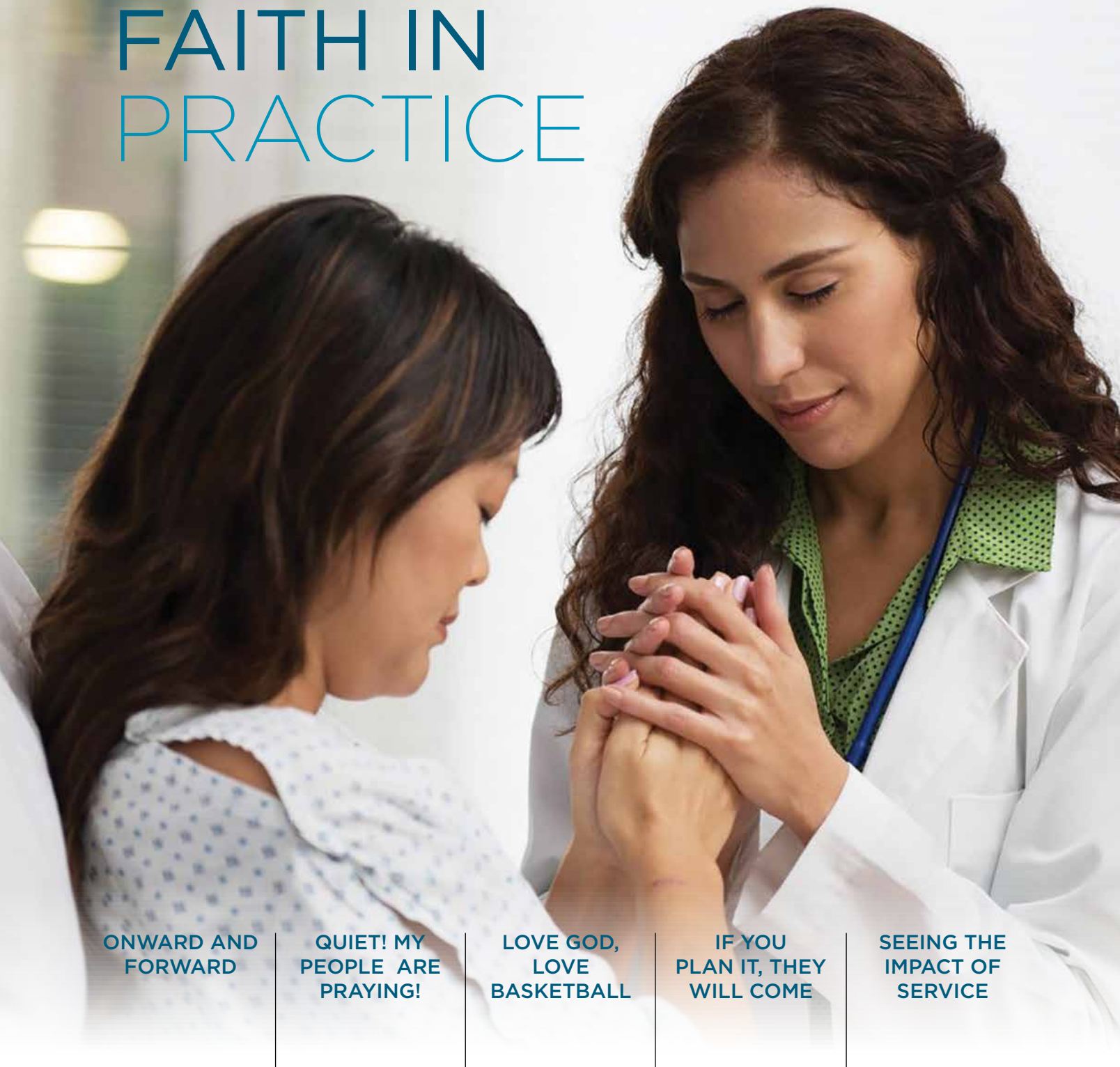


T Southern TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2017

FAITH IN PRACTICE



ONWARD AND FORWARD

QUIET! MY PEOPLE ARE PRAYING!

LOVE GOD, LOVE BASKETBALL

IF YOU PLAN IT, THEY WILL COME

SEEING THE IMPACT OF SERVICE

The Church Ministering to Singles



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

Southern Union Conference Singles' Ministry is at the heart of our Union-wide vision, although it's not frequently referenced. Many of our 292,000 constituents are single. We must be intentional in our quest to engage our single members in every area of our ministry. I am delighted to introduce Bob Merrills, a spirit-filled champion for a vibrant Singles' Ministry in the eight conferences of the Southern Union. -- RCS

Christian fellowship helps healing. Some feel like “Casper the Friendly Ghost”: they are part of the church, but not noticed. About 40 percent of the Adventist Church in America are single, either never married, divorced, or widowed. As chaplain of the Singles' Ministry, I have talked to many who painfully lost a mate through death. I have also heard the pain of those separated by divorce, for whom closure is difficult. Having gone through a divorce myself, I better understand why Jesus hates divorce: no one wins. I would like to see us be proactive to the pain of singles. For example, a man who was an active camper with his family and church found out that, after his wife left, he was not included in the camping trips. He felt alone and doubly separated — the loss of his wife and now church fellowship. Can we feel his pain? When someone is hurting from loss (or anything), it is not the time to withhold love, even if we think it's their fault. It's good to be watching for God's hurting children. A visitor at church overheard that a church member's wife was leaving him and moving out the next day. He, having gone through a divorce, said to the church member, “I will be there Sunday morning. You won't have to go through this alone.” That's ministering!

On a more positive note, say you know some singles. Invite them over for a meal or something. You might be surprised at the blessing that comes to you and them. I'm learning that for suffering people, having a strong family and/or friend's support makes loss — even though it's the worst thing ever — easier to handle. We the Church can be their strong support. I remember a church with members who were there for each other. The spirit of God was active. It was a very friendly church. The members ranged from professionals to those on welfare, and would eat at each other's homes. In this church one Sabbath morning, a member whose wife was leaving him shared her intention with the church. They were his support through the ordeal. By the way, that little church had 48 baptisms that year. Obviously, the new baptisms felt and saw the love of God as well.

Not all singles are hurting or lacking fulfillment. I believe far more would enjoy life and be blessed if they knew more about the Singles' Ministry of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. This ministry provides spiritual support, emotional support, and fellowship in several different ways. Some come to socials to add another dimension to their lives. At Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holidays, we get together for those whose families aren't near. Others just enjoy our times together. We also plan special activities such as campouts, field trips, and retreats. Others join our mission trips to Ecuador for medical and building projects. Others work in our community outreach food bank called “Heaven's Bounty.” These are some of the ways the ministry serves.

I would like to see an annual, Union-wide gathering to let singles know the church is with them to give stability, familiarity, guidance, and a strong spiritual foundation. We could have time to share, learn, and feel the value and support of others.

I dream of seeing our churches as places where everyone can feel a part — regardless of age, marital status, or race. There is a special blessing when you are part of a larger fellowship. That fellowship is “the family of God.” Being part of a Union-wide gathering could add a great blessing to all singles in the Southern Union Conference.

Please join me and the Southern Union administrative team in holding Brother Bob Merrills before God as he continues to break new ground through Singles' Ministry. We desire to publicly declare our partnership with him. -- RCS



Bob Merrills
Georgia-Cumberland Singles' Ministry Chaplain
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FAITH IN PRACTICE

BY JAMIE HARRISON

His anxiety was debilitating. Feelings of doubt and anger often consumed his thoughts, while suffering from painful ulcers and migraines left 29-year-old Matthew Norris feeling trapped in a continual state of mental and physical anguish. Sleepless nights, sudden weight loss, and various agonizing symptoms caused Norris to visit his doctor's office numerous times.

"I was having all kinds of problems — issues with anxiety and having thoughts in my head that weren't rational," he explained. "I was feeling sick and tired all of the time and in pretty bad shape."

Eventually Scott LePor, D.O., primary care physician at Gordon Hospital Internal and Family Medicine in Calhoun, Georgia, took notice of Norris' repeated visits and did something unexpected.

LePor decided to pray with Norris, and asked if he felt comfortable sharing any mental struggles that may be affecting his health.

"I feel that praying with my patients builds a deeper connection, brings great relief and oftentimes brings an outpouring of stored up grief that frees the patient and leads them on a path of true inner healing," LePor explained. "It is one of the most freeing and powerful aspects I find in medicine when it does occur."

With the help of LePor's spiritual counseling, Norris came to an eye-opening revelation.

"We talked about everything that was wrong, and we narrowed it down to me having anger and hate in my heart," Norris said. "I went through a long time of harboring feelings of bitterness toward certain people in my life, and LePor brought that to my attention. It was a major wakeup call."

After realizing that Norris' suppressed feelings of negativity were causing his health to spiral, LePor shared Bible verses with Norris and gave him invaluable advice about forgiveness.

"Two of the most common principles that I discuss in my practice are bitterness or forgiveness and fear," said LePor, "explaining to patients that Christ's commands, as in the command to forgive, are not a benchmark for us to achieve, but are aligning us to the way we were designed to live in fulfillment."

Once LePor spoke with Norris about forgiveness, acceptance, and letting go of his past, Norris was able to conquer his struggles with anxiety, and move forward with a renewed outlook on life.

"At first I was a little upset and disappointed with myself that I let my issues get this far, but once we figured out the cause of it, I was relieved and happy to know that I could fix it," Norris said. "Since then I haven't any stomach problems, migraine headaches, or anxiety issues."

Studies show that religion, spirituality, and health have been associated with improved health outcomes and better quality of life. Norris' testimony is one example of how incorporating spirituality into patient care can have a substantial impact on whole person care.

However, the spiritual needs of patients, especially in outpatient settings, frequently go unmet. For this reason, the training of health professionals on how to integrate spirituality into patient care has been encouraged across health professions.

Adventist Health System (AHS) recently conducted a study called *Faith in Practice*, in collaboration with Harold G. Koenig, M.D., director of the Center for Spirituality,





Scott LePor, D.O. (left), has found that praying with patients and teaching them about forgiveness can alleviate stress and improve their healing process.

Theology and Health at the Duke University School of Medicine.

The year-long study examined AHS-affiliated health providers and staff regarding various spiritual practices such as praying with patients, sharing personal religious beliefs with patients, and encouraging patients' religious beliefs for health benefits.

The *Faith in Practice* study was created to infuse prayer and spiritual support into outpatient care. The purpose of this study aligned with AHS's commitment to deliver a continuum of wholeness that embraces patients' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. By integrating prayer and spiritual components into physician/patient relationships, AHS supports a patient's journey to wholeness, which further contributes to the organization's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

"Research shows that 85 percent of Americans believe in a transcendent power," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., vice president of medical mission for Adventist Health System. "Almost three-fourths of Americans would welcome a conversation with their physician about spiritual things, but only about 10 to 15 percent of doctors are comfortable having that conversation. If we leave out the spiritual part of health care, we leave out a very important part in a lot of people's lives."

The study was conducted with AHS-affiliated outpatient providers in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Illinois. Nearly 445 physicians and providers completed the 12-month research project that involved a baseline assessment, an intensive and educational orientation, and a follow-up survey.

In order to ensure physicians were providing whole person care in outpatient settings, AHS created a clinical mission integration team for the study. The clinical mission integration team was responsible for recruiting and educating the physicians on how to incorporate spiritual elements into their patient practices. As part of the overall project, providers were also asked to identify professional staff to assist them in integrating spirituality into outpatient care. Staff included nurses, medical assistants, office managers, social workers, and other office staff.

"I didn't meet any providers who declined to participate in the study," said Lin-



The *Faith in Practice* study analyzed more than 400 physicians' experiences as they introduced spiritual components into patient care.

da Walker, clinical mission integration specialist. "That in itself was pretty amazing, and I knew that God was going before me, because there was no way that we could do this on our own."

The clinical mission integration team trained the health professionals on how to ask spiritual questions and how to spiritually assess patients.

"When you are able to share spiritual dialog with your patient and provide for their medical needs, you are ultimately demonstrating whole person care," explained Kathy Perno, director of medical mission integration for Adventist Health System. "This helps us to fulfill our promise as a faith-based organization."

The physicians and providers who participated in the study were of various faiths, including some with no religious affiliation at all.

"Even if our physicians don't believe in Christ, they believe in offering whole person care," Walker said. "That way, we were able to bring on Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish providers because they all understand the importance of our whole person care philosophy."

Along with asking patients if they would like to pray during their office visit, the spiritual questions consisted of the following:

- Do you have a faith-based support system to help you in times of need?
- Do you have any religious beliefs that

might influence your medical decisions?

- Do you have any other spiritual concerns that you would like someone to address?

"We left it up to the providers when deciding on who they were going to ask. Some of them would ask every patient who came through the door, and some would ask patients who they felt were showing signs of depression," explained Walker. "If a patient shared that they are going through a rough time, the physician would go ahead and ask the spiritual questions."

The clinical mission integration team also encouraged each practice to nominate a staff member as a spiritual care coordinator. A clinical mission integration specialist would then train the spiritual care coordinator on how to connect with patients spiritually. If a physician was unable to pray with their patient due to differences in religious beliefs, the spiritual care coordinator would be available to step in and pray with the patient. This enabled the physician and his team to successfully fulfill the spiritual needs of their patient.

"I feel like we've really made a difference out there," Walker said. "We've seen miracles happen. It's much more than I've ever dreamed."

As a primary care physician affiliated with Florida Hospital, Annabell Torres, M.D., has always held a strong interest in integrating spirituality and whole person care into her practice. If a patient was experiencing a difficult time emotionally, Torres started inquiring about their support system: their family, friends, and community. Within the patient's community, she would ask if the patient belonged to a church.

"If a patient's significant other passed away, we try to focus on what would help them cope with the pain, and what would nourish them," Torres explained. "We would ask the patient if they have someone they could trust, or if they have a spiritual leader that they could speak with. After that, the patient would usually open up."

While Torres was enthusiastic about adding spiritual questions into her patient assessments, there were two main concerns some physicians faced during the beginning of the study.

"One concern was that the spiritual as-



Studies show that patients similarly place a high value on spirituality, especially during a time of illness.

assessments would take too much time and they couldn't afford to get behind in the day," Ted Hamilton, M.D., said. "But, that ended up being a non-concern. Doctors across the board say that it took very little additional time, if any at all."

Hamilton explained that the second issue involved physicians' concerns about having the ability to mend complex spiritual dilemmas.

"We organized this referral program so doctors would have a resource to use in difficult situations," he said. "We filled in the blanks. That made it possible for them to participate in the study without compromising their practice."

Family medicine physician Geoffrey Kuhlman, M.D., from AMITA Health Medical Group Bolingbrook in Bolingbrook, Illinois, found that this study not only provided him a framework to discuss faith with his patients, but also gave him the confidence to do so.

"I've always recognized the favorable impacts faith has on health outcomes," Kuhlman said. "However, I never felt comfortable discussing faith with patients unless they brought it up first. This study challenged me to overcome that fear."

During the course of the study, Kuhlman became more comfortable integrating faith and whole person care into his patient assessments.

"I could see their minds and hearts opening as I asked them about their faith. Some patients admitted that they had fallen out of faith but recognized that they needed to return to it," Kuhlman explained. "Other patients who never really connected with any particular faith realized that working through their health problems would become much easier if they developed faith and trusted God beyond themselves."

Kuhlman hopes to expand the presence of the *Faith in Practice* principles to physicians through his health system and eventually beyond.

"Incorporating faith into patient care has been a practice-changing element for me. It hasn't taken anything away from how I practiced before, but it certainly enhances it," he said. "I have aspirations and plans to share the *Faith in Practice* paradigm with other physicians in our medical group and larger health system."

Neurologist Laura Fleck, M.D., from Foundation in Spine Health in Asheville, North Carolina, explained that examining spiritual issues and needs with patients brought a level of intimacy to the relationship that may have not been present before.

"It says to the patient that I am available on a personal as well as professional level," Fleck said. "This helped to inspire trust."

Kuhlman and Fleck expressed how the

Holy Spirit brought countless benefits to their practices, and how aligning spirituality with patient care impacted them personally. Kuhlman described working with the Spirit as "humbling, empowering, and joyful."

"Bringing faith into practice has rejuvenated my feelings about my career. It's given much greater meaning to what I do, day in and day out," he said.

"Nowadays, medical practice is complicated. We have a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work that is often not gratifying," Kuhlman explained. "But, to have one great spiritual encounter with a patient in a day, more than makes up for all of those difficulties that drag us down and lead to physician burnout. It probably does as much for me as it does for patients."

Fleck revealed how discussing someone else's spiritual needs affected her own spiritual well-being as well. She also echoed feelings of reinvigoration and renewal during the study.

"It humbled me. I felt honored by the sharing of something as cherished as my patients' spiritual beliefs. I also felt closer to the God I believe in, whose very presence I sensed during many encounters," she said. "The study has refreshed me and given me new enthusiasm for practicing medicine. In a time when physicians are faced with increasing demands and challenges, this is a real blessing!"

As the study progressed, she discovered significant advantages of incorporating wholeness and spiritual beliefs into patient care.

"The advantage for the provider is that we can be better at what we do. We can feel good about meeting all of our patients' needs," Fleck said. "We get to experience the joy of reconnecting with the reason why we went into medicine in the first place — to make a difference in the lives of our patients."

The *Faith in Practice* study proved that spirituality is an important aspect of patients' overall health and quality of life. Incorporating Christ and His healing power into medical practices will not only foster better outcomes for the patient, but will reflect our commitment as Seventh-day Adventist Christians to demonstrate his love. 🕊

Jamie Harrison is a brand specialist at Adventist Health System.



PHOTO BY: STEPHEN RUF

Dan Jackson (left, back row), president of the North American Division; Jim Davidson, executive secretary of the Southern Union; and Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, stand with three retirees who worked the longest for the Church: Les Rilea, retired NSO/chaplaincy director for the Southern Union, who served for 45 years; Beulah Myers, retired Church school teacher; and G. Tom Carter, retired planned giving and trust services director for the Southern Union, who served for 46 years.

ONWARD AND FORWARD

BY JIM DAVIDSON

This has been a wonderful weekend... “It was so good to see people we haven’t seen in years...” “When will this event happen again?” These were the comments and questions that were heard from attendees at the first Southern Union-sponsored convention for current and former Church and Adventist hospital employees age 55-plus. The event, themed “Onward and Forward,” was held June 22-24, 2017, on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Several hundred attendees participated in an event that was designed to provide nurture, information, fellowship, and affirmation for lives of service to God’s Church. Pastors, teachers, administrators, literature evangelists, and Adventist hospital employees gathered and spent the weekend in seminars and plenary sessions designed for their needs.

The opening night keynote speaker, Ed Reid, challenged the group to remain faithful in their walk with the Lord. The next morning he shared from Scripture and current events the nearness of Christ’s return. Doug Jacobs, D.Min., professor of religion at Southern Adventist University, presented

a stirring message designed to encourage a personal life of study in God’s Word.

Recently, the North American Division significantly changed the healthcare delivery for its retired employees. Ray Jimenez, newly elected director for Adventist Retirement, was on hand to make a presentation explaining the reasons for the change, and how it effects retirees.

Throughout the day on Friday, participants were enriched by seminars on topics ranging from senior finance; gardening; senior travel; and Ellen White and the Civil War, presented by Jud Lake, Th.D., D.Mn., professor of homiletics at Southern Adventist University and director of Adventist Studies at the Institute for the Study of Ellen White and Adventist Heritage, and based on his recent book, *A Nation in God’s Hands*.

Friday evening the group was once again inspired, this time by Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union. Sabbath morning for worship service, the Collegedale, Tennessee, Church, graciously provided the venue for Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, to present the message.

Perhaps the best blessing was simply the

sweet fellowship. In addition to meeting and making new friends, many enjoyed reunions with people they may have worked with years earlier. An often heard remark was, “It is so good to see you again!” There is a special camaraderie that exists with those who have given their lives to some form of full-time ministry. It was easy to see expressions of joy on many faces as they reconnected with someone with whom they had previously labored.

The convention was planned by the eight conferences’ executive secretaries in coordination with the Secretariat Office at the Southern Union. They provided support, insight, and guidance to this event that had been in the planning stage for more than two years. As plans progressed, they prayed that an atmosphere of affirmation and appreciation for these soldiers for God could be sensed. It was calculated that more than 10,000 years of collective service was represented by the hundreds who attended. Thousands of souls have been baptized by the pastors in attendance. Thousands of students have received an Adventist education from the teachers. Many more thousands have been ministered to in hos-

pitals throughout the Southern Union. Un-numbered doors have been knocked on by literature evangelists. What a legacy of service these individuals are providing to the Church. Truly an army for God was represented by this special group.

But, not only were they appreciated for their years of full-time service, but also for their continued involvement in local churches, schools, and communities while in retirement. The Church continues to be blessed by their knowledge, experience, and faithfulness.

Sabbath afternoon the group was reminded of the many facets of ministry that take place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. David and Carol Cotton, current employees, shared the almost mission-field-like ministry that takes place at Manchester Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Kentucky. Situated in the heart of the Daniel Boone National Forest, Manchester Memorial Hospital, part of the Adventist Health System, provides healthcare services to Clay, Jackson, and Owsley counties. These counties are in the eastern coal-field region of Kentucky. Manchester is a small community of less than 2,000 people, and collectively the three counties have a population of less than 40,000 residents. And yet, this rural lighthouse averages 60,000 patient visits each year, including 20,000 emergency visits and nearly 200 births. These long-time employees shared the influence that this 63-bed hospital has on the community, and its impact for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Bill Hicks, retired school teacher and academy principal, reminisced about the blessing that working with young people throughout his career had been to him. He told of individuals, now adults, introducing themselves and saying, “You used to be my teacher.” What a joy to see former students who continue to be part of God’s Church, and are experiencing a walk with Him.

Gary Moyer, current executive secretary for the Carolina Conference, as well as a pastor for a number of years, expressed the joy working for the Church had brought him. He also told the poignant story of the death of his first wife at a very young age, and the support the Church had given him.

Dave Haugsted, long-time literature



Jim Davidson (right), executive secretary of the Southern Union, interviews David and Carol Cotton, employees at Manchester Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Kentucky, to learn more about the almost mission-field-like ministry that takes place at Manchester Memorial.

PHOTO BY: STEPHEN RIJF

evangelist and publishing director, told of an experience that God had given him.

He was following up a lead card that had come to him in the mail. When he knocked on the door, a young woman and her two small daughters were surprised, for they expected the information to be sent to them in the mail. However, they invited Dave in and he presented the canvass, showing them *The Bible Story* set. After the presentation the young woman said, “Oh, they are wonderful, I would love to have them. However, there is no way I would be allowed to buy them. For you see, my husband hates religion. He has forbidden me or the girls from ever even bringing up the subject. In fact, if he were to come home right now and see these religious books on the floor, he would probably beat you up.”

Realizing he wasn’t going to make a sale, Haugsted began to gather up the books when one of the little girls said, “I hear Daddy in the driveway.” With a look of fear on the young mother’s face, she hastily gathered up the children and ran into another room.

Haugsted, left alone in the room with his books and wondering what he should do, decided to confront the situation head on, and went to the door and opened it just as the man came onto the porch. He extended his hand and said, “Hello, I’m Dave Haugsted, how are you?” The man looked at him and said, “What are you doing here?” When Haugsted began to explain that he was selling *The Bible Story* books, the man flew

into a rage and began to curse and swear. He shouted, “I don’t want anything to do with God!” As the man continued to curse and threaten Haugsted, he went to pick up volume 9 of the books, and opened to a picture of the crucifixion, Jesus hanging on the cross. He said, “Sir, Jesus knows everything about you and He loves you.” The man stood in silence for several moments, not saying a word, and then tears began to form in his eyes and roll down his face. He said, “I want to know God. I want Him in my life.” And in that moment, this avowed atheist gave his heart to the Lord. Haugsted and his wife studied with the family, and a few months later, joyously witnessed their baptism and joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the conclusion of this story, Haugsted said, “This not only changed him, but this experience and others like it changed me too.”

As the weekend unfolded, it became evident that not only has the Church been blessed by this group of people, but they in turn have been blessed and enriched by having the opportunity to minister. During the Sabbath church service, a short video was shown featuring Jynean Reid, long-time teacher at Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and Ken Coonley, retired pastor and conference president. The video can be viewed at www.southernunion.com/OnwardForward. In this video, they represented the nearly 10,000 current and former Church and hospital employees who are age 55-plus, and reside in the Southern Union. Their message was simple, but heartfelt. They thanked the Church for the opportunity to serve. They expressed the difference the Church has made in their lives. Through the faithfulness, loyalty, guidance, and friendship of you, the Church, they have been brought closer to Jesus. For that they thank you for giving them the wonderful privilege of sharing Jesus and the Good News of salvation. With anticipation, they look “Onward and Forward” to that glorious day when Jesus comes again. ●

Jim Davidson is the executive secretary at the Southern Union Conference in Norcross, Georgia.

QUIET! MY PEOPLE ARE PRAYING!

BY ANA (ANNIE) PÉREZ, PH.D.



Annie Pérez (right), Florida Conference prayer ministries director, prays with student worker Ashley Mandracken in a Prayer Room set up in the Conference office.



Workers wrote prayer requests and messages of praise on the Prayer Room walls.

A life-size etching of Jesus with His outstretched arms and pierced hands draws your eye as you enter the Florida Conference office atrium. Walkways surrounding the water feature lead to work spaces and the bustle of daily activity.

Mere steps into the work space, two prayer rooms were constructed as part of a pilot program to create a safe, welcoming environment for employees to pray for themselves and others.

Preparation

Prayer Room walls were covered in brown construction-grade paper to facilitate portraying prayer requests. An inviting, yet subdued, color scheme drew the eye. Several chairs and covered tables dotted each room. Pictures graced the walls.

Subdued lighting, flameless candles, and the hint of lavender provided ambience.

Implementation

While one room remained a place of prayer for all, the other room was designated for use by those with special burdens for children.

The invitation was given to come often and stay as long as needed. Employees and visitors were entreated to write their petition on the wall with a marker. After praying for the petition, they were encouraged to wait for an answer. Petitions encircled the walls, as well as answers to prayers.

Remembrance of the visit was available through books about prayer, pins, and other giveaway items. Visitors were encouraged to take one and share one.

Summarization

These prayer rooms, originally begun as a pilot program to measure interest, were received with open arms. Employees and visitors became actively engaged. They wrote requests concerning their friends, family, health, and what they wanted deliverance from, as well as miracles and answers to prayers.

Employees left the rooms feeling renewed and at peace after spending an average of five to seven minutes.

At the end of the month, several pastors came and prayed for the petitions written on the walls, gave thanks for the miracles, and praised God for what had already been done and what He was about to do. 🙏

Ana (Annie) Pérez, Ph.D. is director of women's ministries and prayer ministries for Florida Conference.



Florida Conference sports ministry team members, coaches, and directors participated in outreach April 29, 2017, at the United Against Poverty facility. Jonathan Swan (second from left) is the sports director, and Yazmine Rivera (right) is the Community Outreach director.

“All to the Glory of God,” 1 Corinthians 10:31

LOVE GOD, LOVE BASKETBALL

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

The basketball courts lay empty, the final playoff game is a memory, but the event of the season is about to begin. It is Sabbath, April 29, in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

Under endless blue skies, with warm spring breezes blowing gently through the portico of the Florida Conference office, young athletes from around Central Florida embark from their means of transportation to prepare for the annual Community Outreach Day sponsored by Florida Conference Sports Ministry and the Conference Youth Department.

Teams, family, and friends entered into a praise and worship service. Romain Medley, a Forest Lake Academy faculty member, presented a homily and a special prayer of blessing.

In the afternoon, two locations were available for outreach: Unity Against Poverty and the Ronald McDonald House.

United Against Poverty

The purpose of this organization is to inspire and empower people living in poverty to lift themselves and their families to economic sufficiency. Team members pitched in where needed to stock produce and other grocery items on the shelves.

“Volunteering with United Against Pov-

erty was a rewarding experience. We had the opportunity to assist and interact with patrons who were grateful for the work we were doing. We were appreciative for the chance to contribute our time and efforts, and we look forward to the next opportunity for outreach.” —*Jasmine Jones, head coach for Message of Hope basketball team*

Ronald McDonald House

Volunteers took gift cards for the staff to present to the patients, and brought gifts and toys to be placed in a treasure room. A tour of the facility included a playroom for children three to 10, a game room mainly for teenagers, and room for families to gather.

“While in the kitchen, some of us were able to interact with patients, and helped



PHOTOS BY: GLORY TOKICS

Washing dishes at Ronald McDonald House in Orlando was part of helping others on Florida Conference Sports Ministry Outreach Day.

with dirty dishes and cleaning. Although we wish we had more interactions with the children, it was a great experience. We were pleased to represent the basketball ministry in the community and share the love of Christ with others.” —*Enosch Charles, Bethel French basketball team* 📍

SPORTS MINISTRY STATISTICS

Florida Conference Sports Ministries began in 2011 as an entity to encourage young people to stay in the Church as well as witness to their friends. Director Jonathan Swan further encourages his players with his signature line on every email: “Love God. Love Basketball. ‘All to the Glory of God,’ 1 Corinthians 10:31.”

During the 2016-2017 basketball season, 341 young people were involved in this program, representing:

- 16 Adult teams
- 9 Varsity (High School) teams
- 6 Youth teams
- 9 Florida Conference churches
- 8 Southeastern Conference churches

IF YOU PLAN IT, THEY WILL COME!

BY APRIL VANAPELDORN

Have you ever had one of those ideas where you had such anticipation and excitement inside that you didn't plan things through all the way, but still had high hopes for the idea?

That was the reality at Madison Campus Church last year. Ignacio Silverio, pastor, had a big idea for reaching out to the Madison community, creating an event that was completely free, where every church ministry would participate. They would give away free school supplies, food, and information on the church and academies; introduce people to the church, and pray for them; and just "love on people" in general. However, they only had two weeks to try to pull everything together.

They created flyers, gathered as many donations as possible, and set out on a mission to reach out to the community. The end result was a turnout of mainly church members with a few folks from within the community. It was definitely not what they had hoped for, but they refused to let it deter them from trying again. The church family put their trust in God's timing.

Fast forward one year into 2017: The pastor was full of excitement to embark on this endeavor once more, but this year Madison Campus prepared!

The sun was shining and you could see many people scurrying around the church parking lot putting up tents and tables, blowing up inflatable games, and setting up the feature game of the year — human foosball.

Each ministry within the church set up a booth which offered information about the ministry and a free school item and snack food. This year, months were spent planning the event. Donations were re-



Fun at the block party



Human foosball

ceived from Frito, Little Debbie, Pepsi, Coke, and Nourish, to mention a few. They enlisted the help of retired veteran J. T. Cooper, who offered his grill and services to cook hot dogs, and two hairdressers, Lexi Limbacher and Autumn Mitchell, who gave 35 free haircuts to the kids; and invited the local FOX17 news.

The clock struck 2 p.m. and the community slowly started coming in. By 3 p.m. it was booming, with people from the local community filling the parking lot. They were able to reach out to more than 400 people from within the community,

providing them with information, food, games, school supplies, haircuts, and live music performed by church members. Prayer boxes were filled by the end of the day. If you plant a seed, God will water it, and oh, how it will grow! This event touched many people, and many seeds were sown at the Block Party. It was amazing for members to witness all the love, and to genuinely share Jesus.

The community experienced Madison Campus Church living its mission statement through and through: Love God, Love People, Serve the World. ☛

SEEING THE IMPACT OF SERVICE

BY ANGELA BAERG

One hundred twenty-five years ago, Southern Adventist University began as Graysville Academy. Much has changed over the years, but Southern's goal of helping students develop a spirit of mission and service remains the same. In fact, service-learning and community service are considered so essential that they are built into the graduation requirements.

Students have numerous local opportunities to choose from, such as singing praise songs for the community through One Praise Gospel Choir, or reaching out through friendship evangelism with West Side for Jesus in Chattanooga's inner city. Frequently students connect with a non-profit organization and continue to volunteer above and beyond what is required.

Overseas missions also continues to be a priority at Southern. Last year 58 student missionaries made a one-year commitment in 19 different countries. For those who long to serve internationally but cannot go for an entire year, other opportunities abound. Last year 191 students went on short-term trips through Southern's uQuest Missions program, serving in ways related to their majors and future careers. Additionally, 78 students traveled abroad this summer as volunteer evangelists with the School of Religion's Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC).

Volunteer Evangelism at Work

When the ERC first launched its missions program in 2001, only theology majors were sent. In 2005, other majors began participating as well. Today non-theology majors form the majority of ERC teams. Over the last 17 years, the ERC has sent 1,222 preachers to 79 destinations. Team members preach in evangelistic series that range from one to four



Southern nursing major Genesis Serrano (quatting, right), and others in her evangelistic team, preached in Colombia this past summer.

weeks and have resulted in 33,218 baptisms.

The ERC also does follow-up trips to strengthen the faith of believers. This summer Genesis Serrano, a nursing major, preached 16 sermons in Apartadó, Colombia. In one sermon, she preached about the new Garden of Eden, and how it gives hope to those who have lost loved ones and have accepted Christ as their Savior. When she made her altar call, a woman came to the front to share her story. She had been baptized five years ago, but after her son was killed and mutilated last year, she became so angry with God that she left the Church. With tears streaming down her face, she said that after hearing the sermons in Serrano's series, she was now certain that her son's death was not God's doing but Satan's.

"She said we had given her hope that she'll see her son again," Serrano said. "In that moment, I realized how God had used me to share His Word and reach His daughter who had been lost and was now ready to come back home." ●



With a wide variety of service options, students are able to match their passions with local or international needs to find a mutual blessing.

As we mark Southern's 125th anniversary this year, we invite you to join us in this tradition of serving others. This year our goal is to collect 125,000 hours of service, and everyone is invited to participate. Visit southern.edu/125 to enter your community service hours and watch our progress.

Angela Baerg is a Montessori preschool teacher who graduated in 2006 from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Adventist Hospital Donates Thousands of Pounds of Food Monthly

Many economically disadvantaged central Florida families often face an impossible choice: either food or shelter.

In fact, according to a recent study, 70 percent of area households said they had to choose between buying food or paying their mortgage or rent at least once during the previous year.

Many of those families rely on Second Harvest Food Bank's local network of feeding partners to get the food they need to survive.

And now, Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital is launching an initiative that will give thousands of pounds of food to the community each month through a partnership with Second Harvest which will allow Florida Hospital to increase its charitable initiative.

From pot roast to bread to chicken, Florida Hospital prepares thousands of meals daily for patients, visitors, and employees who eat at campus cafeterias. Now, extra food is carefully packaged and stored for donation to Second Harvest, which in turn donates the fresh food to area soup kitchens and other organizations through its Second Helpings program.

Florida Hospital recently launched the program at its Orlando campus, and will eventually extend it to all its hospitals in central Florida. An average of 1,500 pounds has been donated monthly to Second Harvest from the Orlando campus alone.

"Lack of access to healthy foods is a significant challenge in central Florida. This has major impacts on the overall health of our community, as good nutrition is a key to good health," said Daryl Tol, president and CEO of Florida Hospital and the Central Florida Division — Adventist Health System. "Florida Hospital is honored to partner with the Second Harvest Food Bank and help bring much-needed food to those who need it most."

One in six central Floridians turn to charitable food assistance programs that



Florida Hospital and Second Harvest Food Bank are bringing fresh food to area soup kitchens and other organizations.

are part of the local Second Harvest Food Bank network each year. On average, that's nearly 500,000 low-income people who seek help with food more than 71,000 times per week.

They are working poor families, seniors, children, veterans, homeless, and others. To make their struggles even more serious, these populations face a disproportionately high rate of preventable, food-related health challenges.

According to Second Harvest's Faces of Hunger report:

- 27 percent of central Florida households have at least one member with diabetes.
- 53 percent have a member with high blood pressure.
- 51 percent have members who are uninsured.

"When you consider the sheer numbers of people who are facing food insecurity, it's not hard to see the potential impact that access

to healthy food can have on overall community health," said Dave Krepcho, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "In fact, food and nutrition are one of the relatively few things that actually could be a game-changer when it comes to prevention and effective management of disease." 📌



Florida Hospital donates about 1,500 pounds of food each month from two of its campuses.

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Gordon Hospital Begins Using Telemedicine to Provide Additional Care to Critically Ill Patients



Advanced ICU Care complements Gordon Hospital physicians with additional around-the-clock monitoring for ICU patients.



Advanced ICU Care's team complements the care provided by Gordon Hospital physicians, continuously monitoring patients' vital signs, medications, labs, and clinical status.

Adventist Health System's Gordon Hospital has successfully implemented one of the most advanced critical care telemedicine programs available in hospital intensive care units (ICUs).

Utilizing highly trained intensivists and critical care nurses from Advanced ICU Care, the nation's largest provider of tele-ICU services, to provide additional monitoring 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Gordon Hospital now provides an extra layer of care that enhances patient safety.

"Our patients are receiving the best recommended standard of medical care available with the collaboration between their doctor, the hospital critical care team, and the remote telemonitoring of Advanced ICU Care," said Pete Weber, president and CEO of Gordon Hospital.

Advanced ICU Care's team complements the care provided by Gordon Hospital physicians, continuously monitoring patients' vital signs, medications, labs, and clinical status. Proactive data management tools identify issues, prompting immediate intervention. Two-way video access in each patient's room enables face-to-face consultations between the bedside and Advanced ICU Care team during periods of evaluation or when called on by the caregiver.

"We are pleased to partner with the physicians and clinicians at Gordon Hospital to provide additional clinical surveillance and support of their critically ill patients," said Lou Silverman, CEO of Advanced ICU Care. "This strong alliance of critical care expertise combined with the most advanced telemedicine technology, plus programs to continually improve care, is working together to benefit and improve the health and safety of these patients." ●

BY CHELSEA ETHERIDGE, GORDON HOSPITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR

Finding Her Way Meant Finding God's Way

Dana Connell's plan for her senior year at Union College was to take a spring break mission trip to Cuba, and then spend the following summer commercial fishing in Alaska. Originally an architecture student, Connell had felt impressed to transition to theology. Yet, when a professor urged her to give up her Alaska dream for a ShareHim trip to Borneo, she resisted. She preferred the idea of handing out Bibles — even just pages of Bibles — in Cuba, where she'd heard people were “hungry for the Word,” rather than preaching to a crowd. Although she loved biblical insights and practical applications, sermon assembly was an “abnormally painful, tearful process — like assembling a 5,000-piece puzzle that's all one color.” When the professor reminded her that “Jesus has called you to be a fisher of men,” Connell teasingly reminded him there would be both fishing and men in Alaska. God, however, had a different plan in mind.

When a visa delay caused the Cuba trip to fall through, Connell decided to follow her professor's advice, and packed her bags for Borneo. “All I knew was they had outlawed headhunting in the 1950s, so my neck was safe,” she says. “And, since Indonesia is a Muslim country, the Christian evangelistic meetings had to be advertised as ‘non-Muslim meetings.’”

A lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, Connell realized there had always been a nagging question in the back of her mind when it came to sharing her faith. “I told God, ‘I believe these things, but other people will just say I believe it because I read the Bible through Adventist lenses.’”

Looking back, Connell recognizes that the ShareHim trip not only changed her perspective on Adventist truth, but also prepared her for future ministry. Despite growing up in a large Adventist community, she had never attended an evangelistic series. Now she found herself preaching one. When baptism day arrived, she watched Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dana Connell is the associate pastor of Raleigh Church.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

atheists, Pentecostals, and Catholics all enter the water to be buried in baptism. “God said to me, ‘See, Dana, people know truth when they hear it. Just preach my Word.’ Growing up Adventist, I didn't see that Christianity worked. On this trip, though, I saw that the Bible knowledge I'd taken for granted was something people were hungry for.”

Connell continued to benefit from this experience long after her trip was over. Her next step along God's path for her life was taking care of her grandma in northern England, and working as a Bible worker and literature evangelist in a primarily Muslim and atheist area. She went on to learn additional administrative skills in a position with the Kansas-Nebraska

Conference Youth Ministries Department. Then she wrestled with God for a year about whether or not to attend seminary before finally heeding His call.

Today, Connell serves as associate and interim head pastor of the Raleigh, N.C., Church. She values the gifts and passion the members have for sharing Jesus. Recently, she was invited to lead a small study group in the home of a neighbor who had been praying for a friend. Although her journey has taken a circuitous route and sometimes included a few roller coasters, she rests in the peace that comes from knowing she's right where she's supposed to be. 🕊

BY LARISA BRASS

Myrtle Beach Members Reward Police Officers



PHOTO BY: TOM HUGHES



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tom Hughes (left), pastor, stands with Myrtle Beach law enforcement.

As police officers across the nation continued to receive bad press, Tom Hughes, pastor of the Myrtle Beach, S.C., Church, felt a burden to give back to these men and women. When he began brainstorming, the Lord impressed him to purchase quality reusable water bottles for the police officers in the Myrtle Beach and Florence, S.C., areas.

When Hughes brought the idea for the police officer project to his church mem-

bers, they were ecstatic and told him they could not wait to show the police officers their gratitude. Hughes then negotiated an agreement with Camelback to sell him insulated water bottles for nearly half the retail price, which included placing the church logo on the front and the words of Psalm 23:4 on the back. By including this text, Hughes hoped to remind the officers that no matter what hardships they face on the job, the Lord is watching out for them.

Hughes' churches raised more than \$22,000 to purchase water bottles for the police officers. After receiving the funds, Hughes contacted each of the county police departments and received permission to deliver the water bottles. With each delivery, words of gratitude and thanks inundated Hughes and his church members. The officers were so thankful to receive a practical gift, and to be reminded that they are appreciated. Unfortunately, two counties refused the water bottles for various reasons, although the individual officers continued to express interest. Therefore, Hughes and his team plan to hand-deliver water bottles to these officers rather than to distribute the bottles through the department.

Despite minor setbacks, Hughes has nearly reached his goal of providing a water bottle to every one of the 1,400 sheriffs, police officers, and highway patrolmen in Myrtle Beach and Florence. Overall, the response from both the church members and the officers has been extremely positive, which was exemplified by a recent feature on Channel 15 news. Hughes continues to dream of providing every emergency worker in the area with a water bottle, and he thanks God for what he and his church members have already been able to do.

While focusing on his own backyard, Hughes reached out to the pastoral community around the Carolinas to present the opportunity for their churches to participate in their local communities with the backing of the Conference administration. Five churches (Albermarle, Arden, Greensboro, Lenoir, and Wilksboro) expressed interest in participating, and reached out to their own law enforcement. Since then, even more churches across the Carolinas are looking at how they can express their gratitude as well. ●

BY ABBY KING

Winter Park Spanish Pathfinder Club Celebrates 30-year Milestone



Winter Park Spanish Pathfinders participated in a Pathfinder Sunday parade during Florida Camp Meeting in earlier years.



Former Pathfinder directors of Winter Park Spanish Church attend the 30th anniversary celebration: Mayra Serrano (left), current director; Maria Rosario; Elda Marengo-Janda; Daniel Rivera; Nelson Sanabria; Nereida Hernandez; Gilberto González; Rebeca de los Ríos, founding director; and Pedro Perez, Florida Conference Pathfinder director.

Organized in 1987, the Winter Park Spanish Church celebrated 30 years of church leaders coming together to present Christ to children through the Pathfinder Club on May 20, 2017.

A Pathfinder club with more than 50 members, energetic directors, capable staff, and many yearly activities is outstanding. Combine all these things with a graduation and a 30th anniversary, and it is, indeed, cause for celebration!

Graduation for the Winter Park Spanish Pathfinder Club and a celebration of its 30th anniversary was the idea of current director, Mayra Serrano, and Elda Marengo-Janda, a former director. Pedro Perez, Florida Conference Pathfinder director, acknowledged the milestone and asked for the Lord's blessing on the club and its members.

It was a great occasion to look back and praise God for His direction during the years since the club's beginning in 1987. Former Pathfinder leaders came from as far as South Dakota and Texas to remember, celebrate, and view the products of their labor. The audience enjoyed the shared experiences of the first director, Rebeca de los Ríos, and those of former directors Nereida Hernandez, Nelson Sanabria, Daniel Rivera, and Maria Rosario.

The early leaders had a vision of gathering children of the church to create a Pathfinder Club. The original club with 15 Pathfinders and 20 Adventurers presented opportunities for its members to grow, flourish, and create future leaders. Some of these young people currently hold leadership positions in the Church, and others have children of their own in the current club.

The church members thank the Lord for His guidance and blessing throughout the years. His unwavering care and presence is the main reason for the club's purpose and existence today. 🙏

PHOTO BY: MAYRA SERRANO

BY CESAR SOTO

South Atlantic Welcomes New Associate Superintendent of Schools



Michael Cookenmaster, Ed.D., is the new associate superintendent of schools at the South Atlantic Conference in Decatur, Ga.



The Cookenmasters include Cassie (standing, left), a senior music education major at Southern Adventist University; Drew, a senior film production major at Full Sail University in Orlando, Fla.; Dakota, a freshman majoring in computer science at Southern Adventist University; Cheyenne, a senior in high school; Hyacinth, an eighth grader; and Marcie and Michael.

South Atlantic Conference welcomes a new associate superintendent of schools, Michael Jon Cookenmaster, Ed.D. He comes to South Atlantic from the Florida Conference, where he was serving as a teaching principal in the Orlando area. Cookenmaster asks that he is called Michael, saying this is what his mother named him.

Cookenmaster was born at Glendale Adventist Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif., but he considers himself a Tucsonan (Too-so-nan), where he was raised. His first 10 years of schools were completed at Tucson Junior Academy in Tucson, Ariz. He then graduated from Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Scottsdale, Ariz. He completed a bachelor of arts in liberal arts, along with a minor in music from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif. He received his master of arts in the field of curriculum, instruction, and teacher education at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. He earned his doctoral

degree in educational administration and leadership from the University of Phoenix.

Cookenmaster praises God for the wide array of professional experiences he has had during a 28-year period as an educator. These experiences come from his positions as a classroom teacher in Adventist and public schools. He has taught every grade from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. He has taught in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Tennessee, and Florida, serving not only as a teacher and principal, but also as a Title I literacy coordinator, and a regional education consultant providing professional development trainings and services in curriculum and product alignment.

Cookenmaster and his wife, Marcie, are the proud parents of five beautiful children: Cassie, a senior music education major at Southern Adventist University; Drew, a senior film production major at Full Sail University in Orlando; Dakota, a freshman majoring in computer science at

Southern Adventist University; Cheyenne, a senior in high school; and Hyacinth, who is in eighth grade. The Cookenmasters love to travel. This past June, Michael and Marcie Cookenmaster celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by visiting their family's ancestral homeland in Ireland, Wales, and England.

Cookenmaster gives God all the glory, honor, and praise for his call to serve the South Atlantic Conference. He is excited to be a part of a high-performing school system that is the result of a fantastic environment, dedicated Christian community with supportive constituent churches, and a phenomenal faculty and staff. He invites you to join in the excitement of learning what happens each day in South Atlantic schools as they develop lifelong learners, and encourage young lives for the Kingdom of Heaven. 🕊

BY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Bristol Pathfinders Coordinate Kids Fun Day



SUBMITTED BY: PAULL DIXON

Service dogs got in on the fun at the Kids Fun Day coordinated by the Bristol, Tenn., Pathfinder Club.

About 250 children descended on Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol, Tenn., this past May. The Kids Fun Day offered learning centers, including community firefighters with a big truck, EMTs giving demonstrations, a

Kids Health Zone with delicious snacks, fluffy service dogs, each child's name printed in Braille, blood pressure checks, the town sheriff making picture IDs with finger prints, a nature booth, and musical bells, to name a few. There was also a table with free spiritual literature for children and adults. Some 500 pieces of literature and books were given away.

This community outreach activity was coordinated by the Bristol Pathfinder Club director, Gary Johnson. Johnson, a retired botanist, went to Romania to train Pathfinder clubs. One year he returned with a neat idea for reaching the community — the Kids Fun Day. He decided to implement the idea, and found ready support from the church members and a delighted

response from the community. About 500 adults — moms, dads, grandparents — and children came, the largest group so far.

Johnson lines up the vendors in advance. Many are volunteers, but some are paid. He then takes printed brochures to the local public and private schools, and asks them to distribute them. Church members enthusiastically help with set-up, registration, food and drink stations, manning booths, and clean up.

As the last of the visitors to the Kids Fun Day were making their way out of the park, the staff paused to thank God for His blessing of safety and the lives that were influenced. 🙏

BY PAULL DIXON

Duluth Youth Lead in Restart Evangelism

For the past eight summers, the Duluth, Ga., Church has offered Restart.

Restart is a week of evening meetings where youth lead out in every aspect of the evangelistic effort. The youth choose the topic of the week, write the sermons, compose the small-group questions, and determine which games to play.

This year they chose the theme “Restart Power!” based on 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my POWER is made perfect in weakness.”

The youth spoke about the comparison of superheroes and Bible heroes, identifying their sources of power. Those involved in the leadership team had specific tasks, and the freedom to develop leadership skills in their different areas. The praise team would start their praise songs, and the youth speaker for that day would present their superhero and Bible hero. After the talk, everyone would grab a quick bite



SUBMITTED BY: ROBERT ABDUL-KARIM

One of the games played during the Restart at Duluth, Ga., Church was the shaving cream beard. This event is planned for and by youth.

and go off to their specified small groups.

Restart is focused on high school-aged youth, but they also invite college students and middle scholars with their own small group sessions.

They include time to play a few games. Some of the best were the shaving cream beard, a water balloon toss, beach ball volleyball, and human hungry hippos.

Restart takes place at the end of the

youth calendar. The seniors are in charge. It is always a bittersweet experience to congratulate the leaders on a great youth-led evangelistic effort, and then turn around and see them sent off to college.

Duluth members ask you to keep the youth in prayer as they plan another amazing Restart program for 2018. 🙏

BY ROBERT ABDUL-KARIM

Atlanta North Church Ministers to Families, Community

For two consecutive Sabbaths in May, Atlanta North Church welcomed keynote speaker Neil W. Reid, D.Min., Conference ministerial director for the central region, and several other psychologists, counselors, and therapists for a family and relationship seminar. Reggie and Sabrina Patton, church elder and the director of family ministries at Atlanta North, were “excited about the potential” of a large-scale family ministries outreach program. According to a recent Conference-wide survey, marriage and family was one of the top three interests for constituents.

Family ministries and personal ministries joined together in this endeavor, and decided to invite the church and surrounding community. Sabrina Patton says, “We decided that, in addition to our church family, we’d take the opportunity to invite the community to this very valuable session ... we would also distribute Steps to Christ, The Great Controversy, and invitations to the Vacation Bible School.”

Matthew Mihordea, a high school chemistry teacher in charge of personal ministries, provided details about the door-to-door outreach. “We knocked on over 2,000 doors. We handed out about 200 each of The Great Controversy and Steps to Christ.” Each household was invited to an upcoming Vacation Bible School as well.

Lisa Hamlett was one church member who volunteered to help. “I was incredibly blessed by the outreach we did on April 8. I was initially nervous and almost didn’t go, as I am naturally very shy. However, we prayed for guidance to find the people the Lord needed to reach, and He rewarded us by bringing a lot of interested people our way. [One] was a woman about my age named Nicole, who was in the process of moving to California. She had been raised Adventist and went to Adventist schools, but she had left the Church when she was young. She tearfully told us that in all her



Duane Schoonard was one of the therapists who took part in Atlanta North Church’s HOME-Families and Relationships Weekend. About 300 people attended the event.



Counselor and author Omar Miranda spoke during the event. His workshops were for teens.

time away from the Church, she had never come across an Adventist. We prayed with her and invited her to the seminar, but she said she probably wouldn’t come. She did thank us for our time and told us that she’s sure God brought us to her, and that it meant a lot to her.”

Reid’s topic on Sabbath, May 6, was “Family Origins: A Big Bang or a Big God?” His topic on Sabbath, May 13, was “How to Be Single/Married and Satisfied.” He spoke at 9 a.m. for early service, and again at 11 a.m. for second service. Potluck lunch was provided, followed by a group “lunch and learn” session. Breakout sessions followed with free childcare.

A unique feature of the weekend was a special speaker dedicated to teen topics. Counselor and author Omar Miranda spoke on “Teen Dating and Sexuality.” One of Atlanta North’s teenagers who

attended said, “[Miranda] seemed to be well-informed and was very straightforward with us and honest I was skeptical at first, [but] slowly warmed to the topic He was very relatable, and I think that’s what made him interesting.”

Another feature of the seminars was a lunch and learn topic each week, where attendees ate lunch while listening to a special speaker. Atlanta North’s own Jessie Legros spoke the first week about the love languages of children.

More than 300 people attended the seminar. Atlanta North members were blessed by the many speakers, and enjoyed reaching out to the community as well. It took many people to coordinate the community efforts. 🙏

BY JODI BECKWORTH

Camp Alamisco Faces Future



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Campers gather around a commitment fire following the evening worship on Friday night.

All around the country this summer, Seventh-day Adventist camps opened their gates to children of all ages, to share Jesus through activities, programming, and worship. While some may look at camp as a fun place to be for a week in the summer, which it is, the whole purpose of camp ministry is to introduce children to Jesus.

“I am a firm believer that camp changes kids’ lives,” says Shane Hochstetler. “Growing up on Canada’s east coast,

camp was a very special place for me. It was the place where I got baptized. Not only was I baptized at camp, but camp provided me with a safe environment to see other young Christians living out a happy, fulfilled life in Jesus that I didn’t see at the public school I attended.”

For some parents, the idea of sending their children away for a week during the summer may bring a lot of anxiety. They question whether their child is ready for this type of experience; and for some,

they are not. However, for those who are, their parents are encouraged to send their children to camp. Where else but camp can you send your child for a week where they will learn how to pray and read their Bible? Where else but camp can you send your child where they will be confronted every day with a Jesus who loves them? Where else but camp? It is because of this determination to tell kids about Jesus, and by God’s grace, that this year at Camp Alamisco there



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Alamisco Inn single bedroom, before renovations



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Alamisco Inn single bedroom, after renovations

were 40 decisions for baptism. The camp staff look forward to next year!

Even though the camp season is over for this year, Camp Alamisco is still bustling as improvements to the Alamisco Inn are fully underway. Ward is hard at work transforming the old lakeside building into a rustic oasis. The much-needed renovations will result in five ground-level single-bed rooms with impressive stone and woodwork — most of which is hand made with repurposed materials to decrease costs and add character and beauty. The camp ranger, who has applied his talents and years of experience as a builder and craftsman to this project, says he wants the kids at camp to say, “Wow!” He believes that the beauty of their surroundings, both indoor and out, can help to facilitate the life-changing adventure that camp was created to be.

The second level will boast three family suites, each with their own balcony overlooking scenic Lake Martin. These

family suites will feature a kitchenette, walk-in shower, and accommodations for up to seven people. Additionally, one of the suites is designed to be handicap accessible, thereby extending the camp experience to those with disabilities.

Those eager to see these renovations for themselves will have the opportunity to do so during next summer’s camp season or at Camp Alamisco’s 50th anniversary in October of 2018. The Youth Department is planning a special birthday celebration in honor of this event.

The Alamisco Inn is one of many projects organized to steadily improve the camp that many have enjoyed over the years. If you would like to support the ministry of the Alamisco beautification project, you may do so by going online to www.campalamisco.org and clicking on the “donate” link under “camp projects” along the right side of the page. 📍

BY TODD CASEY AND SHANE HOCHSTETLER



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Bathroom area in a remodeled room at the Alamisco Inn

Church Sign Leads Community to VBS, Rummage Sale

This summer the Laurel, Miss., Church hosted their annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. Like all church events, they were sure to advertise on the church’s sign out front. With much preparation and prayer, the day of the event arrived, and the church members waited anxiously for the guests to come.

Soon the greeter at the registration table welcomed a grandmother and her two grandchildren who were visiting from the community. When asked how she learned about their VBS, she replied, “I love the church’s rummage sales, so I always watch your sign so I know when to come. When I saw you guys had a Vacation Bible School program, I thought that the kids might enjoy that as well.” The guests thoroughly enjoyed their time at VBS, and



The church marquee could serve a vital role in leading people to Jesus.

said that they would be interested in coming to church there as well.

Maybe a church rummage sale does not seem like an evangelistic event, but because of it, this family regularly reads the sign for what is going on in the church,

feels comfortable driving into the parking lot, and knows where to come for other functions. Thanks to the faithful efforts of a local church member to change the church sign, at least one family has a better relationship with their community-oriented Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The members don’t always think of changing the sign, coming early on Sabbath to unlock the doors, or staying late to clean up after potluck as the work of an evangelist. The truth, however, is that God can use whatever efforts local individuals exert to demonstrate His love for members of your local church and community alike. No task should be considered small or insignificant when performed in service to the great God of the universe. 📍

BY AMY HOCHSTETLER

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Nelson Mercado Ordained to Gospel Ministry



David Hartman (left), Kentucky-Tennessee ministerial director; Nelson Mercado, pastor; Steve Haley, president

fluence of Adventist friends, he was baptized on May 6, 1989, at the age of 18.

Mercado married his high school sweetheart, Lucy, on February 11, 1990. He resigned from his career as a paramedic for the Philadelphia Fire Department in 2006, and the family moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he attended Southern Adventist University to obtain a B.A. in theology.

After graduating in 2012, Mercado accepted a call from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and became pastor of the Murfreesboro-Tullahoma-Decherd district. He is currently working on an M.Min. in evangelism and missions.

The Mercados have two children, Ariana and Jean-Luc. 📞

Nelson Mercado was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sabbath, June 24, 2017, at the Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church. Mercado grew up in the Catholic faith and was deeply involved in the church. Through the in-

Taylor Mill Christian Academy Celebrates Centennial Event

The Centennial Celebration for Taylor Mill Christian Academy (TMCA), formerly known as Covington Seventh-day Adventist School, is October 27-28, 2017. This weekend event will feature alumni, students, teachers, pastors, and constituents from the last century. With three speakers, dozens of talented musicians, and a former local city mayor, this event is set to be an extraordinary moment.

Adventist Christian education in Kenton County dates back to the early 1900s, when visionary founders decided to open a school and lay the groundwork for future growth. Even though TMCA has been housed in five different locations since inception, it has always remained in Kenton County. Currently, it is at 5235 Taylor Mill Road, Taylor Mill, Ky.

Kelly Gennick, principal, and Jan-

et Chase, teacher, have embraced the school's history, and share the momentous year with students and constituents. Plans are already in progress to include students enrolled in the 2017-2018 school year. Though small in numbers, these multi-grade classrooms contain an abundance of eclectic, fun-loving staff and children.

Today TMCA is the third oldest school in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. With 11 students and 19 potential students for the 2017-2018 school year, staff and families look forward to surging into the future with hope and determination of offering Christian education to more students in the Tristate area.

In today's American culture, with a fluctuating economy and ambiguous societal views, deciding where to attend school is even more important than ever before.

At TMCA, prospective students who genuinely desire to attend the school are not denied for financial needs or other barriers. Perhaps this is why God has seen fit to keep the school's doors open for so many years, spanning several generations.

Join in celebrating this significant occasion, marking a significant point in history! 📞



Taylor Mill Christian Academy

BY MICHELLE BARKAN

Aaron McNulty Named Treasurer

Aaron McNulty was recently named treasurer for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He last served in the Michigan Conference.

McNulty's long list of volunteer service includes treasurer for Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), chair of the Lansing Church finance committee, and elder and treasurer in different local churches. He was also a member of the board and finance committee for Woldumar Nature Center.

His work-related service began as a business intern in the Gulf States Conference after graduating from Southern Adventist University with a bachelor of

business administration (B.B.A.) degree in financial services - accounting in December 2005. He became the assistant treasurer for his home conference, Kentucky-Tennessee, in 2007. He was in this position for almost five years when he was called to the Michigan Conference, where he served as the undertreasurer from 2012 through July 2017.

McNulty is married to Cassandra (Papenfuse). They have one son, two-year-old Johnathan. The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is proud to welcome the McNulty family home. 📍

BY STEVE A. ROSE SR., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Aaron, Cassandra, and Johnathan McNulty

Tom Kyser Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Tom Kyser was ordained to the Gospel ministry during a special divine service at the Manchester, Ky., Church on July 8, 2017. Kyser has an all-consuming passion for Jesus and for making disciples. This passion is captured in his personal mission statement: "As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I seek to bring people of all ages into a deeper, more meaningful, transformational relationship with our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord by putting God first in my life, loving people genuinely, and making biblical disciples while teaching others to do the same."

Kyser was born in Florida, raised in southern Alabama, and joined the U.S. Army shortly after high school. It was during his time in Korea that he hit an all-time low, and started searching for something more in life. This search led him to the love of his life, Ami, and, more importantly, the person who would lead him to the foot of the cross. He was baptized April 1, 2006, and married on



Tom, Michelle, Ami, and Amber Kyser

January 16, 2007. He graduated from Southern Adventist University with a bachelor of arts in theology. He now pas-

sors the Manchester and Williamsburg churches. He and his wife, Ami, have two daughters. 📍

Two Ordained, Two Commissioned for Glory of God

Southeastern Conference recognized two accomplished ministers through their ordination service, and two experienced teachers through their commissioning service during the 2017 Camp Meeting. Pastors Arnold Beauvais and Rafael Ortega were ordained, and Carolyn Pressley and Neva Stephenson were commissioned.

Beauvais successfully pastored 17 churches and companies. In his first assignment, the membership increased by 50 percent — growing the district membership from 1,000 to 1,500 in four years. He currently serves as the senior pastor in the district of Mahanaim Church in Naples, Fla., and Galilee Church in Immokalee, Fla.

Previously, Ortega conducted evangelistic campaigns in three different states, and was recognized by the Southern Union Hispanic Ministries Department as a leader in soul winning for Jesus. He also led the liquidation of the mortgage debt for the Silver Palms Church in Miami, Fla. He is the senior pastor of the Sheeler Oaks Church in Apopka, Fla.

The newly commissioned teachers believe it's important to keep a fresh approach in teaching God's children. Nerva Stephenson is a seasoned teacher at Bethel Junior Academy in Riviera Beach, Fla., where she enjoys teaching first grade. She wants each of her students to know Jesus as a Friend. Carolyn Pressley currently teaches at Elim Jr. Academy in St. Petersburg, Fla. In her sixth year as an educator, she commented that, "The service reaffirmed and reignited my flare for being intentional in my planning and delivery of my lessons. It's a blessing to teach ... where I can openly testify about God. It's rewarding because I am preparing them for this life and the life to come." 📌

BY WILLIEMAE PETERKIN MUSGRAY



PHOTO BY: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

Newly ordained pastors Arnold Beauvais (left) and Rafael Ortega listen intently as they receive words of counsel from Clarence Wright (right), Southeastern ministerial director. The ordination service is one of the most sacred of all services in the life of a pastor.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Newly commissioned teachers pose with Karen Winston (left), Southeastern Office of Education administrative assistant; Barbara Davis, Ed.D., education superintendent; Nerva Stephenson, teacher at Bethel Jr. Academy; Carolyn Pressley, teacher at Elim Jr. Academy; Gregory Mack, Conference president; Robert Patterson, Conference CFO; and Michael Owusu, D.Min., Conference executive secretary.

Southeastern Welcomes New Communication, Technology Director

During Southeastern Conference's 36th annual Camp Meeting, campers convened this past June in Hawthorne, Fla. Conference officials introduced Christopher C. Thompson, D.Min., as the new communication and technology director. Thompson brings a wealth of experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in theology and a master's degree in pastoral studies and church development from Oakwood University, and a doctor of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary. Thompson has pastored and taught in South Carolina, Alabama, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. He also served as communication chair for the pastoral evangelism and leadership council. Thompson, an avid reader, has published three books; written numerous articles for various publications; and written and produced a documentary, *Good Grief*, to help people cope with traumatic experiences.

Camp Meeting afforded Thompson an ideal opportunity to engage with fellow staff and constituents he will serve. He unassumingly mixed and mingled among the masses with a winsome smile and Canon camera in tow. He quickly made himself at home with Southeastern's communication team, carefully observing the behind-the-scenes synergy that culminates each year in the live-streaming of camp events and worship services.

Driven by faith and his passion to inspire others to fulfill their purpose in Christ, Thompson desires to personally interface with church communication directors, collaboratively moving ministry to the next level.

Thompson finds his greatest support in his best friend and wife of 12 years, Tracy. They have one son, Christopher Charles Thompson II. 📍

BY KAREN GREENE

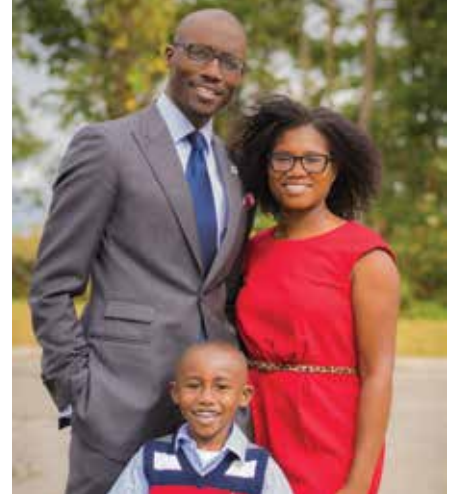


PHOTO BY: DERIC DESRONVIL

Christopher Thompson, D.Min., new communication/technology director, pictured with his wife, Tracy, and their son, Christopher II, brings a wealth of experience and passion for ministry to the Southeastern Conference.

Tampa Bay Members "Get Moving"



PHOTO BY: WANDERING BELLA PHOTOGRAPHY

Race day participants dash from the start line at the sound of the bell. The "Get Moving Tampa Bay 5K" is geared to promote healthy living for Tampa, Fla., residents.

The members of First University Church arrived at Al Lopez Park in Tampa, Fla., on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 5:30 a.m., to prep for the third annual "Get Moving Tampa Bay 5K Run/Walk."

In Tampa this is of major importance. One study shows that 22.1 percent of area residents report no daily physical activity at all. Also, 64.5 percent are overweight,

and obesity contributes to numerous debilitating health conditions. For months, bi-weekly fitness training to get members and residents ready to move from couch to finish line were held.

At 7:50 a.m., everything was ready. Warm-ups were done. Water stations stocked. Special editions of *Vibrant Life* were distributed to promote healthy liv-

ing. A healthy post-race breakfast was prepped, and the finish line decorated. Nearly 500 runners and volunteers registered, and most of them were not Adventists. Sponsors from several organizations, including Florida Hospital, made invaluable contributions.

At 8 a.m., the runners approached the starting line, the countdown began, the bell rang, and the runners and walkers were off. As each participant crossed the finish line, they received finisher medals, and then they moved on to breakfast to eat and fellowship with members and volunteers.

Members want residents to know that good health is attainable, but starts with good decisions; healthy diet, exercise, and healthy relationships. By 10 a.m., the race was done, but the message was clear. It doesn't matter how you start, the goal is to "Get Moving" toward better health. 📍

BY ROMEL CHARLES

ADU Hosts Second Annual Summer Science Expedition for Local Boys & Girls Clubs

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) hosted its Second Annual Summer Science Expedition June 26-30, 2017. The week-long day camp was designed to teach middle school aged children the benefits of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education, health education, and health careers. ADU welcomed 20 children from the East Altamonte Boys & Girls Clubs in Altamonte Springs, Fla. The children participated in science workshops, field trips to the Nicholson Center and Orlando Science Center, fitness and wellness workshops, and a nutrition lesson with the Edible Education Experience. Summer Science Expedition was a very successful program supported by several local sponsors.

“The outpouring of support in the central Florida community was inspiring. Thanks to multiple sponsors and donors, ADU was able to provide a greater amount of quality education experiences and nutritious meals throughout the week,” stated Kendra Van Houten, director of community engagement at ADU. “Support more than doubled between our inaugural program year, and this year. We are truly grateful.”

Campers participated in daily programming to reinforce self-esteem, healthy choices, and college preparedness. The children enjoyed touring the academic programs offered at ADU, and interacting with college students and professors in the classroom setting.

“Smiling faces were in abundance. I witnessed the children we served, and the ADU faculty, employees, and students share in the blessing. This is a program that means so much to ADU, and we are honored to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of central Florida,” commented Van Houten.



ADU staff assists campers with choices in the “Game of Life” during Science Camp.

ADU looks forward to planning the next Summer Science Expedition for 2018. The program is designed and coordinated from the Office of Community Engagement and the Science Camp Committee.

“Without the tireless efforts from the committee and all departments at ADU, this program would not exist. ADU pours their heart and soul into the camp, and the

children benefit from that level of devotion,” said Van Houten. “It is our joy to do all we can to bless the children, and they, in turn, bless us in abundance.”

Visit your local Boys & Girls Clubs website to learn how you may be able to serve children in your community. 📍

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Oakwood University Aeolians Named 2017 Choir of the World



The Aeolians during competition at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2017



Jason Max Ferdinand, D.M.A., is the first director to win the Gwobr Jane Davies Prize for Outstanding Conducting, a new award this year at the Welsh Eisteddfod.

The Aeolians of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., with their unique harmony and musical excellence, competed in the Choir of the World Competition during the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales, July 5-9, 2017.

In 1947, the same year that Eva B. Dykes, Ph.D., established the Aeolians at Oakwood, the Welsh Eisteddfod was created as a peace festival following World War II, to unite people of all nationalities through music and dance.

This focus continues today as the Eisteddfod brings people together from across the globe to perform and compete in an “unparalleled spirit of friendship and goodwill.” The opportunity to talk to, and rub shoulders, sing, and mingle with people of various cultures was an eye-opener. The vibrancy of the native costumes, varying cadences of languages, and unique facial structures of God’s Creation were such a reminder of what Heaven will be.

In addition to receiving monetary prizes and trophies for placing in a variety of competition categories, first place awardees moved on to compete for the two ultimate awards — Choir of the World 2017 Pavarotti Trophy and Dance Champion 2017. Of particular note for this 70th year celebration: a new ultimate award had been added — The Gwobr Jane Davies Prize for Outstanding Conducting.

One Facebook post said, “This choir wowed us at Llangollen. But we were

also impressed by their courtesy to one another — men assisting women on the choir stand steps for instance, and their graciousness to other choirs, standing and applauding the choir they came second and third place to in the competition. They were pleasant when greeted or spoken to by festival goers.” Dykes would have been proud. The 70th anniversary of both the competition and the Aeolian legacy were great talking points as the Oakwoodites made friends at the festival site.

The Aeolians competed in the Adult Folk Song Choir, Youth Choir, and Mixed Choir categories, and won third, first, and second place, respectively. The first place win in the Youth Choir category allowed them to compete against four other choirs in the final category for the Choir of the World title and the esteemed Pavarotti Trophy on July 9. The Oakwood University Aeolians were awarded the coveted 2017 Choir of the World Pavarotti Trophy.

Aeolians director Jason Max Ferdinand, D.M.A., received the first ever Gwobr Jane Davies Prize for Outstanding Conductor. He said, “This [competition] was no walk in the park and we had to conform to standards as set by the professional choral world. We made adjustments to the very last minute. So very proud of our students. With God’s help, WE DID IT!”

“On behalf of the entire Oakwood University community, we celebrate the success of the Oakwood University Aeolians on another history-making accomplishment,” said Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D.,

D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University. “To be named Choir of the World at the international Welsh Eisteddfod in Wales is a singular honor that represents the excellence of our University. Congratulations to the director, Dr. Jason Ferdinand, and especially our Oakwood University students. You have distinguished yourselves and made us proud and thankful once again.” 📌

BY KAREN BENN MARSHALL, ED.D.
AND PAT MCBEAN PATES

Southern Adopts New Support System on Campus



out disabilities that life is harder.”

Students in the program are given a support system to aid them academically, socially, and in the residence halls. Each student is paired with a coach — a volunteer Southern student — who will help him or her become accustomed to social interactions and necessary life skills. The pair of students usually become close friends, navigating University life together.

“Many times students on the autism spectrum are actually waiting for someone to join them in their experience — not the other way around,” said Gina*, a parent with students in the program. “A neurotypical person needs to go to the person on the spectrum and pull them into their world. We lose out on a great perspective and friendship when we don’t reach out and continue to reach out. We all have strengths and weaknesses, and we can all learn valuable things from each other.”

In addition to these coaches, students in the program go through weekly individualized counseling sessions. Pechero also advocates that the students live in on-campus housing, as it gives them real-world experience that they might not encounter in role-playing scenarios, and helps them become more adaptable. Students benefit from those skills in college and beyond.

Each component of Transition and Support is created to foster an environment of success for students with disabilities. Through this program Southern aims to continue increasing the retention and graduation rates of disabled students. For parents, this program has been an opportunity for their students to experience life independently, and it has given those involved a place that they can call home.

“It’s wonderful that such a great program is right in our backyard,” Gina said. “I’m thankful that my sons can be a part of a groundbreaking opportunity.”

**Last name withheld for privacy*

BY GELISSA LEVEILLE

PHOTO BY: GUS MORETTA

Mariella Pechero, disability support services coordinator at Southern, helps students with special challenges integrate into college life.

Students face many adjustments when starting college, and even more so for students with disabilities. Southern Adventist University has introduced a new program, Transition and Support, with the goal of allowing students with autism spectrum disorder and other learning disabilities to integrate comfortably into their new life in college. This program gives students tools to overcome hurdles that otherwise tend to reduce the graduation rate for these students.

“The program provides a bridge into college so that it can actually be a fun and

successful memory, rather than resulting in students withdrawing from college because of potentially traumatic experiences,” said Mariella Pechero, J.D., disability support services coordinator.

One way Transition and Support does this is by working to bring awareness to students who interact with those with disabilities.

“We had a student who stopped showering because they ran out of soap,” Pechero said. “Neurotypical people might think, ‘How could you not know how to deal with that?’ It may not occur to those with-



LESKO, LENNETTE LESTER, 73, born Dec. 7, 1943 in Orlando, FL, died April 27, 2017 in Riverside, CA. She attended Forest Lake Academy and worked in the business office. She then received her B.S. degree in accounting at Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University, in 1967. While there, she met the love of her life, Arthur Jon Lesko, and got married on Aug. 29, 1965.

After graduating and working as an accountant for the college for a year, she worked in the Duluth and Athens, Georgia, church district as a secretary/treasurer while her husband pastored the district. She then worked at Voice of Prophecy in 1972 before moving to San Gabriel Academy in California. Arthur was a Bible teacher and counselor, Lennette a cashier at the Academy. In 1981, Lennette joined Southeastern California Conference (SECC) with Arthur, who started working as a pastor with SECC a couple years before.

Lennette retired in 2009, but continued to be on call until 2016. She worked for SECC for 35 years.

Lennette is survived by her husband of nearly 52 years, Arthur; one son, Todd; one daughter, Angela Lesko-Webley; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held May 20, 2017 at the La Sierra University Church in Riverside, CA.

SCOTT, ORA DELBERT BOB, 81, born April 19, 1936 in northern Wisconsin, died June 27, 2017 in Lebanon, OR, due to complications from a series of strokes. He picked up the moniker “Bob” because it was the first word he uttered, and an uncle gave him a penny every time he said it. Soon everyone called him Bob, and when he grew up, he legally changed his name to Ora Delbert Bob Scott (not Robert).

Bob had a reputation as a hard worker, putting everything he could into a job. The summer he was 15, he put up 40 tons of hay in one day by himself, assisted only by a 10-year-old girl who held the reins to keep the horses still while he loaded and unloaded hay. Also, when he was 15, he moved to Oregon to work in construction with an older cousin, George Johnson, affectionately called “Grandpa George.”

Working for Grandpa George, Bob learned a lot about work ethics, construction and running heavy equipment such as a bulldozer, forklift and backhoe. He never dreamed of studying beyond high school since no one in his family had ever gone farther than eighth grade, but, encouraged by a friend and a Walla Walla College recruiter, he enrolled as a theology major. As soon as he realized he would have to stand in front of people and preach, he changed his major to business. In his junior year, he decided on a career in hospital administration.

A popular student, Bob was a Boys Club officer when he noticed a certain blonde girl with her hair pulled up in a ponytail. Inquiring about Betty Hamren, friends warned him to forget her. She had a reputation for dropping a guy after two dates—a challenge that intrigued Bob. Betty was a pre-med student, determined not to become romantically involved until she finished school. Bob asked her for a date anyway, and she flat turned him down—the first girl ever to do that. Bob continued to pursue her until he finally got that first date, and many more followed. Betty changed to a medical technology major, and married Bob the summer after graduating in 1957, which was the end of his junior year.

Their future plans took a sudden detour when Bob received a letter from his draft board. Even though he could have requested a deferment, he wanted to begin his career as soon as he finished school rather than have a two-year break between school and work. Bob reported to Fort Ord, CA, and within two days faced challenges to his faith. An officer came into the barracks, ordered the soldiers to line up, and explained how they were to clean up the place. When he asked if anybody had questions, Bob stepped forward, said he was an Adventist and wanted permission to go to church. The officer then shouted, “Are there any more of you idiots in this outfit?” About 15, Adventists, Jews, and others stepped forward and were ushered to a little chapel. Trained as a medic, Bob spent the rest of his Army stint at the 450-bed hospital at Fort Jackson, SC.

Because he planned on a career in healthcare administration, Bob subscribed to *Modern Hospital* magazine while he was in the Army. He even occasionally persuaded the hospital to upgrade procedures and equipment based on what he learned from his reading. On his last day in the Army, dressed in hospital whites, he received an order to report to the commander’s office in dress uniform. With all the top officers present, in a formal ceremony, Bob received a certificate of commendation, the highest award Fort Jackson could give.

Bob and Betty’s first child, Bill, was born at Fort Jackson. With his Army duty completed, they moved to Southern California near Betty’s family and La Sierra College where Bob finished his studies. After graduation he accepted a healthcare administration internship at New England Memorial Hospital in Massachusetts where second son, Barry, was born.

Finally, with Army, college, and internship behind him, Bob entered the next chapters of his life in hospital manage-



ment, first in Texas, then Florida, and finally California. In many ways, these were the most productive, memorable, and important years of his life.

At age 27, Bob began his first hospital administration job in 1963 at the 40-bed Hayes Memorial Hospital (now Central Texas Medical Center) in San Marcos, TX. The hospital had not operated in the black from the time it opened, but at the end of his first year, it posted the lowest loss in its history at that point, only \$7,000 in the red. In future years, Bob managed to keep it profitable, often doing much work himself, including maintenance and accounts payable. At home, the births of Bob in 1964, and Ben in 1967 completed the Scott family “B-hive.”

If managing a hospital and helping Betty raise four sons wasn’t enough, Bob earned a master’s degree in hospital administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, driving 100 miles round trip to attend classes. In addition, he served on the boards of directors of several other Adventist hospitals, which is what inspired him to learn to fly an airplane for convenience to reduce road travel time.

From 1973 to 1979, he served as president of Florida Hospital, and reached many milestones during his tenure in Orlando, FL. Changes were on the horizon, and no one envisioned the future of healthcare better than Don Welch who was Bob’s greatly admired friend and mentor, as Bob became president of Florida Hospital. Under Bob, Florida Hospital added its first two satellite hospitals in Apopka and Altamonte Springs, and started a family practice residency. It added high tech services such as kidney transplants, total knee replacements, and nuclear pacemaker implants. Some of the other advancements included a mental health unit, pediatrics center, cardiac rehabilitation unit, orthopedic unit, linear accelerator, and an arthritis clinic.

Bob moved to California as president of Glendale Adventist Medical Center in 1983. While he likely did not consider it a highlight of his experience at Glendale, he made a national television appearance on 60 Minutes in an interview regarding a highly controversial right-to-life issue.

Instead of retiring like many of his friends, Bob joined son, Barry, both at crossroads in their lives, and bought a cabinetmaking business in Lebanon, OR. It didn’t matter that neither knew the craft. In typical Scott fashion, they’d figure it out. During the next 16 years, each member of the Scott family worked at Valley Cabinets.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty; four sons: Bill, Barry, Bob, and Ben; a loving family; and friends from all parts of the world. A memorial service was held July 30, 2017 at the Florida Hospital Church in Orlando.



WALTON, CARLTON (CARL) LANCELOT, 83, the eldest of his blended family of 12 siblings, he was born to the late Claude Linden Rupert Walton and Irma Percival on April 25, 1934 in Silver Hill, Upper Demerara River, Guyana, South America, died May 16, 2017.

Carl was a renaissance man in his professional life. While in Guyana, he managed the advertising business for the *Argosy* and *Guyana Chronicle* newspapers. After emigration to the United States of America on Feb. 28, 1982, he changed careers, briefly serving at a family-owned service station and then holding a series of successive positions in the Dietary and Nutritional Services Department of Washington Adventist Hospital. Carl went on to pursue certifications in Dietary/Food Services, Sanitation and Safe Food Handling.

An exceptional team leader, he was much loved, admired and respected over his professional career of 40-plus years. His last position, prior to retirement, was Opening Supervisor in the Dietary Food Services Department at Washington Adventist Hospital, combining his love and passion for organization and leading people.

Carl married Olga Barrow on December 26, 1960. The couple had three children: Carlyle, Joy-Anne, and Simone. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Olga Walton; three children: Carlyle (Astrid), Joy-Anne (Duane), and Simone (fiancé, Victor); four grandchildren: Christopher Walton, Ashleigh Walton, Joshua Thomas, and Calen Thomas; nine siblings: Myrtle (Joseph) Hensley, Frank (Ann) Walton, Desmond (Gweneth) Percival, Michael (wife, Minnette, deceased) Goodman, George Percival, Gordon Walton, Pauline (Ulrich) Blankenfeldt, Cherill (Colin) Caesar, and Angela Goodman; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-laws; and a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; friends; and loved ones. Carl was fondly known by these loved ones as Uncle Carl, Carlie, and Wally. His family stretches from Guyana to the West Indies to Canada, England, and of course all over the United States. Preceding him in death are two siblings: Eslyn Rupan and Alyosious Goodman.

Carlton Walton was a remarkable man of God. He had an undying passion for relationships with God, his family, and every person he met. We can hardly wait for the day of grand reunion at Jesus’ glorious Second Coming.

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Legal Notices

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 10, 2017. The session will begin at 10 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

Steven L. Haley, President
 Steve A. Rose Sr., Executive Secretary

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 10, 2017. The session will begin at 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Steven L. Haley, President
 Silke Hubbard, Secretary

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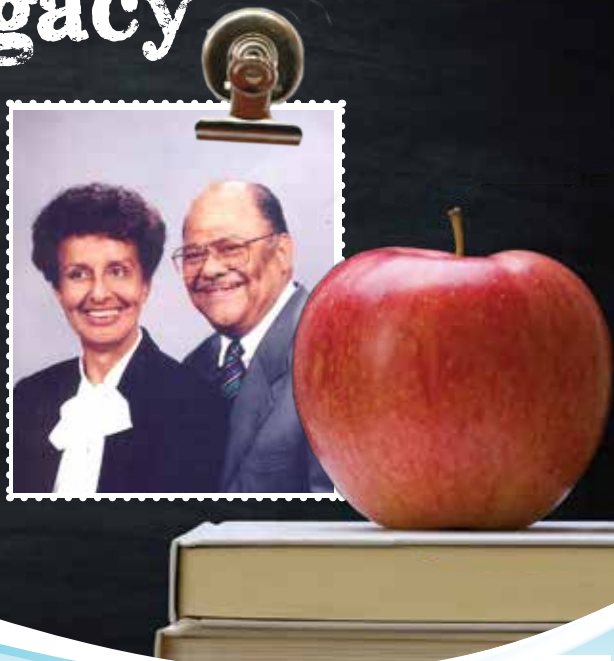
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Fostering a Legacy

With a love for young people and a desire to foster their academic and spiritual development, Pastor Milton Young, and his wife, Ramona, presented a substantial annuity and bequest to Oakwood University. These resources were used to establish nursing and ministerial student scholarships.

While Pastor Young and his wife have both passed, their love for young people will live on through the philanthropic legacy they have established.

▶ To learn how you can have your values live on, contact your local conference or university Planned Giving and Trust Services professional.



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Symphony Orchestra Concert, October 1

With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/music.

Archaeology Lecture, October 2

Michael Hasel, PhD, professor and published author from Southern's School of Religion, will give a talk titled "David and Solomon's Legacy: Results of the Fourth Expedition to Lachish 2013-2017" at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel.

For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

Adventist Heritage Lecture, October 26

During Adventist Heritage week at Southern, Philip Samaan, PhD, professor and published author from Southern's School of Religion, will give a talk about Ellen White and true spirituality at 11 a.m. in the Collegedale Church.

JOIN US ONLINE

Southern's weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 8 p.m.

To view online, visit southern.edu/streaming.

WE'LL COME TO YOU

We have abundant resources representing numerous areas of expertise. Let Southern help when planning for guest speakers, workshops, music, and drama programs at your church or school. southern.edu/resourceguide

Visit Us

Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to southern.edu/visit.



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Power for Mind & Soul

1.800.SOUTHERN
Collegedale, Tennessee

Department via US Mail or email to: aroyo@southern.edu, PO Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315, Att. Dr. Adrienne Royo. [9]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for **Associate Vice President for Academic Administration**. This leadership role provides direction for academic strategic planning, curriculum development, instructional methods, grading practices, admission standards, registration procedures, and graduation requirements. Additional responsibilities include: providing oversight to Institutional Research and Online Learning; chairing/or serving on committees; approving exceptions to academic policies and serving as liaison for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) and the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA); facilitating the administrative processing of program review; and serving as the administrative liaison to first-year experience, the honors program, and all extension programs. Qualifications: Earned doctoral degree with at least five years of successful, full-time teaching experience in higher education; the ability to effectively chair meetings and lead groups; strong verbal and written communication- which includes writing accurate technical reports; and professional tact and skill to interact with students, parents, faculty members, and administration. *To apply: Send letter of application, CV, and three references via US Mail or email Dr. Robert Young, Senior VP for Academic Administration, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, ryoung@southern.edu. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [9]*

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Professor for its School of Journalism and Communication** to teach undergraduate courses and advise in journalism, with a focus in print, broadcast, or new media. Master's Degree required, doctorate is preferred; with five years of professional experience and three years of teaching experience. *To apply: Send CV via US Mail or email to Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith, Dean for School of Journalism and Communication, PO BOX 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, rwilliams-smith@southern.edu. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [9]*

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu [9-12]

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER is seeking a dedicated Christian **licensed nutritionist** with knowledge of a plant-based diet. Responsibilities include cooking classes, diet plans, and nutrition consultations. *For more information or to apply go to www.wildwoodhealth.org or call 706-820-1493. [9]*

WANTED: Part-time **administrative assistant** for the Director of the E.A. Sutherland Education Association. Experience in education preferred but not required. Strong computer and communication skills a must. Office is located in Collegedale, TN. *Please send resume to wandasarr@easea.org [9, 10]*

PSYCHIATRIST OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, PhD needed for Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay and benefits. *Call Dr. Randall Steffens at: 615-604-0142. [9, 10]*

UCHEE PINES INSTITUTE is seeking volunteers to serve the Lord in the following positions: vegan cook/kitchen manager, kitchen assistants, health food store assistants, auto-mechanic, receptionist, housekeeper, bakery instructor and carpentry instructor. *For more information contact: humanresources@ucheepines.org or call 334-855-4764 ext. 7003. [9]*

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE - Country Life Natural Foods is taking applications for various positions in their vibrant health food ministry. Current openings include warehousing, shipping and receiving, delivery driver (CDL not required), and customer service office positions. Country Life is a distributor of natural, organic, vegan, non-gmo, gluten-free and bulk foods based in southwest Michigan. Our mission is to integrate the health food ministry with the spreading of the gospel. *Call David Meyer at 800-456-7694 to inquire. [9]*

HOUSE PARENTS for mentally challenged adult female. Must be converted and energetic with verifiable church membership. Live in rural setting near Uchee Pines Institute of Health, Seale, Alabama or can possibly move to your place. *Call Carrie at 334-855-0733. [9, 10]*

DOES A WARM SUNNY CLIMATE on coastal Central Florida sound interesting? Our well established practice of seven Pathologists and two Pathologist Assistants are looking for a full time AP/CP Pathologist to join our group. Fellowship training is a must, Surgical Pathology preferred. Interest in or experience with Molecular Pathology and Blood Bank is a plus. Benefits include health and dental insurance, CME, malpractice insurance, 401K and relocation expenses. Desired start date of January 2018 through July 2018. *Please send CV or inquiries to ECP@595nova.com [9-11]*

DENTIST WANTED - Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Grad 2001 is looking for a partner to join an established, lucrative, two doctor, general dentistry practice in southwestern Ohio. Small town with a peaceful country living feel, yet within an hour and a half of Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. Looking to move out of the cities? Looking for unlimited ministry options? Check us out at www.hillsborofamilydentistry.net and on Facebook at Hillsboro Family Dentistry. *If you have questions or would like to set up a time to come meet with Dr. Bryan Nickell call 937-241-8903. [9]*

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

COUNTRY LIFE NATURAL FOODS is a wholesale and retail supplier of bulk, organic, vegan, and natural foods based in southwest Michigan. Our mission is to integrate the health food ministry with the spreading of the gospel. We have recently acquired the operations of Something Better Natural Foods who has served people all over the Southern Union for over 30 years. We look forward to continuing to serve your needs in natural foods and health ministry. *Look for our products at the ABC or contact us at Country Life Natural Foods. Call 800-456-7694, or see our complete product line at our website www.clnf.org [9]*

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist [9-12]*

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, and many more. *Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwood-health.com [9-5]*

AUTHORS of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. *Find our new titles at your local ABC or www.TeachServices.com, used SDA books at www.LNFBooks.com [9-4]*

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [9-5]*

SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED? Meet compatible SDA companions ages 18 to 98 the old-fashioned way - by pen and paper. No computer needed! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For more information, application, and pen-pal catalog, send \$25 to: SDA Pen-Pal'S, P.O. Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513. [9-2]*

NESTLED AMONG TREES & WOODLANDS in the mountaintops of East Tennessee, Laurelbrook Academy has been providing its students with quality Adventist education for 65 years. We are located about an hour north of Chattanooga, TN and Southern Adventist University. We offer a unique combination of fully accredited academics, top notch vocational training with unparalleled missionary experiences for our students, patterned after the Madison School program. *Please call us at 423-775-3336 to find out more information on our affordable tuition programs, tailored to meet your family's needs. We look forward to hearing from you! Visit us at www.laurelbrook.org [9, 10]*

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN's Pastor C.A. Murray, and friends. Two trips this fall: November 12-20, \$2995; November 19-27, \$2,995. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. *Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864. [9]*

AUTUMN PIONEERS TOUR: Visit the life sized "Ark", in Williamsburg, KY on our way thru the fall colors to 18+ Pioneer sites in the Northeast, U.S. Oct. 4-13. Hear the history of our pioneers and the stories of years gone by. Heritage Tours, 423-802-9617, tarriegeiger@gmail.com [9]

CAROLINA

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING - Sept. 8-10. Orangeburg, SC.
RETIRES RETREAT - Sept. 18-21. NPR.
ELDERS' CERTIFICATION #2 VISITATION - Sept. 22, 23. Kernersville, NC.
MEN'S RETREAT (ENGLISH/HISPANIC) - Sept. 29-Oct. 1. NPR.
HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 6-8. NPR.
WOMEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 13-15. NPR.
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL RETREAT - Oct. 20, 21. NPR.
CAROLINA MISSION TRIP - Oct. 26-Nov. 3. Traveling to Honduras.
COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT - Oct. 27-29. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events
FALL TOWN HALL MEETINGS - Florida Conference holds town hall meetings twice a year in each of the seven constituency regions for the purpose of sharing reports of how God is working, and to dialog with members about how we may partner for moving the mission forward.
NORTH REGION: Sept. 10. 9-10:30 a.m. Ocala Church.
GULF REGION: Sept. 10. 4-5:30 p.m. Brandon Church.
EAST CENTRAL REGION: Sept. 13. 7-8:30 p.m. Orlando Spanish Church.
WEST CENTRAL REGION: Sept. 14. 7-8:30 p.m. Markham Woods Church.
LOWER GOLD REGION: Sept. 17. 9-10:30 a.m. Maranatha Church.
UPPER GOLD REGION: Sept. 17. 4-5:30 p.m. Midport Church.
RIDGE REGION: Sept. 19. 7-8:30 p.m. Port Charlotte Church.
A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER - Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a location as scheduled below. Orders must be made by phone or email before 5:30 p.m. on the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday delivery.
 Sept. 10. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
 Sept. 17. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.
 Sept. 24. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Boynton Beach, Margate. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)
 Oct. 1. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West

Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Oct. 8. Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

ADVANCED LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS - Sept. 16. Florida Conference Community Room, 351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free event with meal provided. Details: judy.smith@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x2440.

LET'S MOVE ALTAMONTE - Sept. 17. Cranes Roost Park, 274 Cranes Roost Blvd., Altamonte Springs. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 5K run/walk and community health fair sponsored by Altamonte Springs Church. Registration fee: \$20 online or \$25 day of the race. Health fair is free. Details: letsmovealtamonte.org

GO FISH FOR KIDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Oct. 7. Brandon Spanish Church, 513 E. Clay Ave., Brandon. 2:00-5:00 p.m. Details: judy.smith@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000 x2440.

FOURTH ANNUAL ADVENTIST MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY CAMP MEETING - Oct. 13-15. Southeastern Conference Campground, 1771 S.R. 20, Hawthorne. Guest speaker: Patrick Nave. Cost: \$120, includes registration, room, and meals. Sponsored by Spring Meadows Church. Details: adventistmotorcycleministry.org, 813-633-0803, or 407-970-6467.

UNQUENCHABLE LOVE COUPLES' RETREAT - Oct. 20-22. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd St., High Springs. Guest speaker: Mike Tucker. Cost: \$325. Details: floridaconference.com/events/couples-retreat

FLORIDA STATE PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - Oct. 26-29. Fisheating Creek Outpost, 7555 US 27, Palmdale. Outdoor activities, honors, special guest presentations, hands-on classes, games, spiritual programs, and more. Cost: \$44. Contact your local church Pathfinder director for more information.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

CONVERSATIONS (YOUNG ADULT RETREAT) - Sept. 1-3. Which road, God? Is there a way to keep all of this from being so confusing? Deadline: Aug. 7. Historic Banning Mills, Whitesburg, GA.

MAKEOVER: HISPANIC YOUTH RETREAT - Sept. 8-10. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

ADVENTURER MINISTRIES CONVENTION - Sept. 8-10. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

ACF LEADERSHIP REBOOT - Sept. 8-10. Student leaders unite for a weekend of leadership training and relaxation as they sit with Jesus and learn how He would have us lead. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

PATHFINDER DRILL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING - Sept. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLIES WITH EW

DEMPSEY

Sept. 16. 2-5 p.m. Questview Church, Lawrenceville, GA.

Oct. 14. 2-5 p.m. Jamestown, TN, Church.

RE: BROKEN BEAUTY MEN'S RETREAT & CAR RALLY - Sept. 15-17. What is "Broken Beauty" you might be wondering? Glad you asked! Every man, including you, is broken. Every family, including yours, is broken. The whole planet is broken. But thank God that there is hope of restoration. And our restoration is beautiful! Bring your old restored truck, car, RV, motorcycle...we're going to have a rally! Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE CAMP MEETING - Sept. 22, 23. The Oaks Retreat, Greeneville, TN.

ENGAGE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION - Sept. 22, 23. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA. Speaker: Albert Handal, Keene Church young adult pastor on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University in Texas. There will be three leadership tracks: pastor, lay leaders, and youth in ministry (age 16 and up). Aside from the great experience, you could win money and resources for your youth group. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

HEALTH RALLIES WITH EW DEMPSEY

Sept. 23. 2-5 p.m. Conyers, GA, Church.

Sept. 30. 2-5 p.m. Cedar Ridge Church, Georgetown, TN.

Oct. 7. 2-5 p.m. Griffin, GA, Church.

BRAVES FAMILY GAME DAY - Sept. 24. Everyone is invited, watch the Atlanta Braves take on the Philadelphia Phillies. SunTrust Park, Atlanta, GA.

ADVENTURER REGIONAL DAY - Sept. 24.

MASTER GUIDE CAMPOREE - Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

SABBATH IN THE SMOKIES - Sept. 29, 30. Speaker: Fred Fuller, pastor of the McDonald Road Church. Theme: More Like Him. Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN.

RETIRED WORKERS' RETREAT - Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Speaker: Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING - Oct. 6.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Oct. 18. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Some events require pre-registration; details at registration.gccsda.com.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

CONSTITUENCY MEETING - Sept. 10. Madison Campus Church.

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT - Sept. 8-10. Indian Creek Camp.

WOMEN'S RETREAT I - Sept. 15-17. Indian Creek Camp.

WOMEN'S RETREAT II - Sept. 22-24. Indian Creek Camp.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT I - Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Indian Creek Camp.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT II - Oct. 6-8. Indian Creek Camp.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Oct. 19. Conference Office

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 20-22. Indian Creek Camp.

MEN'S CONFERENCE - Oct. 27-29. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT - Oct. 1. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT - Oct. 8. Presenting musical pieces that celebrate the Protestant Reformation, Southern's Wind Symphony, with Ken Parsons conducting, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. For more information about the School of Music's events, visit southern.edu/music or call 423-236-2880.

PREVIEWSOUTHERN - Oct. 19, 20. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

SOUTHERN UNION

APPALACHIAN WORK CAMP - Oct. 15-19. Clay County, KY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCHEE PINES ALUMNI REUNION AND RETREAT - Sept. 17-23. Visit ucheepines.org for details, or call 877-UCHEEPINES.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 6-8. FA Campus. Please update your contact information at agibbs@fletcheracademy.com, 828-209-6704. This weekend will honor the class years ending in 2's and 7's. The Class of 1967 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy gymnasts and Acroknights. Details at www.fletcheracademy.com.

CHATTANOOGA FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 6, 7. At the church at 7450 Standifer Gap Road, Chattanooga, TN. The celebration includes: Nostalgic Friday evening Vespers with It Is Written associate speaker, Eric Flickinger; Sabbath School program with an interactive lesson study by Pastor Fred Fuller; inspirational worship service with a message by Pastor Roy Caughron; fellowship luncheon; and a special Sabbath afternoon program. Past students from the old church school, come and reconnect with classmates. Former members and friends, please join us for a memorable celebration of 100 years in service to God and the community. For further information call 423-400-6485.

SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY/PLAINVIEW ACADEMY/DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 6, 7. Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck,

ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor classes: '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '78, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, '13. For more information, call 701-751-6177, ext. 212, or visit our website at: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org or www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/

ROSSVILLE (formerly Wallaceville) CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 7. This will be a homecoming celebration. John Strickland will be the speaker. Sabbath School begins at 9:30 a.m., with the worship service at 11:30 a.m., and a fellowship luncheon to follow. There will also be a program of music and reminiscing in the afternoon. For additional information, call 706-866-8214. Church address: 2524 North Highway 341, Rossville, GA 30741.

TAKOMA PARK, MD, CHURCH FIRST HOMECOMING CELEBRATION - Oct. 7. Come to reunite/reconnect in the historical worship center. Former members/new friends are cordially invited to join in the first celebration. Events will include Mark Finley, guest speaker; a historical tour; and mass choir concert. Register today at <https://tphomecoming2017.eventbrite.com>.

MADISON ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 13, 14. Come reconnect, reminisce, and reinvest in your Academy friendships and alma mater. Please update your contact information by going to www.madisonacademy.com/alumni or call 615-865-4055. We will be celebrating all graduates, but especially honoring classes ending in 2 or 7. We look forward to reconnecting with you!

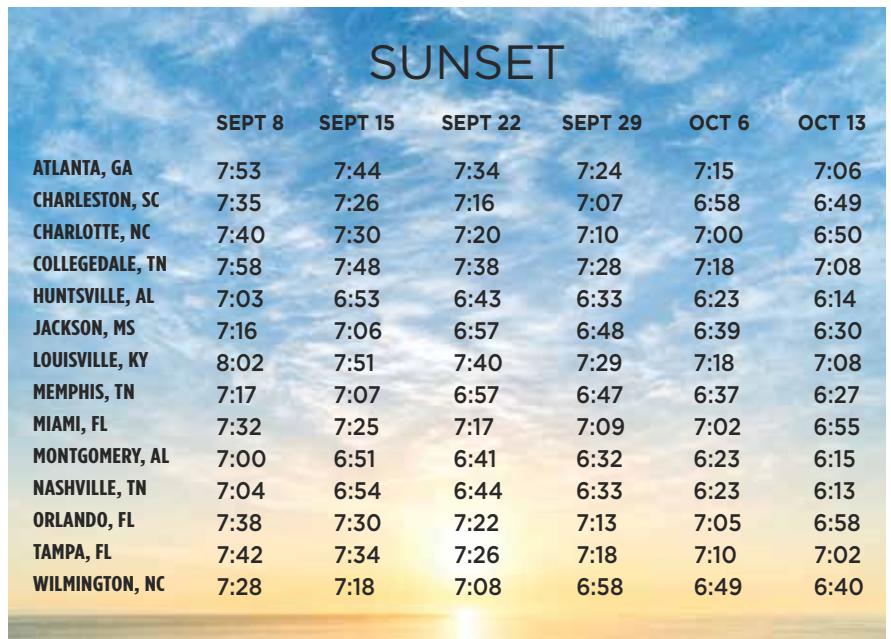
SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS 2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION - Oct.

19-21. SAVE THE DATE - Celebrating 28 Years of Communication Excellence! Theme: "Building Bridges." Embassy Suites Portland, Washington Square in Portland, Oregon. Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals and university students from all around the North American Division for training, networking, and spiritual renewal opportunities. Additional details: www.adventistcommunicator.org.

COVINGTON, KENTUCKY, CHURCH SCHOOL/TAYLOR MILL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 100TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 28. If you or someone you know attended our school, please contact us at 859-905-0077, alumni.tmca@gmail.com, or our website at tmacademy.net, and like us on Facebook at Taylor Mill Christian Academy. We are trying to reconnect with alumni and are soliciting prayers, stories, and volunteers. Your input is crucial to making this event meaningful and memorable.

GYC 2017 - ARISE: Dec. 27-31. Join thousands of young people from around the world at GYC Phoenix, as we spend four days looking at God's glorious vision for His people at the end of time from Isaiah 60. Engage in Bible study, prayer, witnessing, fellowship, seminars, and sermons. Visit www.gycweb.org for details and registration.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER RETURNS 2018 - Jan. 10-20. With the theme, "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more information and to sign up your church, visit www.tendaysofprayer.org.



SUNSET

	SEPT 8	SEPT 15	SEPT 22	SEPT 29	OCT 6	OCT 13
ATLANTA, GA	7:53	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:15	7:06
CHARLESTON, SC	7:35	7:26	7:16	7:07	6:58	6:49
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:40	7:30	7:20	7:10	7:00	6:50
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:58	7:48	7:38	7:28	7:18	7:08
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:03	6:53	6:43	6:33	6:23	6:14
JACKSON, MS	7:16	7:06	6:57	6:48	6:39	6:30
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:02	7:51	7:40	7:29	7:18	7:08
MEMPHIS, TN	7:17	7:07	6:57	6:47	6:37	6:27
MIAMI, FL	7:32	7:25	7:17	7:09	7:02	6:55
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:00	6:51	6:41	6:32	6:23	6:15
NASHVILLE, TN	7:04	6:54	6:44	6:33	6:23	6:13
ORLANDO, FL	7:38	7:30	7:22	7:13	7:05	6:58
TAMPA, FL	7:42	7:34	7:26	7:18	7:10	7:02
WILMINGTON, NC	7:28	7:18	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:40



The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same.

Since the 1866 opening of the Western Health Reform Institute, Adventists have provided hope, health and healing to millions of patients around the world. Yet as medical technology changes and health care evolves, one thing remains the same: our unwavering commitment to provide uncommon compassion, deliver whole person care, and extend the healing ministry of Christ to every patient, every time.

**CELEBRATING A
LEGACY**
150 YEARS
**OF ADVENTIST
HEALTH CARE**