's retreat. This year the theme was "Committed, Consecrated, and Converted." Many youth spoke on issues they were dealing with at home, school, and in the community. At the midnight prayer service, one young man broke down crying about issues at home. That night almost every youth shared a praise report or testimony of how God delivered them from negative situations. Afterward, a prayer circle was formed, and they prayed to be more committed, consecrated, and converted.

Alex Horton, new pastor and first time attendee, reflected on the weekend saying, "The Holy Spirit warmed our hearts. There was a joyful oneness

as we worshiped, fellowshiped, and listened to our brothers who are walking with Jesus."

During the annual men's day in November, the men led out in the church services. On Christmas day, they joined other volunteers to serve dinner to the south Memphis community.

Recently, several men received the Earnest W. Miller Jr. Award for having consistency in what they do, demonstrating faithfulness to God, and participat-

ing in hard work in ministry. Donald Buchanan, who completely turned Longview inside and outside by cleaning and making repairs to the church; Robert Dabney Sr., a firefighter who helps people with safety deficiencies and helps young men improve their lives; and Robert L. Jones, who mentors the youth, were recipients.

Men want to feel wanted and needed. They want to be an influence in the church and to others. It starts by engaging them and grabbing their attention. This involvement leads to mentoring sessions, fellowship with others, and activities which build trust and relationships.

Biblical men, except for Jesus, had imperfections. They made mistakes and suffered the consequences. However, when it came time for God to use them, they followed and listened. It is the same with men in the church. They make mistakes they should not make, but God forgives and uses them.

There are many who want to be welcomed and loved, and to feel like they belong to something. Why not help and encourage them to make right decisions, and accept them for who they are? ❄



COME AND SERVE

Medical Mission Project will Help Thousands

Just as in Jesus' day when the multitudes sought healing and relief from their physical maladies, thousands today in major cities are seeking physical comfort and care.

The Your Best Pathway to Health medical mission project will enable volunteers to become the hands and feet of Jesus, touching the lives of more than 5,000 people April 8-10, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas.

Medical volunteers including physicians, dentists and eye specialists are needed to help provide health care, while non-medical volunteers are needed to provide support services.





Your Best Pathway to Health is free to local residents and made possible by Adventist Health System, ASI, Loma Linda University Health, and

the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Previous events in San Francisco and Oakland, California, provided a full-range of medical services and often life-changing impact to thousands of people in need of health care.

For more information and to register as a volunteer, visit PathwayToHealthVolunteer.org.

1,500 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

-  Medical
-  Dental
-  Optical
-  Non-medical

April 8-10 2015

San Antonio, Texas



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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Medical Professionals Behold the Great Physician at Biennial Convention



KEN FORD

Leif K. Bakland, D.D.S., gives a seminar to dental professionals about tooth infractions and vertical root fractures at the convention in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Jesus is often known as the Great Physician, as He has proven to heal numerous times throughout the New Testament. Yet, Jesus has given His people the same gift of healing through the medical profession.

To show appreciation to these professionals, the Southern Union Medical/Dental/Health Professional

Department hosts a biennial convention, held October 9-11, 2014, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The theme for the weekend was “Beholding the Great Physician.”

Jim and Bonnie Davidson, directors of the department, were excited to have close to 500 dentists, physicians, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists,



KEN FORD

Holly Gadd, Ph.D., FNP-BC, teaches on the subject of geriatric syndromes at the Southern Union Medical/Dental/Health Professional Convention on October 9-11, 2014.

physical therapists, and their families spend the weekend networking, fellowshiping, and meditating on God’s Word while overlooking the Great Smoky Mountains at the Park Vista Hotel. “This was the first time in 48 years that all six of these professions were represented,” said Jim Davidson.

The convention was also a time for professional

said Bonnie Davidson, “so these professionals got a chance to receive accreditation without compromising their faith.”

One of the pinnacle moments of the weekend was the chance to experience God like never before through worship. Friday night’s worship service started with a mini concert by quintet Carolina Heart-Song, followed by



KEN FORD

Optometrists sit in on a session with David Dwight Markoff, M.D., FACS, as he talks about cornea and external disease.

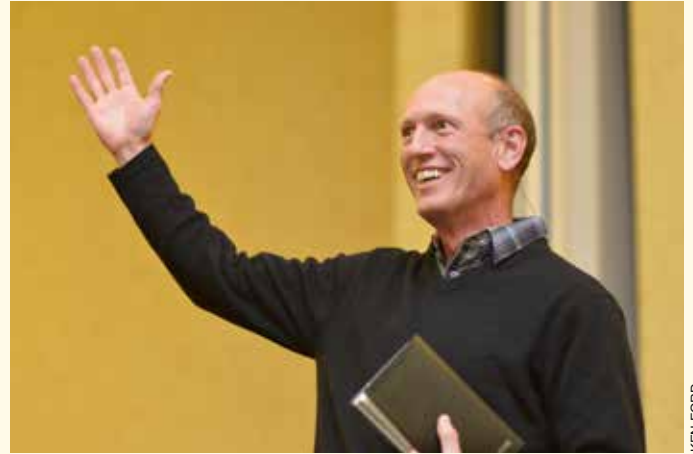
development. An array of continuing education courses were lined up for the medical professionals on Thursday night. From topics about CREATION Health and geriatric syndromes to human milk and eye care, these classes were not only informative but mission-focused. The professionals also received continuing education credits for attending. “Most accreditation classes are usually held on Sabbath,”

a powerful message by Karl Haffner, Ph.D., titled “Dr. Jesus: Healing Like the Great Physician.” On Sabbath morning, Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president, led Sabbath School about perfecting the faith, while Haffner gave another inspiring sermon, “Healthcare Through the Roof.” The Sabbath ended with a Vesper service and concert by renowned singer Charles Haugabrooks.



KEN FORD

The Medical/Dental/Health Professional Convention was held at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tenn., which overlooks the Smoky Mountain National Park.



KEN FORD

The medical professionals were blessed during the weekend by guest speaker Karl Haffner, Ph.D.

Many individuals were touched by the worship services, experiencing a sense of renewal and closeness to God. “After one service, you could see tears streaming down people’s faces,” said Bonnie David-

son. “You could tell that the Holy Spirit made an impression on their hearts at that moment.”

Spouses and children were encouraged to come to the convention, and several activities were lined

up for them to enjoy. Throughout the weekend, fun-filled programs were held for the children and youth ages 1-17. On Sabbath afternoon, families were able to participate in a one-hour hike through the Smoky Mountains National Park. “Our intention of inviting fami-



KEN FORD

The medical professionals enjoyed a Vespers program with a concert by singer Charles Haugabrooks.



KEN FORD

Quintet Carolina Heart-Song performs a mini concert on Friday night during the convention.

lies was to help them draw closer together and closer to God,” said Bonnie Davidson. On Friday afternoon, several attendees were able to spend some time on the golf course, participating in a golf tournament at the Gatlinburg Golf Course in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Overall, the convention provided a spiritual refreshing among the health professionals and families. “One physician had not attended in a number of years,” said Bonnie Davidson. “When

everything was over, he came up to me and said that his spirit had been refreshed. Now he wants to invite his coworkers to come to the next one so they can experience what he did.”

The Davidsons anticipate that more medical professionals will join them on October 6-8, 2016, for the next Medical/Dental/Health Professional Convention, so they, too, can behold the Great Physician.

—BY TIFFINEY MILES

Adventist Producers Lead *Old Fashioned* Movie Release



PATRICIA M. ALBRECHT

Members of the *Old Fashioned* film crew on location in downtown New Philadelphia, Ohio: David George (back left), director of photography; Coleen Mlezia, assistant camera; Rik Swartzwelder, writer/director; Elizabeth Ann Roberts, lead actress; and Nathan Nazario, lead producer; Zach Gray (front left), executive producer; Grip Leif Ramsey; and Brandon Tylka, associate producer.

verted values is acclaimed by the media as the “film to see.” The irony of releasing it on a day that has come to symbolize love seems to escape most of the secular world.

However, on the same day, an independent faith-based movie called *Old Fashioned* is being released at select theaters to deliver a message of hope by showing Jesus is the answer. The basic plot of the story tells of a young man who decides to try a God-honoring way of finding his future wife. The film, written, produced, and directed by Rik Swartzwelder, portrays a path to relationships filled with forgiveness, healing, and grace.

Using a strategy of

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Isaiah 5:20.

In February, on the day before Valentine’s Day, audiences at theaters will view a Hollywood film based on a best-selling erotic novel elevating evil to the level of good by harming the one you love for pleasure. Unfortunately, we have reached a point in the United States where a film that honors per-



BRANDON TYLKA

Nathan Nazario, lead producer, reviews framing on the set of *Old Fashioned*.



CINEMATOGRAPHER DAVID GEORGE

Characters for Old Fashioned film are Amber played by Elizabeth Ann Roberts and Clay played by Rik Swartzwelder.

showing faith in action on the big screen versus telling from a pulpit is a powerful way to reach a media savvy, yet biblically-challenged public. “What if we were to transform movie theaters into churches?” says Nathan Nazario, lead producer of *Old Fashioned*.

Southern Adventist University (SAU) faculty and students are responsible for helping to bring this soon-to-be classic movie to life: Zach Gray, animation program coordinator at SAU, is an executive producer; David George, film program

coordinator at SAU, is the director of photography; and Melody George,

who trained at SAU, is the production designer. View the trailer and

showing locations at old-fashionedmovie.com.

—BY LISA GRACE



CINEMATOGRAPHER DAVID GEORGE

Clay and Amber enjoy a fireside moment in the film Old Fashioned.

Wilson First Church Pays Off Mortgage

Albert Einstein once said, “There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle, or you can live as if everything is

Conference office, another \$50,000 check from the Conference was received by the Wilson Church treasurer, Alex Couch. He

for sale. However, the next financial miracle happened to be that the property pricing was lower than the actual value of the land.

the building that God was providing.

The Wilson First Church members gathered on November 1, 2014, to celebrate paying off their mortgage in a mortgage-burning ceremony. Rick Russell, Conference treasurer, led out and rededicated the building and the members for the work that is to be done in Wilson, thanking God for all His blessings and guidance in the construction and financial situation in building this church. In his sermon, Russell reminded the members that while God left Earth to prepare a place for us in Heaven, God also prepared this church in Wilson.

Having gone through these experiences, the members know what it is to step



a miracle.” In fact miracles come in all forms, shapes, and sizes specific to the needs of the individuals involved. For the Wilson First Church, Wilson, N.C., paying off their mortgage four years early is definitely a miracle. Their journey toward their new facility started a while ago, and their first miracle came from contributions of the Carolina Conference, specifically from the members through the Conference office.

Kenneth R. Coonley, former retired Carolina president, had a vision alongside the members of Wilson Church. The Conference decided that they were going to contribute \$50,000 to the building campaign, and the church members considered this to be the first of many blessings. Shortly after receiving the check from the

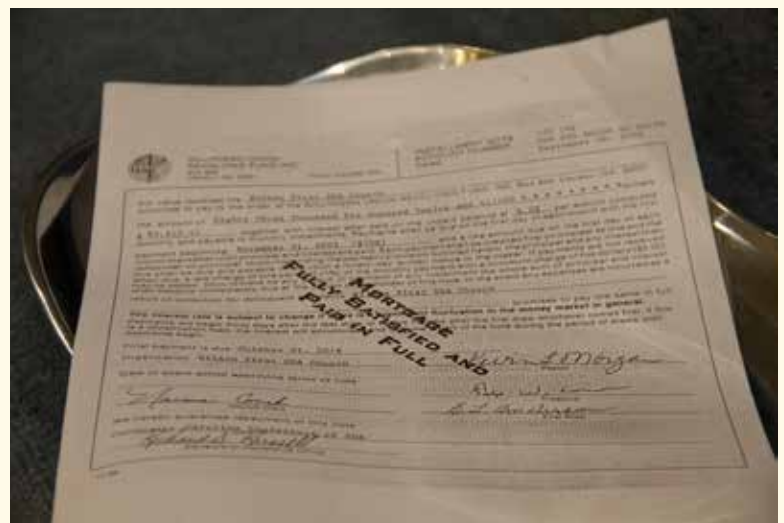
called Coonley to make sure that this was not a mistake. It was not!

Once the old Wilson Church sold, the members started renting a place to meet and hold services, all the while praying for the right property to come along. Prayers do get answered, but in God’s timing, and it just was not the right time. This became a discouragement, but the members’ faith helped them pull through.

Their pastor, Ralph Hollenbeck, stumbled upon the location of their new church nearly by accident. While considering that the property could have already been sold, they called the number anyway, and it was indeed

When it was time for the trusses and rafters to be installed, the church paid for them and then received a rebate from the company they had purchased them from for the full amount they had paid. The company decided to donate the trusses to the church; this was another huge financial miracle.

The miracles did not stop there, though. There were numerous miracles that the members experienced over and over in



the building of this house of worship. Each of these miracles is proof that God had His hand over the situation, and that this was indeed the location and

out in faith and truly live Hebrews 11:1 — “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.”

—BY COURTNEY HEROD

God's Word Spreads Through Arden's Mission

For some churches, short-term mission trips are something that happens once in a lifetime; for some, mission trips are for a select few from the congregation, with the majority of the members supporting the event. This is not the case for the Arden, N.C., Church. This church does mission trips on a regular basis. To commemorate these special trips, on May 3, 2014, Arden held a special Sabbath School devoted entirely to past mission trips.

Dave Dobias, pastor, dressed in his African attire, introduced more than 30 flag-bearing missionaries to the congregation with a brief statement about each person's short-term mission trip, asking each individual

what made his/her experience a unique one. See-



ing each missionary hold a different flag reminded everyone that Jesus died for all races and cultures. The unique costumes worn by the missionaries were also a reminder that every culture has distinctive at-

tire, something that sets them apart from everyone

else. Heather Darnell, for example, wore an incredibly beautiful embroidered dress from Peru. The colors and detail were exquisite, a reminder of the unique culture it represented.

Even the potluck after

church carried the mission theme. Every table's decorations had a different theme, once again showing the souvenirs represented by past mission trips. This, too, was a reminder that God's people are scattered across the world, each one different, each unique. The smiles across all the faces were the most amazing aspect of the entire Sabbath. It was obvious all enjoyed themselves. All were happy to be a part of something so special, and to imagine what Sabbaths in Heaven will be like—full of people from all over, each in their individual styles, each bringing a smile to Jesus' face.

—BY PEN BRAISTER-STURGIS

Raeford Spanish Church Holds Organization Ceremony



The steps to becoming officially organized at church status are quite a process, and it is every company's dream to even-

tually gain church status. The Raeford, N.C., Spanish Church had an organization ceremony on October 4, 2014, to celebrate

and rededicate the property and members as they officially took church status. Both Elías Sandoval, pastor, and Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference vice president, took part in the service.

"I witnessed a very organized, excited congregation that Sabbath. These are people who are serious and motivated about

sharing Jesus! I gave the sermon in Spanish, and it was well received. I obviously didn't slaughter the language too badly!" said Moyer. The congregation and Sandoval rededicated themselves to the service of the Lord, and the church as a house of worship to their heavenly Father in a responsive reading. Raeford Spanish Church members are on fire and ready to serve their Savior to the best of their abilities until Jesus returns.

—BY COURTNEY HEROD

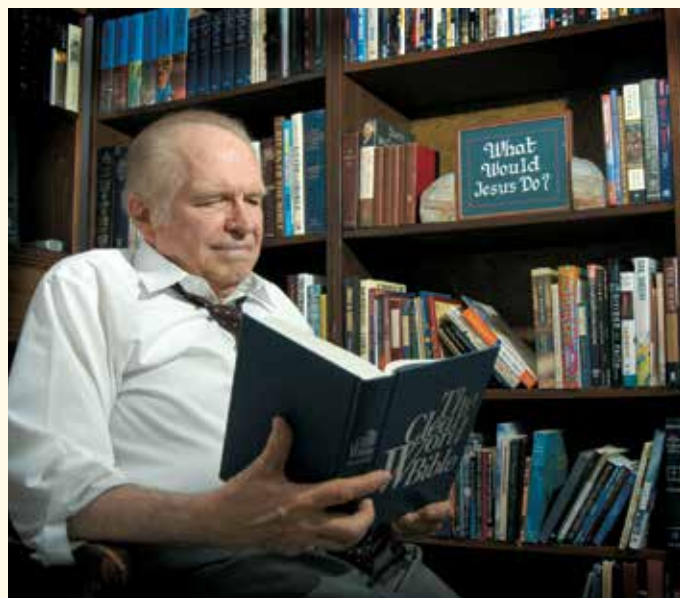
Malcolm and Hazel Gordon Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Former Florida Conference President Malcolm Gordon and former First Lady Hazel Gordon celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2014. Hazel grew up with the wish to be a minister's wife. During a youth evangelistic effort, she became engaged to Malcolm, who knew early in his life that he wanted to be a minister. In 1954, they married in Hazel's hometown of Allegan, Mich.

After graduating from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Mich., The Gordons began the daunting task of reopening a church in Calumet, Mich. From this assignment in the Upper Peninsula, he



Soon after moving to Apopka, Fla., Malcolm and Hazel Gordon were photographed in this classic pose at their new home.



Malcolm Gordon has always lived by the motto, "What would Jesus do?"

would pastor churches in North Dakota which led to departmental responsibilities including conference evangelist, education director, and youth director.

Accepting a call to Southern New England Conference, Gordon served as director of youth, ministerial, temperance, and religious liberty. He then served three years in Carolina Conference as executive secretary and ministerial secretary.

Whether at home or in his work, Gordon lived by the motto, "What would Jesus do?" He adopted this

maxim as an expression of his guiding principle that propelled him into leadership as Carolina Conference president, Florida Conference president, and, ultimately, Southern Union Conference president. In retirement, he has continued to be an ambassador for His Lord wherever he is needed.

Not only did Hazel Gordon stand by her husband's side, but she had a burning desire for the women of the Church and served as Florida Conference women's ministries director. "We want to reach others and use our God-given talents and gifts for the furtherance of His Kingdom, both in supportive and in leadership roles," she stated in 1989 as she and her team began preparations for the first Florida women's ministries retreat.

Upon retirement in 2003, the Gordons settled in the Apopka, Fla., home they bought a year earlier. They resided in Florida until February 2014 when they moved out of state; however, they continue to hold their membership at Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park. They now live in New Jersey with their daughter, Merrilee (George) Miller, and are also near their daughter, Melodee Oster. The Gordons have three grandchildren.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Florida Advent Missionaries Bring Medical Care to Peru

Volunteers with Florida Advent Missionaries embarked on a flight to Arequipa, Peru, on October 16, 2014. Sponsored by South Palm Company in Delray Beach and led by Carl James, pastor, missionaries came from as far as Canada to participate. They brought medical care and the Good News of salvation to people in the highlands of Peru.

A medical doctor from New Mexico operated a daily clinic service. Several Peruvian Adventist physicians, a holistic medical practitioner, nurses, and other missionary volunteers assisted in the clinic. Together, they provided daily service to more than 450 patients.

Each day after the clinic, the missionary team spent time in neighborhoods visiting prospective candidates

for baptism. This was a follow-up to nightly evangelistic meetings and a Week of Prayer held in the local elementary school, middle school, and high school. More than 120 individuals joined the local church by baptism.

Collectively, the group donated more than \$3,000 to help financially strapped churches with infrastructure development.

As word of this group's effective mission model spreads, invitations have been forthcoming. In Febru-



SUDINE RICHARDSON

People in the highlands of Peru wait their turn for treatment at a clinic manned by volunteers from Florida Advent Missionaries.

ary 2015, they will travel to Santiago, Chile, and again in November 2015. These trips are part of the South American Division's Month of Reaping. The intent is to raise 20 new churches in a district, and enable leadership to establish a new local conference.

Florida Advent Missionaries continue to welcome dedicated, humble Christians who wish to join their mission of bringing the message of salvation to a dying world.

—BY CARL JAMES

Lauderhill Adventurers Walk for Down Syndrome



Adventurers Timothy Richards (left), and Kyle Wilson successfully reached the Buddy Walk finish line.

The Lauderhill, Fla., Church Pioneer Adventurer Club, led by Jacqueline Richards, director, participated for the second consecutive year in the Buddy Walk and 5K Run. The event, held October 19, 2014, supports those born with Down syndrome.

Two Adventurers, Timothy Richards and Kyle Wilson, reached the finish line. Event leaders

acknowledged them during the awards ceremony held at Broward County's Markham Park. Lauderhill Pathfinder Club members cheered on the 10 Adventurers who participated in the cause.

The Buddy Walk, established by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995, takes place every October. According to this organization, "Down

syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome. There are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome in the United States."

—BY DAVE ADDEN

Race Raises Funds for Schools, Honors Teacher



SUBMITTED BY NORA MOODY

More than 600 runners participated in the third annual Sandy Erickson Race for Christian Education, both a 5K and Fun Run.

The Greater Collegedale School System (GCSS) in Collegedale, Tenn., held the third annual Sandy Ericson Race for Christian Education on Sunday, November 2, 2014. The race is named after Sandy Erickson, a beloved first-grade teacher who taught for more than 20 years at A.W. Spalding Elementary School, and passed away in 2011 from ALS.

An exciting part of the race this year is that they raised \$40,490.22 profit for GCSS: \$12,147.07 for Home and School Association, the 2014-15 budget; \$626.00 donated to ALSA in honor

of Sandy Erickson; \$3,550.22 toward the teacher classroom budgets; and \$28,343.21 to GCSS Worthy Student Fund. The school campaign collected funds from 39 states.

"I was a worthy student who was helped financially to get a Christian education, and taught 28 years in Adventist elementary schools," said grandparent sponsor Pam Cross.

Kudos go

to the 5K team for all their efforts in making this race a success: Chad Nash, Gladys Griggs, Joelle Wolf, Dave Ketelsen, Jamie Frain, Mike and Sharon Mohr, Rebekah Sprears, and Gaylene Hansen. Additionally, Mike Mohr (all volunteer time) is especially recognized for writing a collection program that will keep track of school campaign donations.

The support staff is thanked for their participation: logo and design, Emily Hammond and Antonio Favors, Web master and timing, Wes Hall; communication, Lynzee Brival, Judee Spicer, and Kere Conerly; collection/prize volunteers, Stephanie Addison,

Renee Moore, Ruth Marino, Brooke Hold, and

Angela Cho; photography, Brian Lowman; race day equipment and sponsor, Bob Benge and Southern Adventist University physical education, health and wellness.

The race had a record number of runners, 500 registered for the 5K, and 126 for the Fun Run. To support the runners they had a record number of volunteers, 112 total: 47 Collegedale Academy students, 19 college students, and 46 community volunteers.

A total of 41 business sponsors are also thanked. The title sponsor was PM Pediatrics.

Check out the race website for photos, final race times, classroom totals, and a list of sponsors at www.sandyericksonfunrun.com. The fourth annual Sandy Erickson Race for Christian Education will be November 8, 2015.

—BY NORA MOODY AND TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



SUBMITTED BY NORA MOODY

Mountain City Soaring Eagles Meet the Mayor

The Mountain City, Tenn., Pathfinders, the Soaring Eagles, recently

zen, and the responsibilities a citizen in this country holds. As part of the honor,

dinates all public relations. He and the town council maintain the town's water, sewage, trash pickup, police department, and park; and they oversee the employees.

The mayor's number one concern is to keep the downtown area alive, and bring new businesses to the area.

Sounds similar to some of the responsibilities a church board has, doesn't it? As Christians and Pathfinders, everyone has responsibilities to maintain their church and keep it alive.

More than 50 years ago, Pathfinders started food drives as a way to serve the community. Though many clubs have had to stop this work out of safety concerns, Mountain City, Tenn., is a pleasant rural community. The

Pathfinders include a public service announcement to their local radio station, which everyone listens to, and send a notice in the newspaper.

These notices let the community know of the Pathfinder's work, similar to the public relations work the mayor does for this town.

The Mountain City Pathfinder Club went out and distributed empty grocery bags in the community, with a note saying they would return in a few days to pick up food items to give to needy families during the holidays.

They were happy to have some people immediately go inside and pick up the food items. The Soaring Eagles Pathfinders encourage all to do kind acts of service in their community.

—BY JOY MCGRATH



JOY MCGRATH

The Mountain City Tenn., Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs met the Mountain City Mayor, Lawrence Keeble. The field trip took place because the Pathfinders were taking the Citizenship Honor.

worked on their Christian Citizenship Honor.

They learned proper flag etiquette, how to become a United States citi-

they also met their local mayor, Lawrence Keeble.

They learned that the mayor serves on about eight committees and coor-

Hamilton Community Church Holds God In Shoes

A God In Shoes outreach ministry event was held at Hamilton Community Church on October 12, 2014. More than 70 individuals from Chattanooga, Tenn., and the surrounding areas enjoyed the free services and child-care.

Haircuts, hand and nail care, facials, chair back massages, medical services, a meal, gift bags, door prizes, and a new pair of shoes put smiles and tears of joy on the guests' faces. No one left



DAWN LEMAITRE

Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., held a God In Shoes outreach in October.

without knowing how Jesus values and loves them.

"Sunday afternoon lifted my spirits," said

volunteer Frances Carter. "The hand care and facial room was busy the entire afternoon. Every lady that entered the room enjoyed themselves. They left smiling. Each time I participate, I see God working through the volunteers, and it reflects in the ladies that attend. So many blessings."

Shoe Carnival in Hixson, Tenn., is thanked for providing the new shoes.

—BY MARY LOU BUOYMASTER

College Drive Members, Pathfinders Lend a Hand



For the second time in two years, a call went out to the ministries that volunteer at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility for holiday comfort packs. These packets allowed for the steadily dwindling state funds that would have ordinarily been used to purchase these supplies, to be diverted to other needed things. The care packages consist of one bottle of shampoo, one stick of deodorant, one pair of white socks, and a small handful of peppermint candies. Also included was a pamphlet on the second coming (a spiritual snack, so to speak).

The call from the prison came in mid-September, and on the first of October, Nick Lesh, College Drive Church prison ministries coordinator, began to

make pleas to the College Drive Church congregation in Pearl, Miss., for donations. Because of the strict security of the facility, only limited types of shampoo and deodorant would be approved, so it was decided to collect cash donations to purchase bulk products from a popular discount chain. The outpouring of love from the church members to answer the prison's call in one short month was amazing. The congregation came through: It was such a blessing!

The products were ordered, and in two weeks Lesh picked up 44 cases of shampoo, deodorant, socks, and 1,600 pieces of peppermint candy. The stack of supplies looked overwhelming after they were piled into the van. He began to wonder just how to could gather volunteers to put all

the items into gallon zip lock bags. It was just at that time that Teri Spracklen came to the rescue. It did not take her long to ask if the Trail Blazers Pathfinder Club could help. The work bee was scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, as they were still waiting on the pamphlets from the ABC.

The Pathfinders were incredible! They emptied the boxes from the minivan faster than locust in the harvest.

Once they knew what was going to be placed in the bags, they moved quickly to begin assembly. They unloaded the boxes, made up the bags, and repacked the car in 75 minutes. There are 206 packages ready to give to the men who really need them.

The Adventist Prison Ministries, as they are known there, began in 1990. The ministry was founded by Patricia Roane, who is still a very active participant today. Charles Pugh, Solomon Musani, James Ledford, Manny Ramos, and Leshmeet with

the inmates every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. This group is blessed to minister to more than 175 men monthly. There are more than 125 active Bible studies, and a Hispanic ministry will start soon for the men



who are not comfortable with the English language. Bible studies and *The Great Controversy* are being distributed in Spanish. The chaplains expressed that the group's efforts have blessed the facility.

—BY NICK LESH

Shoals Church Members Dedicate New Fellowship Hall



ELDER ROB RAUSCH

Fast forward through years of planning, fundraising, and laboring in love to Sabbath, October 4, 2014. Though subsequent pastors of Shoals Church have endured the building project, Tracey, and wife, Sondra, returned to Florence, Ala., on this special day to officiate the formal dedication of the dream brought to fruition.

The special service included a lively children's story given by Libby Campbell, with the message of being a church on a hill that shines its light to the surrounding community. She handed out flashlights to each child in illustration of the message we should hold in our hearts for our neighbors.

Samanger Matthew, M.D., sang a soul-stirring

rendition of "Adoni" for special music, followed by Tracey's inspirational sermon. Special plaques of recognition were presented to two individuals who were exceptionally instrumental in bringing the new fellowship hall to completion; Shawn Valentine and the late David Blaylock. David's widow, Suzi Blaylock, M.D., accepted his posthumous award.

Women's ministries provided a delicious meal after the service, which began with all in attendance forming a circle inside the



ELDER ROB RAUSCH

new structure, and a dedication prayer and blessing was given by Tracey.

The new fellowship hall can accommodate large groups and has a spectacular kitchen. The youth of Shoals Church and community will also enjoy the new building for sporting and other activities.

—BY SHARI BEAVER

More than 20 years ago, then-pastor Gary Tracey spoke to Shoals Church members about a possible undertaking. "A new fellowship hall would be nice," he said — its purpose to serve not only the Shoals Church members, but the community at large.

Foggs Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



David and Ann Fogg

David and Ann Fogg of Huntsville, Ala., celebrated their 50th milestone year of marriage on December 27, 2014,

and are looking forward to many more years of wedded bliss. Their first vows of love were exchanged in 1964 in front of family and friends, officiated by Lester O. Coon at the Greeneville, Tenn., Church, and followed by a celebration of their anticipated future together.

The Foggs lovingly raised two sons, Mike and Mark. Each has followed their parents' footsteps by celebrating 25 years of

marriage this year as well. Mike and Renee Fogg have two daughters and live in Orlando, Fla.; Mark and Michelle Fogg have three sons and live in Noblesville, Ind.

The Foggs are enjoying retirement. After 40 years with the Federal government, and the last 26 years in acquisition management, David retired from Patriot Missile System in Huntsville. Thirty years after receiving a dental hygienist

degree, Ann has retired.

The couple is not only enjoying life, but they help others and are active in the Huntsville Church. David serves as an elder, and Ann enjoys volunteering in the children's departments. They also enjoy their five grandchildren, fun-filled family reunions, gardening, and pursuing outdoor activities.

—BY RENEE FOGG

Tullahoma Church Members Celebrate 65 Years

The history culminating in the organization of the Tullahoma, Tenn., Church on October 29, 1949, is an



Gil Floyd teaches the Sabbath School lesson.

interesting and extensive one. It went from a small group that began meeting at the old Presbyterian Church in Tullahoma in 1941, to a vibrant congregation of 134 in 2014. On Sabbath, October 25, 2014, a celebration homecom-

ing was held for the 65th anniversary. "It took time, effort, and money to locate members that are no longer

members of our church, and to also locate the pastors that had previously led our church," says Chuck Arellano, who together with

other members organized the event. The celebration started on Friday night with an Agape feast, followed by a communion service led by Nelson Mercado, current pastor, and Jon Weigley, pastor from 2008 to 2012. After the commu-

nion service, there was a song service and a time for group prayers.

On Sabbath, attendees were delighted to see previous members who came to visit.

The Sabbath School lesson was led by Gil Floyd, pastor from 2005 to 2008, and the sermon was given by Richard Teller, pastor from 1998 to 2004. A celebration is not complete without good food and time for everyone to share and fellowship together, so a potluck was held after the church service.

A media show highlighting the history of the church



Current and former pastors who attended the celebration: Nelson Mercado (left), Jack Nail, Richard Teller, Gil Floyd, and Jon Weigley.

was shown in the sanctuary, and the evening ended with an inspirational musical program. The Tullahoma Church members thank God for leading the church for 65 years, and pray that it continues to be a blessing to the Tullahoma community for many years to come.

—BY NELSON MERCADO

Young Women Step Up to God's Calling



Going up steps is always harder than coming down. It takes stamina, determination, and a reason to climb. The theme for the annual Young Women's Retreat (YWR), "Step Up to God's Calling," was a

challenge to live like Jesus in thought, dress, and relationships. On September 12, 2014, 57 young women with sleeping bags and pillows in tow made Indian

Creek Camp their home for the weekend. With white steps as a backdrop and Madison Academy's praise team, the weekend was filled with music, study, and sharing.

The YWR coordina-

tor, Michelle Arant, used paper dolls to lead the girls in a modesty exercise for Sabbath School. Adel Torres, special guest speaker, shared her personal story of tragedy when at the age of eight she lost her father and two brothers in a plane accident. She challenged the young women to let go of their brokenness and let God fill the holes in their hearts. The Sabbath afternoon survivor activity tested each tribe as they competed to accomplish their specific given tasks (see pictures). The winners all received T-shirts. Saturday evening



was hot chocolate, popcorn, and movie night. This was a weekend filled with inspiration, learning, and fun.

—BY GAIL MCKENZIE

GLOW Tracts, Books on a Mission

On a business trip to Atlanta, Ga., the Lord impressed Ana Swingle to take plenty of resources to share. Before heading to the subway in downtown Atlanta, she prayed for the Lord's blessings and protection. Her little girl and her friend, both seven years old, were ready to go with plenty of GLOW tracts and *Keys to Happiness*.



Ana (left) and Isadora Swingle

At the station, they stopped to read some information, and a tall, strange man walked right behind the children and her, trying to corral them and saying, "Here lady. Let's go. I got you. You don't need a ticket." The man used his metro pass card to open the gates

and tried to move them into the area for ticketed passengers only.

Just then another man came into my view. It appeared the two men were working as a team, and Swingle felt this could be a very dangerous situation. Quickly, she said a prayer

for help and courage.

Instantly, she heard the Lord speak to her: "Ana Paula, you have the books. Give him the book, and he will know who you are with!" She felt heavenly strength guiding her to speak to the man: "Sir, thank you very much for

your kindness, but we are going to purchase our tickets. Here is a wonderful book (*Happiness for Life*), one for you and one for your friend. May the Lord bless you!"

In an instant the men were gone, and Swingle praised the Lord for fulfilling Psalm 91 in their lives! "I can't wait to get to Heaven and see these men converted to the Lord, because He gave

me the strength to reach out to them.

Praise the Lord for the information I gained from *Shield the Vulnerable*. I think it prepared me for this encounter," she notes.

—BY ANA SWINGLE

Ridgetop Pathfinders Hold Annual Outreaches



The Ridgerunners collected more than 1,400 items during their annual canned food drive for the Ridgetop Church Community Services.

Each year on Halloween instead of trick-or-treating, the Ridgetop, Tenn., Ridgerunners Pathfinders go door to door to col-

lect nonperishable food. Their leaders report that the Ridgetop community is always a great supporter of this event to help others. This year, more than 1,400 items were donated.

Another fall project the Ridgerunners and staff participate in is

Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project, brings joy and hope to needy children

around the world through shoe boxes filled with gifts and the Good News of God's love. The shoe boxes are packed with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies for a child in different age brackets. There is also something that shares the love of God packed in the boxes. The Ridgerunners sent 25 packed shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child.

—BY HELEN KELLY

West Coast
California | Hawaii | Oregon | Washington

18 hospitals committed to sharing God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

For job opportunities, visit AdventistHealth.org

Adventist Health

Emanuel Members Distribute Holiday Baskets

The Thanksgiving food basket campaign is a signa-

ture event of Emanuel Church in Albany, Ga. The students of



Emanuel members Jeanette Warren (left) and Georgia Gilbert help the students prepare food baskets for three families.

Emanuel Junior Academy, in conjunction with the community services and benevolent association of the church, prepared and distributed three baskets to families who have been experiencing economic hardships on November 24, 2014. With the students and their principal/teacher were members Jeanette Warren and Georgia Gilbert.

With the outpouring of support from the members and student body, the large Thanksgiving baskets were filled with fresh vegetables, fruit, bread, canned goods, dry goods, and a turkey.

Vanessa Wilson, principal/teacher of Emanuel Junior Academy, says the goal for her students is to have them “mission focused.” Her vision of Emanuel’s Jesus House Outreach is a ministry whereby individuals’ physical and spiritual needs can be met over and beyond the holidays.

This outreach partnership with families hopes to ultimately build relations and foster growth for the church and school, and will have lasting impacts in lives for eternity.

—BY WHITNEY K. JORDAN

Atlanta Boulevard Holds “Full Disclosure” Children’s Ministries



Presenter Shiona Curry demonstrates how to prepare healthy snacks.

tion Comes Responsibility,” as children, ages 4 to 12, learned about God’s plan for their lives.

While their parents delved into the truths of the book of Revelation, the children, with 10-year-old Shiona Curry of Maranatha Church in Atlanta, Ga., as presenter, discovered how to live strong, healthy lives in accordance with the Word of God, as well as how to obey the eight laws of health, using the

acronym S.H.A.R.E.W.I.T.H. (Sunshine, Healthy foods, Air, Rest, Exercise, Water, I love myself, Trust, Help).

For five consecutive Friday, Saturday, and Sun-

day evenings, the pint-size entrepreneur and chef, whose “Snac it Up” ministry involves her entire family — mother, father, and two brothers — led her audience first in discussing the life of the biblical character Daniel, and then focusing on parental training, obedience

to God, abstaining from unhealthy foods and habits, feeling confident and good, and discovering God’s plan for their lives.

As Curry talked about each letter in the S.H.A.R.E.W.I.T.H. acronym, she ensured that each child understood how to incorpo-



Children showcase their personal vision boards.

The Atlanta Boulevard Church Fellowship Hall was a buzz of activity during the recently concluded evangelistic series, “Full Disclosure — With Revela-

rate the health laws in their daily lives. And, to reinforce the concepts, she taught the children how to make healthy snacks, such as homemade ice cream, pizza muffins, and much more from recipes in her very own cookbook.

The 25 to 35 active participants also received

guidance in putting together a personal vision board, and performed presentations on their understanding of Daniel chapters 1-6, while learning about the strengths and abilities they possess — just as God had instilled in Daniel and his friends.

The series even brought out the entrepreneurial spirit

in the children, who ended up making music videos, handcrafted art items, and food items for sale to the congregation and visitors. Not only was it a spiritually, mentally, and physically profitable experience for the children, but it was also financially profitable for the young entrepreneurs, who

ended the series with the knowledge that God has a purpose for each one of their lives, but that in order to fulfill that purpose, they must be obedient to the laws of health and the Ten Commandments, which work together, hand in hand.

—BY MIRA JACKSON AND
MONA MORANT

Praise Tabernacle Conducts Community Outreach in the Midst of Tragedy



Guitar soloist Jessica Davidson performs.

Youth members of Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C., participated in the First Annual Gospelfest in Chadbourn, a neighboring town. The goal for the event was to bring Jesus to the community.

Praise Tabernacle's Pathfinder Drama Team, Men of Honor Signing group, and guitar soloist Jessica Davidson performed. There were also inspirational stickers and animal balloons given to the younger children in attendance by Stephanie

Harvey, Pathfinder director,



Andy Anderson is the former councilman of Whiteville, N.C.

and her crew.

Several area Christian groups also performed, singing and signing; however, in the midst of sharing the Gospel, the reason for such a gathering was sadly emphasized. A community youth was fatally shot a few blocks from the location of the Gospelfest. Authorities believe that it was gang related. Prayer was given by Andy Anderson, former Whiteville councilman, as soon as information of the

shooting was known. More unfortunately, the victim was a relative of one of the Gospelfest volunteers.

"I'm tired," states Anderson, as he began his prayer. This truly emphasized the need to get the Gospel out to a dying world. Is everyone telling acquaintances, neighbors, friends, and family about Christ's soon coming? Or will they wait until it's too late?

Praise Tabernacle youth did their part that day, and God protected them. As they ministered, they remembered to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen," Matthew 28:19, 20.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT,
M.D.

Student has an Amazing Love for Jesus

Aviel Bledsoe is one amazing little girl who has a living faith as big as her smile. Aviel's name in Hebrew means "God is my Father." Her favorite Scripture is Philippians 4:13. Her favorite song is "Go Get It," by the gospel group Mary Mary, and her favorite food is donuts. Aviel believes everybody should have fun and get to know Jesus. God is using Aviel to bring people together to make amazingly, positive, eternal relationships.

Aviel finds her greatest joy in making friends. Her mother, Iris Hicks, and grandmother, Jeanette Hicks, say Aviel will talk with "anyone and everyone wherever she goes. Her conversations are naturally warm, thoughtful, and compassionate. She is a deep thinker, a brilliant communicator, and has a great heart for the needs of others." Those who know Aviel know that talking and being social is just her special way of giving love to people.

Hosting parties and giving personal invitations is something Aviel loves to do, including these:



Aviel Bledsoe believes everybody should have fun and get to know Jesus.

"Bright ducks," musical chairs, moon bouncing, and Build-A-Bears; carnival games and rides, princes and princesses go-carting, and "Come to The Royal High Tea Pottery Painting Piazza"; and "Jump Up and Bouncing Up" at Pump-It-Up, "Cowboys & Cowgirls" on the Memphis Queen Paddleboat, and a "Milk & Cookies" canvas painting party. She believes you should bring along the

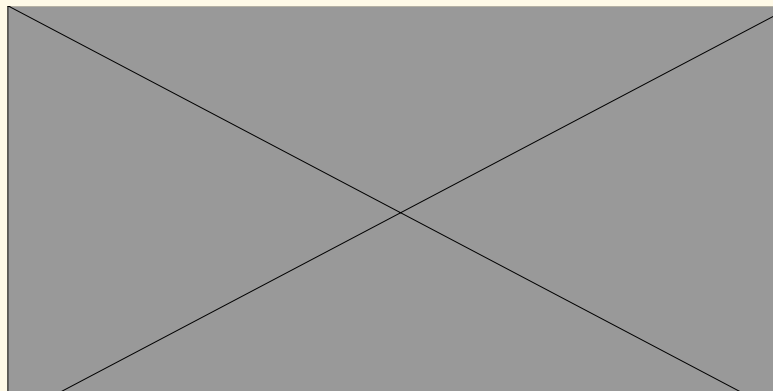
ones you love the most!

Some might think these events are a little over the top, but Aviel has been truly blessed to have dear, special people in her life, who are her greatest supporters in all her endeavors. This permits Aviel freedom to invite as many guests as she likes. Aunties, uncles, cousins, new friends, old friends, church members, neighbors, parents' co-workers' friends of friends, youngsters, teens,

young adults, and the young hearted are invited. Aviel's daily family motto: "Have one of the best days of your life!"

Recently, Aviel's endeavors included an October Run/Walk-A-Thon which raised more than \$5,000 for her school, Alcy Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, in Memphis, Tenn. Subsequently, she talked with Dana Edmonds, South Central Conference president, and Eunice Warfield, Ed.D., education superintendent, about her aspirations. Aviel hopes to study biology and attend Oakwood University when she grows up. Thus far, eight birthday party guests of Aviel have "followed her to school one day" to Alcy, and decided to stay. Principal Walter Turner reported, "These children are asking their parents to enroll them in an Adventist Christian, safe education environment! This has all been happening since September 2014." The school family believes more precious children are on their way to socialize with Aviel, and to learn more about her amazing Jesus!

—BY KAREN JONES THOMAS



Bethany Church Celebrates 58 Years of Ministry

Bethany Church in Atmore, Ala., celebrated its 58th anniversary on No-

ving community who “labor and are heavy laden,” and are seeking rest in Jesus.

Message Magazine sold to her by a literature evangelist in 1955, as well as

baptized into the Adventist Church. Deloris Hazley, still an active member, was among the original 47. She vividly recalls the day she was baptized into the faith. “It was a man down on the front,” Hazley said. “He was running some meetings at Wil Nettles storefront. It was the best preachin’ I ever heard in my life! I had been going to the Methodist Church, but I never heard anything like that. I made my stand to join the Church. Those people came down and got us and took us to Mobile, and I was baptized. It was a joyful time.”

Bethany Church was built debt-free with funding from the Conference, and the members held Saturday night food sales out of their homes.

Members and visitors from cities near and far, including a mass choir from Jordan Street Church in Pensacola, Fla., assembled for worship. Antoine Maycock, retired pastor of Bethany during the 1980s, delivered the sermon, “A Simple Gospel from Simply the Word,” taken from Habakkuk 2:2. “We should not make simple things difficult,” he said. “The Gospel should be made simple, so people might quickly grasp it.” This anniversary was a jubilant occasion filled with testimonies, laughter, worship, and music to the glory of God.

—BY NUAVIA STEWART



Earl Jones Sr., elder of Jordan Street Church in Pensacola, Fla., led a dynamic discussion in Sabbath School.



Antoine Maycock, retired former pastor, preached a soul-stirring sermon.

vember 8, 2014. This little lighthouse on Brown Street is a beacon of light for the individuals in the surround-

It was founded as a result of a local woman named Henrietta Singleton, who purchased a

a subsequent six-week evangelistic crusade held in Atmore, which resulted in 47 individuals being

Northside Church Holds Annual Stewardship Day

The Northside Church in Miami, Fla., held its annual Stewardship Day Sabbath on August 23, 2014. Calvin B. Rock, D.Min., one of Northside's founding pastors, served as the guest speaker for the day.

At the close of his sermon, "Covenant by Sacrifice," Rock challenged the members to become better stewards. More than two dozen members rededicated themselves to God by signing stewardship commitment cards.

The commitment cards were based on giving sacrificially above the 10 percent tithe, anywhere from one percent through 10 percent. One brave steward, who was impressed by the

message, stated that she has been on the 10 plus 10 giving plan for many years, and made a commitment to give an extra one percent. Now she is giving 10 plus 11 percent.

Prior to delivering his message, Rock sat down

for an interview with Robert Moore Jr., pastor of Northside Church. During the interview, Rock discussed the challenges that he faced as a pastor in the 1950s and 1960s.

For example, trying to be visible in a district that

expanded from Ft. Lauderdale/Dania Beach to Key West, Fla., was difficult. He shared that he invited the late Eric C. Ward, evangelist/pastor from the Southern Union to conduct an evangelistic meeting.

During that 1962 tent meeting, which was more than five months long (May to October), hundreds of souls were baptized.

It is believed to have been the longest tent effort ever held in the south Florida area to date.

As a result of the newly baptized members, the congregations of Trinity Temple and Berea churches came together in the late 1960s to establish Northside Church.

—BY HIRAM RAHMING



Pictured are Robert Moore Jr., pastor of Northside Church; Calvin B. Rock, D.Min.; and Hiram Rahming, Northside Church stewardship director.

Mayor of Delray Beach Visits Daughter of Zion Junior Academy

The Daughter of Zion Junior Academy (DOZJA) in Delray, Fla., recently hosted a career day program. Cary Glickstien, Delray Beach mayor, participated in the program. He shared details about his duties as the city's mayor. At the end of his presentation, Glickstien was presented with a copy of the book

Steps to Christ.

Other participants included Gerard Smith, aquatic operations supervisor of Pompey Park; Suzanne Davis, parks and recreation director of Delray Beach, Fla.; Jessica Thomas, retired homicide detective; Ian Levison, ceramist and teacher at Cloud House Pottery; and Mervin

Curry, program coordinator of Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach, Fla.

Each presenter shared stories of their jobs and encouraged the students to study hard so they could get cool jobs when they finish school. They also shared the reasons they chose their professions.

Mayor Glickstien

shared that he was glad to have visited DOZJA, and added compliments about the facility. He stated that DOZJA's students were the best group of students he'd addressed, and encouraged the staff to keep up the good work.

—BY LAWANNA MCCOY

Office of Education Launches Conference-wide STEM Initiative



MAXWELL BERKEL

Robert Henley, director of communication and technology and chair of SEC's Office of Education STEM Committee, discusses how to implement a middle school robotics engineering program during a STEM Initiative Workshop.

crative STEM arena.”

Henley also gave valuable insights on how to establish and prepare a team to compete in the annual Adventist Robotics League Southern Union Challenge, which will be held on March 22, 2015, at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. He also explained and demonstrated how to program a robot.

It is the goal of

and sustaining a Conference-wide STEM education initiative will be critical to the success of our students,” said Byrd.

Three Southeastern schools competed in the ARL 2013-14 season: Mt. Calvary Junior Academy in Tampa Bay, Fla., Bethel Junior Academy in Florida City, Fla., and Mt. Sinai Junior Academy in Orlando, Fla. Mt. Sinai has implemented a robotics engineering course, and conducts an annual STEM summer camp for the community.

Nine Southeastern schools plan to field teams

The Southeastern Conference Office of Education recently launched a Conference-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative designed to foster learning experiences in the classroom that are relevant, engaging, and designed to increase the number of minorities pursuing degrees in STEM fields.

Representatives from nine Southeastern schools attended the STEM Initiative Workshop on September 15, 2014, at the Conference office.

The workshop, spearheaded by Robert Henley, director of communication and technology, and chairman of Southeastern's Office of Education STEM Committee, focused on implementing a robotics engineering program. The teachers were presented with two options to integrate robotics as a club or as an elective course, the latter was encouraged.



MAXWELL BERKEL

Nine of the 15 Southeastern schools plan to participate in the 2014-15 Adventist Robotics League Southern Union Challenge, which will be held at Southern Adventist University on March 25, 2015. Pictured are the STEM Initiative Workshop participants at the Conference Office in Mt. Dora, Fla., September 15, 2014.

“Minorities are severely underrepresented in STEM areas,” said Henley. “Providing them with authentic and meaningful STEM experiences in K-8 education, will be the key to increasing the number of minorities entering the lu-

Carol Byrd, Southeastern's superintendent of education, to see each of Southeastern's 15 schools implement a STEM program and field at least one team to compete the ARL.

“As we look to the future, we realize that implementing

to compete in ARL 2014-15 season. With these programs in place, both teachers and students will be empowered to take education to the next level in Southeastern.”

—BY HOPE PAYTON

Quality Enhancement Plan Embraces Critical Thinking

Oakwood University's initiative on quality enhancement is in direct relationship to a reaccreditation focus of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a five-year plan that details student-learning outcomes designed to enhance student learning, required of all its member institutions by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Schools. QEP is a core standard in maintaining full university accreditation.

Oakwood University's plan is titled "The Right to Write: Critical Thinking Development through Writing." It is expected that the impact of critical thinking will be evident in the quality of written work produced by students. There are three primary cohorts (groups) involved in their QEP plan:

Cohort 1: the freshman class of 2013-2014

Cohort 2: the freshman class of 2014-2015

Cohort 3: the freshman

class of 2015-2016

Each of the above cohorts completes four identified courses in which critical thinking skills are embedded within designated QEP courses. Assessment data is collected and analyzed to determine the impact on each student's critical thinking development through writing.

The QEP courses are OU 101, EN 111, EN 112 and ED 250.

To assist students in achieving this primary goal, all QEP teaching faculty for QEP courses are required to have successfully completed the critical thinking course provided by Oakwood University. Ongoing professional development is also required of all QEP teaching faculty each semester.

The three student learning outcomes associated with their topic are that students will do the following:

1. **Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking skills through the writing process in the ability to:**

- Develop well-supported inquiry statements that demonstrate clear purpose

- Evaluate the quality and credibility of information
- Make connections and informed conclusions

2. **Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking skills to written information as they:**

- Identify well supported inquiry statements that demonstrate clear purpose in written information

- Evaluate the quality and credibility of information in written information

- Identify connections and informed conclusions in written information

3. **Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking skills to their Christian beliefs, faith system and personal goals as they:**

- Develop well-supported inquiry statements that demonstrate clear purpose

- Evaluate the quality and credibility of information
- Make connections and informed conclusions

In the spring of 2017,

the Fifth Year Interim Report is due to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which coincides with the completion of Cohort 3 through the required four critical thinking courses. This report is designed to test the University on the degree to which it has accomplished the agreed upon goals for the QEP. Specifically, Oakwood will respond by providing a written report with evidence to support that OU students have developed critical thinking skills as demonstrated through writing.

The QEP office will continue to provide updates to all of the stakeholders: Oakwood University administration, faculty, staff, and students. They look forward to the continued partnerships throughout the University as they continue to develop Oakwood University students in their critical thinking skills through writing.

—BY OLIVIA D. BEVERLY, PH.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNION COLLEGE

HOMECOMING – April 2-5. Honor classes are 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2005. Special tribute to business and computer faculty, graduates, and Gymnares Reunion. Details: contact the Alumni Office at 402-486-2503, 3800 S 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY

ALUMNI REUNION – April 24, 25. Friday evening reception, 7 p.m.; Sabbath worship, 10 a.m.; registration 9:30 a.m. on campus. Class reunions TBA. Honor classes 1955, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '05. Details: www.lsak12.com, JNelson@lsak12.com, or call 951-351-1445 x244.

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Student Artist Illustrates Great Controversy for Senior Exhibit

Sarahi Remolina recently had her own art show on campus featuring pieces that depicted the Great Controversy. The 30 digital illustrations were inspired by a dream where she was tasked with creating a series of paintings to line a wall in Heaven, as a memorial of Jesus' redemption work. This vision became something of a reality as her senior showcase exhibit ran December 2 through January 9 in the John C. Williams Art Gallery on campus.

The project was a valuable learning experience, but one that came with considerable challenges.

"Normally when I draw something there isn't a big struggle to finish it, but this series has been the hardest project I've ever faced," said Remolina, a fine arts major

from Milwaukee, Wisc. "No matter how much I battled



Sarahi Remolina, senior fine arts major, stands alongside one of the digital illustrations from her Great Controversy gallery exhibit at Southern.

with the paintings, they didn't improve. It was only when I placed my full faith in Jesus and trusted Him that they were completed."

Remolina's illustrations portray, either literally or sym-

bolically, topics including salvation, the ministry of Jesus,

the world's final events, and the New Earth. Working on the pieces impacted her both spiritually and emotionally, and her desire is that people who viewed the exhibit will grow in a similar manner.

"Although you often hear the phrases 'God is Love' and 'God is our Father,' I don't believe many of us understand the full extent of these expressions," she said. "This entire project helped me better see Him as a profoundly loving Savior who has an extremely protracted and tender patience, more than I ever thought before!"

Remolina hopes that her showcase will inspire others to use their God-given gifts to impact the world for Christ.

"Your work can make a big difference in the lives of those around you," she said. "Don't consider anything you do to be insignificant — nothing is wasted in the hands of God; nothing is too small for Him to use."

—BY ELOISE RAVELL

Master's Degree in Education Now Offered Entirely Online

After carefully considering feedback from former, current, and prospective students, Southern's School of Education and Psychology will offer its master of science in education's instructional leadership degree entirely online starting in June 2015.

Each class will last seven weeks, and the program can be completed in two years and one semester; previously, it took three years. The new format not only reduces

program duration, but it also allows greater flexibility for students whose geographic location or other obligations make it difficult for them to come to campus.

"Many students interested in this program are principals or other employees whose job duties continue through the summer," said Bonnie Eder, program director for the master of science in education. "Even though they may have had interest or need, they just were not

able to leave home for one or two months at a time."

Two different tracks or concentrations are available in the program: content area and administration. With the administration concentration, students are prepared for administrative positions and experience greater employability in leadership roles, such as principals and administrators. Students in this concentration will take all classes online through Southern. Content area con-

centration students will take 18 semester hours of their core classes online through Southern. However, these students will be able to take the 33 hours of additional master's-level courses in their content area (e.g. music, math, English, history, etc.) from another accredited university and transfer the credits.

—STAFF REPORT

Saludo

El departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur junto con las 8 asociaciones que la componen, desean que este nuevo año esté colmado de bendiciones, y que nuestra familia en Cristo crezca gracias al trabajo y testimonio de sus miembros en favor de aquellos conocidos que aún no han encontrado a Jesús. Nuestro mayor anhelo es encontrarnos todos muy pronto con Cristo en el cielo.



Segunda fila de izquierda a derecha- Samuel Romero, Asociación de las Carolinas. Dorian Melo, Asociación Central. Roger Alvarez, Asociación del Sureste. Allan Machado, Asociación de La Florida. Miguel Tirado, Asociación Georgia Cumberland. Armando de León Juárez, Asociación Kentucky Tennessee.
Primera fila de izquierda a derecha - Efraín Poloche, Asociación South Atlantic. Jorge Mayer, Unión del Sur. Nilton García, Asociación de los Estados del Golfo.

Florida Noticias

Campaña de Cosecha

El sábado 20 de septiembre terminó la

semana de cosecha Tampa Jesús te ama. El evento

comenzó con el mensaje inaugural del pastor Roger



La congregación reunida en la iglesia Mount Calvary escucha al pastor Alejandro Bullón presentar la Palabra

Hernández seguido por José Rojas, y culminó con la predicación del pastor Alejandro Bullón y un bautismo de 96 nuevos creyentes en Cristo Jesús. ¡Gloria a Dios por los resultados y el enorme apoyo de las quince iglesias

que participaron de este esfuerzo! Un promedio de 1,100 personas asistieron cada noche, de las cuales 180 eran visitas. El entrenamiento del Instituto FIEL permitió que los laicos que participan del mismo pongan en práctica los conocimientos adquiridos. Los ministerios de Evangelismo e Hispano, los pastores laicos y ordenados de la asociación y gran parte de la hermandad formaron también parte activa de la campaña. Con la ayuda de Dios, se espera repetir el evento en el 2015.

– WALTER CASTRO,
MINISTERIAL DE
PASTORES LAICOS

La Red



Grupo de Gainesville

La campaña RED de la Florida 2014 terminó con gloriosas experiencias. Durante la semana del 18 al 25 de octubre, el programa fue transmitido desde la iglesia de Hollywood por Esperanza TV e Internet. Un sin número de televidentes recibieron mensajes de confianza en Cristo, como el “Primero y el Último” ¡Por Siempre!

Las presentaciones del pastor Rolando de los Ríos se enfocaron en los tres primeros capítulos del libro de Apocalipsis y en las palabras de Cristo a las siete iglesias de Asia. El propósito fue comprobar que esos mensajes no se perdieron en las arenas del tiempo, sino que continúan vigentes. Cada una de esas amonestaciones se aviene a la experiencia personal actual cuando se necesita confianza para afrontar las luchas de la vida diaria, y proporciona la esperanza de que si permanecemos fieles a Cristo, recibiremos la corona de la vida.

Como en ocasiones anteriores, el pastor Abel Paulín director del Dpto. de Evangelismo de la asociación, estuvo a cargo de la coordinación de la

producción junto a David López, presidente de “Crystal Clear Production” y su personal.

Durante la semana los alumnos del Instituto FIEL, desde las células previamente organizadas en diferentes lugares para escuchar los mensajes televisados, enviaban informes de lo sucedido en cada grupo. Más que deseosos de cumplir con un requisito de clase, se mostraron obedientes a la orden de Jesús de evangelizar a toda criatura. Otros laicos se reunieron en sus iglesias y hogares invitando a amigos y vecinos para escuchar los mensajes. En Gainesville se llevó a cabo una reunión al aire libre. Se instaló una pantalla, y cada noche muchos disfrutaron del programa de la RED.

Desde Vero Beach, el alumno Jaime Soto informó: “Nos estamos reuniendo en la casa del hermano Samuel Martínez y tenemos varias visitas en

nuestro grupo. La campaña está siendo una gran bendición. Las visitas ya están recibiendo estudios bíblicos.”

También desde Jasper, la alumna Martha Tlapa y su esposo, enviaron una fotografía con el siguiente mensaje:

“Éste es nuestro grupo pequeño. Nos reunimos con la familia Hernández en el Pueblo de Obryan. Estamos disfrutando de los temas y estudiando la Biblia con estas familias. Pedimos oraciones por todos ellos.”

Todas estas noticias generaron gozo en quienes organizaron este evento, y los que participaron. Es un gran privilegio formar parte de los obreros de Dios para esta hora. El Instituto FIEL espera el momento en el que todos los que se están preparando continúen trabajando en forma unida para llevar este mensaje de salvación, en preparación para la gran cosecha final.

Como resultado del proyecto que incluyó varios meses de preparación previa, 369 almas fueron unidas a la iglesia por medio del bautismo y un grupo se

prepara para bautizarse en un futuro cercano.

El pastor Allan Machado, director del departamento hispano comentó que “el objetivo de la Red es llevar el Evangelio a las casas, a los pequeños grupos, a



Grupo de Obryan

todo lugar. De esta manera estamos cumpliendo con la misión. Hay que llegar a donde la gente está, y llevarles a Jesucristo. Fue maravilloso ver a nuestra hermandad de todo el campo trabajando unidos en esta misión”.

– ROLANDO DE LOS RÍOS, EVANGELISTA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN Y LUZ BEDOYA, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Formando Discípulos Para la Misión de la Iglesia



Graduados de SAL

El Seminario Adventista Laico de

Atlanta (SAL), realizó su ceremonia de graduación

del curso teológico:

“Historia y Desafíos de la IASD” el pasado 20 de septiembre. Un total de 42 alumnos recibieron sus certificados de manos del doctor Ricardo Norton, director de estudios de posgrado de la universidad Andrews.

Este evento se ha convertido en un elemento de inspiración y desafío para los hermanos laicos que abrazan con gran motivación el compromiso con la misión evangelizadora de la iglesia.

“La idea de que el ministro debe llevar toda la carga y hacer todo el trabajo, es un gran error... A fin de que la carga sea distribuida, deben educar a la iglesia” (Joyas de los testimonios, t. 3, p. 68).

“Los pastores no deben hacer la obra que pertenece a la iglesia... impidiendo que otros desempeñen su deber. Deben enseñar a los miembros a trabajar en la iglesia y en la comunidad” (El servicio cristiano, p. 88).

– RICHARD URDANETA,
SECRETARIO DE SAL

Feria de Salud



Diferentes puestos de servicio.

El 2 de noviembre la iglesia Atlanta Primera llevó a cabo una feria de salud que atrajo la visita de 250 personas. Se brindaron servicios médicos, dentales, quiroprácticos y de consejería. Cada media hora se presentaban diferentes seminarios acerca de remedios naturales, alivio de dolores

musculares, control de peso, alimentación, familia, etc. Se contó con 90 voluntarios y 40 proveedores de servicios relacionados con la salud. Casi en su totalidad, la iglesia trabajó ya sea en la planificación, el armado de los puestos de servicios, aportando agua, manzanas, etc.

El sábado 8 de

noviembre el programa de la iglesia desde la escuela sabática hasta la sociedad de jóvenes se enfocó en la salud como parte de la dedicación integral a Dios. Se comenzó los 40 días de adoración y salud. La iglesia está unida en el estudio de un libro preparado para esta actividad, en el que se enfoca el ser humano

en cuerpo y espíritu. Se pueden apreciar tanto citas de Elena de White, como de conocidos profesionales de la salud y por supuesto los consejos divinos encontrados en la Biblia. Se planifica organizar otra feria, y la idea es que la iglesia esté preparada para predicar con el ejemplo.

– MARIEL LOMBARDI,
EDITORA



Hermanos orando antes de comenzar el evento

Frutos de la Mayordomía en Clinton

La congregación de Clinton, NC, se ha convertido en feliz propietaria de un edificio de culto.

Bajo la dirección del pastor Ismael Uribe y la fiel colaboración de los miembros de iglesia, miles de dólares fueron apartados en una cuenta de ahorros durante más de 60 meses. Al cabo de los mismos, se presentó una solicitud de



Miembros de la iglesia en el frente del edificio

crédito al fondo de la unión del sur, Southern Union



Pastor Uribe con la llave del edificio

Conference Revolving Fund, y se hizo una oferta para la compra del edificio. La ceremonia de inauguración se llevó a cabo el 20 de diciembre. La hermandad está agradecida a Dios por su ayuda y dirección en este proyecto.

– EFRAIN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO
HISPANO

Entrenamiento de Ancianos y Directores de Diáconos y Diaconisas



de diáconos y diaconisas de las áreas norte de Georgia y las Carolinas. Más de 100 personas asistieron a los seminarios impartidos por el doctor Walter

estuvieron apoyando el evento que re coordinado por el pastor Poloche. Anabel Montes, anciana de la congregación Rock Hill presentó los devocionales que fueron de gran bendición para los asistentes.

– EFRAIN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Desde el 26 hasta el 28 de septiembre se llevó a

cabo un entrenamiento para ancianos/as y directores

Pintos. Los pastores José Reyes e Ismael Uribe

Bautismo en Ebenezer

El sábado 21 de septiembre culminó la campaña que estuviera a cargo del pastor Jaison Espinosa. La misma tuvo lugar en la iglesia Ebenezer-Cayce, SC. El resultado del esfuerzo fue el bautismo de 7 almas que se unieron a la iglesia del Señor.

– JOSÉ REYES, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO



F.I.S.H



El pasado 30 de agosto el distrito Este de Carolina del Norte llevó a cabo un festival infantil al que tituló “Pescadores de Jesús.” El distrito está compuesto por las Iglesias de Warsaw, Wallace-Burgaw, Clinton, Seven Springs, Goldsboro, Newbern, Washington, Smithfield y Wilson. El festival fue organizado por las directoras de los

ministerios infantiles de las 9 iglesias bajo la dirección de Lady Uribe. Niños representando a cada una de estas congregaciones a través de cantos, dramas, y música especial, participaron de la jornada y tuvieron la oportunidad de trabajar en manualidades relacionadas con algún tema bíblico.

FISH (Festival Infantil South Atlantic Hispano) es un evento que se realiza para animar a los niños a ofrecer sus talentos y dones a Jesús, colaborando con ellos en la iglesia. Se planea también llevar este programa a los 7 distritos de la asociación: Georgia-Sur;

Georgia Norte; Georgia Este; Georgia Metro; Carolina del Sur y Carolina Central.

La parte más importante de esta fiesta espiritual infantil fue la entrega de 5 almas a Cristo a través del bautismo. El pastor Uribe fue quien ofició la ceremonia.

–EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO
HISPANO



Fiesta Espiritual en Gainesville

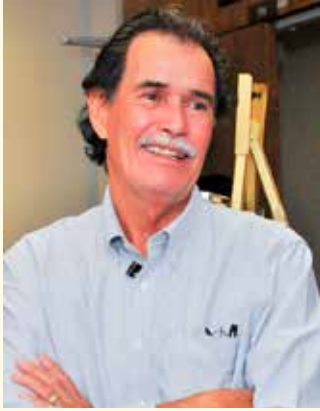
El sábado 1 de noviembre fue motivo de gran alegría para la congregación de Gainesville, GA. Dos jovencitos, Juan Carlos y Carlos David, hicieron pública su decisión de seguir a Jesús por medio del bautismo. La ceremonia fue oficiada por Carlos Henríquez, pastor laico y padre de los jovencitos, y organizada por el pastor oficial del distrito, que comprende

las congregaciones de Conyers, Carrolton, Douglasville Covington y Gainesville, Efraín Poloche.

– EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO
HISPANO



Fotógrafo y Ganador del Premio Pulitzer Habla en Southern Durante el Mes de Patrimonio Hispano



José Gálvez

El fotógrafo cultural renombrado Jose Gálvez, tuvo una presentación en el Club Latinoamericano el pasado 2 de octubre en el mes del patrimonio hispano.

Gálvez empezó su carrera limpiando zapatos en una sala de prensa cuando tenía 10 años. Durante los últimos 40 años sus fotografías han sido exhibidas en museos y galerías de todo el mundo, incluyendo el Smithsonian, y organiza exposiciones portátiles en escuelas, bibliotecas, fiestas, y rodeos. Como reconocimiento a su trabajo, recibió el premio Pulitzer por una serie sobre la vida del latino en el sur de California.

“Es fantástico. Como hispano siento que no

hay mucha exposición nacional de lo que nuestra comunidad puede traer al mundo de la creatividad,” dijo George Nelson, estudiante de comunicaciones en nuevos medios de tercer año. “Creo que es importante que Southern muestre lo que los hispanos están haciendo en el terreno de las artes.”

Muchos estudiantes aprendieron lecciones de vida durante la presentación de Gálvez. Las historias sobre su niñez, las experiencias recogidas en sus viajes, su trabajo, y sus

fotografías hicieron que la presentación sea inspiradora y amena.

Geovanny Ragsdale, patrocinador del Club Latinoamericano, dice que estos encuentros culturales son oportunidades excelentes para que los estudiantes crezcan en su entendimiento de ellos mismos. Pueden ver las similitudes con otras culturas y apreciar la singularidad de la propia. “Pienso que lo que aprendemos durante estos tipos de eventos, es que no somos tan diferentes,” dijo.

– ASHLEY RICH, EDITORA

Mayor Cupo de Estudiantes en la Escuela de Enfermería

A escala nacional, la demanda de entrada en los programas de enfermería es mayor que el número de asientos disponibles. Ese dilema se puede ver en Southern cada año cuando estudiantes calificados son puestos en una lista de espera. No obstante, a partir de mayo del 2015, la universidad comenzará a ofrecer un período de 12 semanas en el verano, que será el equivalente académico de un tercer semestre, permitiendo la entrada de 70 estudiantes adicionales sin forzar los recursos de las instalaciones o de la facultad. Esto implica que nuevos

estudiantes ingresarán al programa de enfermería en diferentes etapas durante los tres semestres. Un grupo por ejemplo, estudiará durante dos mandatos consecutivos, y luego tomará un semestre de descanso durante la primavera y el verano, en el que otros alumnos ingresarán al programa. Este último grupo descansará en otoño e invierno, cuando el primer grupo esté retomando sus clases.

“Estamos muy contentos de poder ofrecer una mayor variedad de opciones,” dijo Marc Grundy, vicepresidente de Servicios de Matricula. “Enfermería es la primera carrera ofrecida en esta



institución que adopta este enfoque. No obstante, sabemos que hay muchas escuelas a lo largo del país que ofrecen programas similares.”

Para promover la inscripción inicial en este nuevo programa, Southern está ofreciendo varios incentivos financieros

únicos para el programa. Las becas, los gastos de vivienda reducidos y otras cuotas eximidas totalizan más de \$2,200 para los estudiantes residenciales. Esto es adicional a otras ayudas financieras con las que el estudiante haya sido premiado. Los participantes del programa de verano podrán disfrutar de las mismas oportunidades curriculares disponibles en los semestres de otoño e invierno, incluyendo los cultos y programas misioneros. Para mayor información, envíe un correo electrónico a smayer@southern.edu

– LUCAS PATERSON, EDITOR

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Concerto Concert, February 8

Southern's Concerto Concert showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the university's full Symphony Orchestra. The performance takes place February 8 at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

To view the event live, visit southern.edu/streaming.

Archaeology Lecture, February 9

Andrew Vaughn, executive director at the American Schools of Oriental Research, will share about the importance of archaeological data relating to the Kingdom of Judah. The lecture takes place at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel.

To view past presentations, visit southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries.

Origins Exhibit

This museum-quality display area offers an understanding of origins from a creationist worldview. Consider the intricacy of the cell, the relationship between the Geologic Column and biblical flood, and the significance of beauty in nature.

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Faith for Today
Topic: Firm Foundation



Dr. Sung Kwon,
Adventist Community Services
Topic: Sharing & Service

Additional Presenters:

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Dr. Rose Gamblin
Dr. Katia Reinert
Dr. Cesar & Carolann DeLeon
Dr. John & Janice Mathews
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PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

is seeking a **full-time faculty in the Religion Department** to begin during the 2015-2016 academic year. Preference is for candidate with a Ph.D. in Religion (open to ABD), with an emphasis in either Old Testament, New Testament, or any branch of Theology, and with successful teaching experience. For more information or to apply call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>. [1]

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is seeking a **full-time manager of the Albion Biology Field station** to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree (business administration preferred) and strong organizational and communication skills. Expertise in budget management and knowledge of boat operations is also desired. For more information or to apply call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>. [1]

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ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time **Staff Auditor**, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to www.adra.org. [1]

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ANNOUNCING: Executive Director opening for **Adventist Heritage Ministry**. Full-time salaried position, including benefits; located at Ellen White Estate office, Silver Spring, Maryland. For information, job description, or to submit resume, contact James Nix, Ellen White Estate: nixj@gc.adventist.org. Application deadline: March 31, 2015. [1]

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS Office of General Counsel is

seeking a law student for an 8-10 week summer clerkship in 2015. This position is not a full time hire track position and would best be suited for 1Ls. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties will include legal research and other projects with an emphasis on religious liberty and First Amendment work. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Please send resume, writing sample and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian@gc.adventist.org. [1]

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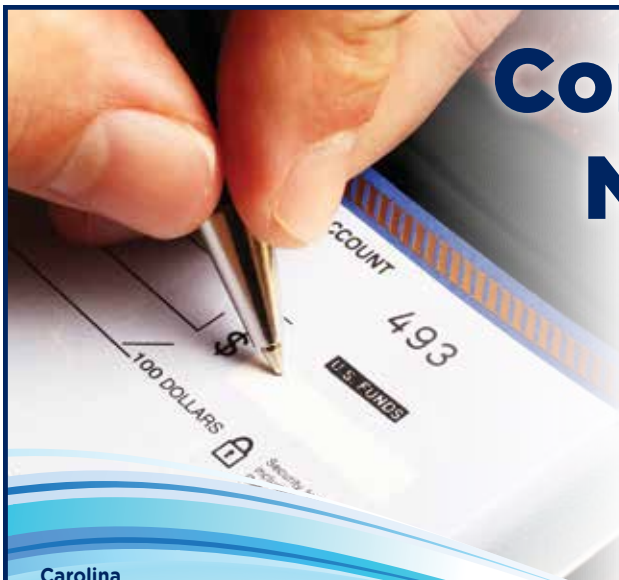
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SUSDAGift.org

Events Calendar

Carolina

Literature Evangelist Convention – Jan. 1-4. Gatlinburg, TN. Details: Lance Morrison at 704-596-3200.

Carolina Pathfinder Council – Jan. 9, 10. NPR.

Carolina Pathfinder Roller Skating – Jan. 11. At “THE PAVILLION” in Greenville, SC. Details: Chana Gentry at 704-596-3200.

Sabbath School Seminar – Jan. 17. (NEW DATE) This was originally scheduled for Jan. 24 at Myrtle Beach Church. Details: Jayme Rouse at 704-596-3200.

Men’s Ministries Seminar – Jan. 25. Columbia Church. Details: Jayme Rouse at 704-596-3200.

Pathfinder/Adventurer Ski Weekend – Feb 7-9. Maggie Valley, NC.

Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 13-15. NPR. See contact the Family Ministries Department for details.

Carolina ShareHim Campaign – Feb 4-22. Details, see info@sharehim.org or call 1-844-SHAREHIM.

Pathfinder Work Bee – March 13-15. NPR.

MPA Graduation Weekend – March 15-17. MPA.

ALIVE Youth Rally – March 20, 21. Spartanburg Church.

Florida

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

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Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Feb. 8. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Ft. Myers Shores, Ft. Myers, Cape Coral, Naples.

Feb. 9. Port Charlotte, North Port, Sarasota, Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.

Feb. 15. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Feb. 22. Silver Springs Shores,

Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Feb. 23. Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.

March 1. Lauderdale, Plantation, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet)

March 8. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Ft. Lauderdale.

March 9. Margate, Boynton Beach, Victory in Port St. Lucie. (Southeastern Conference: Ephesus West Palm Beach.)

March 15. Titusville, Cocoa, Ft. Pierce, Midport in Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay, Port St. Lucie.)

March 22. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Florida Keys Camp Meeting – Feb. 20-22. Camp Sawyer at MM34. Theme: What Adventists Know About the Future and What You Need to Find Out Now. Speaker: Lewis Walton, attorney and author. Potluck fellowship meals for lunch and supper. Details: 305-743-5268.

Women’s Ministries Retreats – Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: On Wings of Prayer. Cost: \$57.25-\$229 depending on meal and accommodation choice. All weekends include young adult and teen track. Registration: <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>

Feb. 13-15. English Language. Speaker: Heather Dawn Small.

Feb. 20-22. English-language. Speaker: Heather Dawn Small. Haitian track speaker: Joselle LaGuerre.

Feb. 27-March 1. Spanish-language. Speaker: Carolann de Leon.

Retired Denominational Workers’ Retreat – March 20-22. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Speaker: Gary Patterson. Reservation information to arrive in retiree mailboxes or call 407-331-8249 or 407-924-6486.

Georgia-Cumberland

Pathfinder Junior Event – Jan. 16-18. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Health/Personal Ministries Leadership Training – Jan. 17. 3-6:00 p.m. Stone Mountain Church, GA.

“Spreading the Gospel with Internet Radio” presented by Brian and Eric Hickman – Jan. 25. 1-3 p.m. FREE Communication Workshop. Register at registration.gccsda.com. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

High School Retreat Deadline – register by Jan. 28 for the Feb. 6-8 event. For SDA students not in SDA schools. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Health/Personal Ministries Leadership Training – Jan. 31. Ooltewah Church. Ooltewah, TN.

Hispanic Children’s Ministries Convention – Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Children’s Ministries Convention – Feb. 13-15. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience – Feb. 14. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Hispanic Couples’ Retreat – Feb. 20-22. Winshape. Rome, GA.

Pathfinder Teen Event – Feb. 20-22. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Prayer Conference – Feb. 20-22. Cohutta Springs. Crandall, GA.

Mid-Term Constituency exReport – Feb. 21. Collegedale Church. Collegedale, TN.

Most events require pre-registration at registration.gccsda.com

Kentucky-Tennessee

Literature Evangelist Year-End Retreat – Jan. 1-4. Pigeon Forge, TN.

Ministers’ Meetings – Jan. 5-8. Pigeon Forge, TN.

Highland Academy Board – Jan. 22. Highland Academy.

Executive Committee – Jan. 27. Conference Office.

Evangelism Boot Camp – Jan.

30-Feb. 1. Indian Creek Camp.

7-Up Retreat – Feb. 13-15.

Board of Education – Feb. 24. Conference Office.

Music Festival – March 19-21. Highland Academy.

Louisville Festival of Faith – March 27, 28. Pewee Valley Church.

Southern Adventist University

Orchestra Concert – Feb. 8. Southern’s Symphony Orchestra presents a concerto concert at 4 p.m. in Collegedale Church. The event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

Archaeology Lecture – Feb. 9. Andrew Vaughn, executive director at the American Schools of Oriental Research, will share about the importance of archaeological data relating to the Kingdom of Judah. The lecture takes place at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. The event is free and open to the public.

To view past presentations, visit southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries.

Preview Southern – Feb. 16. Interested students can explore campus, talk with professors, and learn about scholarship opportunities. Southern provides meals and accommodations for students and their immediate family. Call 423-236-2807 or email dmoore@southern.edu to schedule a visit.

Southern Union

NAD Youth Advisories – March 7-12. Union College, Lincoln, NB.

Union Pathfinder Bible Experience Finals – March 28. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

Sunset

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30	Feb. 6
Atlanta, GA	5:41	5:46	5:53	5:59	6:06	6:13
Charleston, SC	5:25	5:31	5:37	5:44	5:50	5:57
Charlotte, NC	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:57
Collegedale, TN	5:41	5:47	5:53	6:00	6:07	6:15
Huntsville, AL	4:47	4:53	6:39	4:42	4:47	4:53
Jackson, MS	5:07	5:13	5:19	5:26	5:32	5:39
Louisville, KY	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:56	6:03	6:11
Memphis, TN	5:00	5:06	5:12	5:19	5:26	5:33
Miami, FL	5:42	5:47	5:52	5:58	6:03	6:08
Montgomery, AL	4:52	4:57	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:23
Nashville, TN	4:44	4:50	4:57	5:04	5:11	5:19
Orlando, FL	5:41	5:46	5:52	5:57	6:03	6:09
Wilmington, NC	5:14	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:47

TIDINGS

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FREE* PreviewSouthern events:

February 16, 2015

March 19 and 20, 2015

April 9 and 10, 2015

*Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit, too.



To arrange your visit, call **1.800.SOUTHERN**
or go to **southern.edu/enrollment**.



Power for Mind & Soul